Summary: What I Learned from My Mentoring Experience

I spent three full days working with an individual child and children in small groups at Toliver Elementary School. If I had to sum up my experience in one word, I would say that my time there was very interesting. While doing my project I realized many things about teaching that I did not realize before starting my project. The first thing I learned is that all children are not going to be interested in what the teacher has to say. I had always thought of my class as having children with different learning abilities, but I forgot to think that there would be children who refuse to listen. I now realize that some children are more eager to learn than others are. I must figure out a way to get all my students excited about learning. I also realized that it is not very easy to discipline students. While watching the teacher I realized that she had her hands full trying to teach and be a babysitter at the same time. The students would not begin to listen to me when I tried to discipline them. I need to learn how to be more of a disciplinarian so that the students will listen to me. The main thing that I learned is that it is not easy to take what I know and try to teach it to someone else. While going over Math problems with A.J. I had to try several methods before I finally got through to him how to do the work. I know that I have a lot more learning to do before I can become a teacher. The mentoring project was a good beginning experience in my learning process.