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Science Night Reflection

I enjoyed the beneficial experience of Science Night at A.L.Lotts Elementary. It was a great experience working with my peers, the students, and their parents. The families that came were very enthusiastic and genuinely excited to enjoy the learning experience. Amy and I operated the science station called Predict-A-Pop. Students were to use a straw to blow bubbles on a Styrofoam dish and predict the color of bubbles as they blew them and before it popped. Bubble wands were also used to add engagement to the activity. It was much easier for participants to see the colors in the bubble with the wands, but harder to see the color of a bubble right before it popped. This was the complete opposite when using the Styrofoam dishes. All participants thoroughly enjoyed blowing bubbles! Younger children simply loved “playing” and blowing bubbles. Older students had just as much fun, but also asked questions and experimented with the activity. One male student used his straw to pick up the bubble liquid from the tray and blow bubbles using his straw. Amy and I were both thrilled to see students expand the activity with their own discoveries.

Students and parents jumped right into the experiment and asked questions as they went along. No one was interested in using the worksheet that went along with this activity, because blowing bubbles was so exciting for him or her. It was difficult to have students fill out the prediction worksheet with the bubbles already being accessible. The station also was very wet from the spilled liquid and popped bubbles. It was nice to allow everyone to participate with the activity, instead of only the students the Science Night was originally intended for. I think this was beneficial to participation and excitement. At one point, a four-year-old girl did accidently suck instead of blow causing her to ingest some of the bubble formula. I noticed she made a very sour face and when I asked her if she drank it she quickly became embarrassed. Her mother informed me that she is extremely easy to embarrass. With my experience of younger children, I quickly thought on my feet and distracted her with the bubble wands. I had a lucky save, the child was not harmed by this misfortunate event, and had so much fun the family came back to our station before the event came to a close.

Amy and I were originally worried that students would not be engaged with our activity, but we were thrilled to be proven incorrect. Our station was nonstop-go from the time families entered the cafeteria to the time they left. It was a very joyful experience to interact with the families and be looked at as an educator. I had to use my “teacher voice” with one little girl who found it more entertaining to use a bubble wand to spill the solution all over the table, floor, and those around (more than once). She seemed to listen for a while until she would test this poor decision again. When her mother heard, she did not say anything to Amy or me, instead she enforced what we were saying by telling her daughter she needed to listen and follow directions. It was very rewarding to have this parent back us up and not take anything the wrong way.

If I had to change anything about the experiment, I would suggest adding several rolls of very absorbent paper towels to the supply list. It was a very messy activity and Amy and I were constantly trying to dry the wet floor and table around our station. We had to take safety into consideration and not chance anyone slipping and falling. I also feel that this took more of our attention than we had expected, but we were able to multitask and continue to help students in their discovery of the experiment. Amy made a great point of this being a perfect outdoor activity. Overall, I was thrilled to participate in such an event and felt rewarded in the experience. I would love to do this again!