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Developmental Project Reflection

One of my greatest challenges during the principal internship will be understanding the elementary school curriculum and the cognitive abilities of elementary grade children. This developmental project was a great leap forward in my understanding of those two elements. In particular, the site visits to elementary schools was a very beneficial experience. In my group's developmental project, I focused on peer relationships and moral development in pre-adolescent children. This was a learning experience for me and my research provided an explanation into the disciplinary procedures used by elementary school administrators.

Working in a high school for the entirety of my teaching career, I have become very accustomed to what discipline procedures work and also to those that do not work. I feel like I understand high school students and I can often predict how they will behave. I cannot say that I have the same confidence with elementary children. However, this project has increased my knowledge of the behavior of elementary children and I look forward to more growth experiences in the principal internship.

Understanding the peer relationships of elementary children is critical for administrators to effectively evaluate instruction in the elementary classroom. Young children are continuously developing their moral understanding of right and wrong and this influences their peer relations. For example, a third grade student may understand that stealing is wrong but they may not understand the moral and ethical implications of stealing.

The developmental project greatly enhanced my understanding of elementary grade children. However, I am looking forward to the internship to build upon these learning experiences and further enhance my confidence of working with young children.