

An Observation on American Education

Sophie Ho, Chong De Elementary School



School Observation

- School buildings in Indiana are very different from ours. Unlike our multiple-story school buildings, their schools usually are one-story buildings.
- Their schools are small, in terms of school size or students. There are only ten to fifteen classes at a school.

School Observation

- Their open space is smaller than ours. They do most of the activities in the school building.



Albany Elementary School, IN



Classroom Observation

- Their classrooms are bigger than ours.
- There are few windows in the classrooms. These windows are usually closed. So, students will not get distracted easily.
- Colorful posters are everywhere. They grasp people's attention and make the classrooms and the whole school looked energetic.

Classroom & Poster



A first grade classroom



Posters in a fourth grade classroom



The Quietness at school

- I seldom saw student running or shouting at school. They kept very quiet in the hallway or classroom.
- Teachers often speak softly to students.



Students line up in the hallway



Read 180 at Redkey

- It is sponsored by Scholastic Publishing Company.
- It aims for 4-12 grade students.
- Teachers begin the class by providing instruction in reading skills, vocabulary, writing and grammar.
- Students break into groups and rotated through three work-stations every twenty minutes.



Read 180 at Redkey

- Group 1: practice reading, spelling, vocabulary, and writing through computer software.
- Group 2: build fluency and reading comprehension skills through audio books.
- Group 3: has small group discussion with the teacher.
- The teacher ends the class with whole group reflection.

Read 180

Group 2



Group 1



Group 3





No Child Left Behind

- More and more American schools put their resources on intervention program.
- At Albany Elementary School, they call it Title 1 curriculum. It was designed to give at-risk students supplemental instruction in reading as well as mathematics.

Title 1 curriculum At Albany

- Students go to special education teacher's classroom two hours daily Monday through Thursday.
- Teachers use literacy activities, guided reading groups and technology to help students.



A reading aid used in class





Reading Recovery at Redkey

- It is a research-based early intervention program for reading.
- The program helps first grade slow learners .
- Teachers have to take a full academic year of training.
- Students work one-to-one with the teacher doing thirty minutes daily lessons.



Reading Recovery (RR) at Redkey

- Teachers give these students three to four tests a year.
- It levels students' literacy from level 1 to level 20.
- Teachers also give leveled reading strategies to parents who can be great helpers at home.
- After 3-5 months, three fourth formerly slowest students can reach grade level expectation.

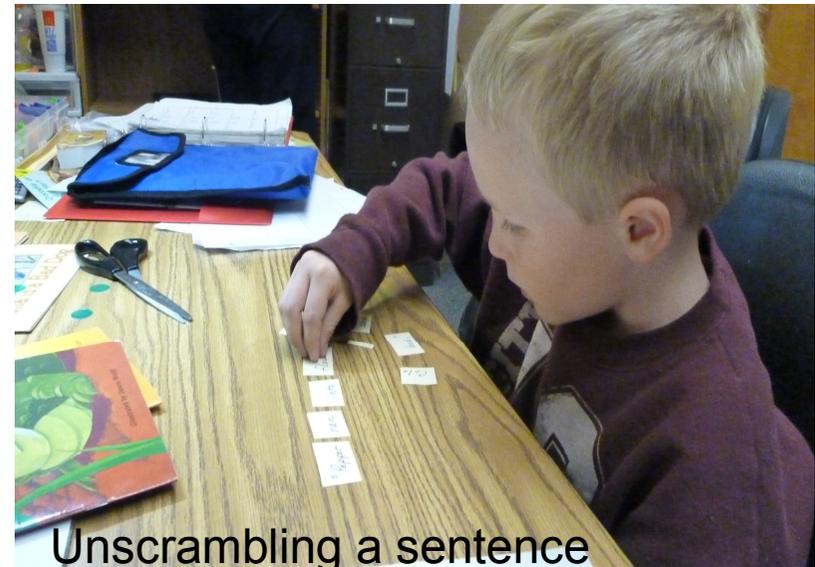
Reading Recovery(RR) at Redkey



Working on spelling



One-to-one instruction



Unscrambling a sentence





Strategies I Learn from RR

- Use magnetic letters or word chunks to teach spelling. By repetitive practices, students get familiarized with sounds in words.
- Try not to interrupt students' reading even when they make a mistake. To see if students are capable of self-correcting. Can they self-monitor their reading and make it right?



Strategies I Learn from RR

- Make reading and writing a hand-on unscrambling game.
- After reading, students write a sentence from memory.
- They cut the sentence word by word.
- They unscramble the sentence and glue it on their workbook.
- They draw a picture to match the sentence.

The End