Meghan Whelan

February 5, 2025

Lesson 1.3E\_Reflection

“Deep Learning and Metacognition”

 It is often a struggle to keep my students engaged during our morning reading group. My group consists of four students, two who are in 5th grade, one sixth grader, and one eighth grader. They are all on different levels when it comes to reading and comprehension; some still need help with letter sounds, and others with word blends. I use strategies to encourage metacognition within my teaching approach daily. For example, when sounding out letters, I have them use their fingers, touching their pointer to their thumb to make the first sound, their middle finger to their them to make the second sound, and so forth. We then reflect on the letters and sounds and try making other words that have the same ending sound or writing them on a dry-erase board. Each student then will use the word in a sentence and pick out the words in short stories on a handout. These strategies help them feel confident in metacognition and self-awareness in their learning process. One of my fifth graders could not even tell me this letter sounds at the beginning of the school year, and now he is reading me sentences and small paragraphs. He would question himself in the beginning, so when he would sound out a word, I would nicely ask him, “is that a question or are you telling me the word?” I would tell him to be confident when he reads and not to look up at me after each word, but if he made a mistake, I would help him at that point. He catches himself now and hardly looks up for reassurance.

 Being in a special education classroom setting, we are often monitoring progress amongst our students. Instead of just keeping notes, or testing to add to their IEP, my mentor gave me goal charts for the student to color after each lesson so they can also see their progress or what they need to work on. I even heard one of my students compare his chart the other day and say, “that was not my best work”. Although that was tough to hear and I explained that it was okay and sometimes we just have off days, I loved that he was recognizing it for himself instead of just saying, “ok, well I tried my best”, (which is often a phrase he says).