

P.S. 99 Reflection – The During

It is now January 25 and I have been observing at P.S. 99 since the beginning of the month. It's been a couple of weeks and my experience is soon coming to a close – which leaves me wondering, where did the time go? I feel like just a couple days ago I was receiving my schedule, Mondays and Thursdays from 8-12. I mean, do you blame me? I have not even remembered every child's name yet. Shame on me, I know. Nevertheless, I am extremely content because I have seen all of the speech teachers provide additional assistance to those in need. They have truly proven that they want to improve the work each child presents on the table. I have to commend K, J and M because they have demonstrated appropriate behavior which I have internalized. I have seen children bring out their beautiful smiles as they were eager to learn and I have to say, seeing such things, well; let's just say times like these are more than just Kodak moments.

I will provide an overview of the entire experience later, but I have to mention that I am pleasantly surprised with myself. Often times as I would observe what was in front of me, I would wander off and get lost in my thoughts. How is that a good thing you may be asking? Well, to be honest, I was placing myself in the speech teacher's shoes. I wanted to create a scenario for myself; in fact, it was a "real-world" scenario to test my skills. This was most beneficial to me because I extended my observation to the next level. I wanted to see what I could do in that moment, with the knowledge that I had. Truthfully, there were certain techniques that I was very impressed with; I learned more than a handful in just a semester. At the same time, I knew I needed more practice, more experience. I was unable to effortlessly, and precisely see whether or not a child had autism, ADHD or another pathology. In that moment when I evaluated myself I heard Professor Grubler's voice in my head, and I may be butchering what

she said but I am almost sure I got it right: “With time, those square wheels will smooth out themselves”. That’s what I call healing words. As I continue on the path of becoming a speech-language pathologist, one thing’s for sure, I am working still on my square wheels.