

Practicum in Teaching in Early Childhood Settings

Practicum is a capstone experience where NWC students are placed with a mentor teacher for 50 hours of field experience over a 10-week period. Practicum students plan lessons, teach, gather evidence of learning and reflect on their teaching and their students' learning. As future teachers leading small group learning, working one-on-one, participating in Parent-Teacher conferences, building relationships with each student and knowing their strengths and challenges allows us to grow as teachers and lifelong learners.

Xantha Jerome is with Mrs. Robertson at Rocky Mountain Elementary School in the Kindergarten classroom. Working with students, watching experienced teachers teach, and learning through observing and doing encourages us to continue teaching. We have implemented our own knowledge into our lesson with students. Trinity Frank is with Kyalonni Zierke at True North Academy in the Preschool classroom. Working with and learning from a strong mentor is critical. Practicum teaches us so much about ourselves – as people and as future teachers. Delanie Salzman is with Mrs. Wiant at Meeteetse Elementary School in the Kindergarten classroom. Being in a classroom experiencing teaching validates this is what we want to do. The opportunity for learning and practicing is powerful.

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