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Struggles with Diversity

I have always understood diversity in terms of race, culture, and food; but diversity in education was always a term I never understood. When I think of diversity in education I think of showing kids people that look like them or having topics they can relate to but diversity in education goes deeper than that. I was placed in a situation where I had two different students with two different learning styles, goals, and academic ability. I panicked. In the middle of the lesson I stopped and I told my mentor teacher I don't know what to do I need help. I felt like I jumped in a pool for a nice swim and it turned out to be an ocean. I was drowning quickly and I called out for help because it was what was best for the students. I had never felt so unprepared in my life.

After the group of students left I sought guidance from my mentor teacher on what I could do to be better in that situation for my students and myself. She explained different strategies such as already having things written for the students to do and using their independent practice time as rep time. Maybe giving one student four problems to do as a warm up and giving the other student one-on-one instruction and then when the student is done with the warm up, I can give that student one-on-one instruction while allowing the other student independent practice. She gave me advice on time management, planning, and best practices to make myself a more efficient and effective educator. I am eager to try the new strategies she provided.