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Journal 6
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Overcoming Initial Struggles

I have now been in the classroom taking the lead on groups for over a month. I can see the difference in my growth as a future educator and I can see the areas that need improvement. One area that I have been working on over the past few weeks is how to effectively teach diverse learners. In Journal 4, I spoke about literally stopping mid lesson and saying I did not know what to do. Since that lesson, I have realized how much diversity, planning, and reflection go hand in hand. I am now able to teach my diverse learners because I immersed myself in the knowledge of multiple strategies to teach math. This has allowed me to realize when something isn't working and redirect the student to a different strategy.

I have also learned that sometimes it's okay to give one group 20 minutes of direct instruction and another group 10 minutes. The group that got the extra time could need it more than the other group. I have learned that it's okay for a student to not get the concept and it's okay for me to reteach a concept. I realized that I was so focused on where the student should be for the IEP that I forgot they have a whole year to work on these goals so it doesn't have to be perfect right away. A personal goal that I have created for the next few weeks is to make sure that I am not rushing when teaching and that I am effectively assessing the students progress. Even when I have two or more students in a group for direct instruction that learn differently and are not at the same place, I just have to effectively plan for teaching their different learning styles as well as their different paces. It is more important to teach to diversity than it is to the test.