

Owin Ifill

CYSE 368

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Professor Duvall

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Internship: The Innovation Lab

Reflection 2

I have worked a total of 52 hours and 30 minutes since my first reflection paper. Most of my days going in I was working with and teaching kindergarteners. The activities we would do would be to help them use their imagination by asking them a silly question like what if people had wheels instead of legs and etc. They would spend 5 minutes drawing on the table with markers. They enjoyed that part because our tables in that classroom are basically like whiteboards. Then after that we would come up with a saying that would help them remember to be creative and positive. We taught them a little bit about how lasers work and that our laser has two different functions: engraving and cutting. We would pass around pieces that were engraved and cut out then ask them how they knew which one was which. Then after that the real fun part of the day would begin where we would begin working on creating these shape monsters. So, to begin, the kids had 2 pieces of paper and multiple shapes they could cut out. Once they cut out their shapes, they would glue it to a piece of paper and then they could add their design to it like a face or whatever they wanted to on the body. Then we would get them to outline their design with a red marker, and we would send it over to our laser cutter. The monster and design are all

done in black, which the laser cutter would engrave the design on a piece of wood, then the red line that they outline the laser would cut out. Most of the time I was just there helping my boss while she led the program. But I would say either 2 or 3 times I lead the program. The first time she asked me I was a bit nervous, but I accepted because she asked me to which meant she had faith in my ability to do so. The next couple of times that I led the program I had a bunch of help from my fellow interns with passing out the supplies and getting their monsters uploaded to the laser cutter. Another event I went to was A STEAM Day program at the Virginia Air and Space and Science Museum in Hampton. That day we were mainly letting the kids there play with our Sphero robots and promoting our different programs to their parents. The next Event that we would have there we will bring out small portable laser cutter and showcase that. All in all, that event was pretty fun, and I think that day brought all of us interns working there closer together. Speaking of our laser cutter, yesterday we did an activity with Momentum 180, which is a program for adults with disabilities. We used our small laser cutter to make them coasters, and they were able to design their coasters using Canva. The last event I can think of is the program we do with a group of seniors in high school. I saw them a month ago and we built on the project we were working on from there. This was more so an engineering program where they were there to design and test different boat models. So, this session they were in a program called Tinkercad, which is a Cad based software for 3D modeling designing their boat using data they gather from our last meeting. Once they were done modeling their boat we switched over to building motorboats out of a bunch of different materials. The goal of the motorboat was to try and get the boat to move forward in the water. I built a motorboat they some of the students could use for inspiration to help them figure out how to make the boat move forward. The other couple of day I went into The Innovation Lab was to work on 3D printing projects I had for the

kids using the Sphero's and building more of the carts, and chairs, since the office is fairly new and not all the equipment was done being built yet. To reflect on everything that I just talked about, I felt like I was building upon my leadership skills especially when it came to teaching multiple groups of kindergarteners. I wouldn't say I was ever uncomfortable talking to a large group of people, but over this time I became more confident in my ability to not just talk to a larger group but also teaching them as well. Since this is my 2nd semester working at the iLab, I would say most of my peers would see me more as a leader and they come to me for help and asking questions. So, to sum everything up the past couple of weeks at the iLab I believe I was growing my leadership abilities and becoming more comfortable and confident with that responsibility, whether it was my boss trust me to lead a program or my fellow interns seeking me to lead the program with them being by my side for assistance. I am happy with my work at The Innovation Lab and can't wait to see what the next couple of months have in store.