

HUSV3520: Child Intervention & Treatment

A free-write response from one of our service-learning students, discussing her favorite memory from service and some special connections she made:

"My favorite memory from service learning came from my first day at the center. As it was my first day, I felt uncomfortable because I was unsure of the expectations regarding my role and quite frankly didn't know how to interact with the kids. So, for the first few minutes I awkwardly sat in the tech room next to a boy as he made beats using a computer software. Later, I migrated to the learning center where I sat with a group of girls and helped them with their homework. Soon, the conversation moved past homework and they began to ask me about myself. I found out that two of the girls were west African just like me and so that became a topic of conversation. One of the girls excitedly asked me for my phone so she could take a selfie and before I left the kids gave me hugs and sent me off with a 'bye, bestie!'. Thereafter whenever I saw those group of girls, they'd hug me and call me 'bestie' to which I'd respond 'hi, bestie!'.
I had a special connection with one of the volunteers last week. That week myself and another student volunteer from Northeastern decided to check out the art room for the first. In the art room we met a volunteer who had gone to the club himself when he was younger and decided to give back by offering his time as an art teacher/instructor. We talked about life and our long-term goals, and it was just a very human moment. Whilst we all have a shared goal of looking after these children, we all come from very different places and want to embark upon very different paths in life.

Sharing my experience with the class regarding disciplining a child was particularly eye-opening for me. I made realizations about how to reason with a child as well as my role as a caregiver"