

Out of Classroom Experience: Outreach

Cycle 2: Change

The third Friday of each month I take a group of 6-7 middle schoolers to visit the ARC of Noble County.

“The ARC of Indiana was established in 1956 by parents of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) who joined together to build a better and more accepting world for their children.” Find out more about the ARC here: <https://www.arcind.org/about-the-arc/who-we-are/>

Before our first visit I share with the students a little bit about the folks we are about to visit with. I also share that they (my students) are going to feel a change in themselves after our visit. We talk about how we are going to the ARC to help these folks with their handwriting or math skills, or even coloring and to visit with them, but we always leave with more than we could ever give. All the way back to school they chat about their experience and the ideas for the items they want to get around for their next visit. They do feel a change and I see the change as well. The students usually go in a bit nervous or on edge and come out exhilarated.

Students meet with and interview the people of the ARC to learn more about them including their hobbies, likes, dislikes, and what they would like to learn more about. My students then develop lessons and/or activities to take on our next visit. Lessons include: color by number, addition and subtraction work, cursive handwriting (this is a popular lesson/work), non-fiction reading, and hidden pictures works among other activities. We also enjoy a good game of Apples to Apples in small groups at the end of our visits. After our visit students make changes to their activities for the next visit if necessary. On a recent visit the students discovered that a color by number page was very popular and they ran out of copies. They discussed how they would look for more and bring plenty to our next visit. Students learn to make changes on the fly as well. Some ARC friends may underestimate or overestimate their abilities and my students make changes to the works they brought or find different works in materials that others brought.

The third Friday of each month becomes something my Outreach group looks forward to and becomes excited about. They have changed their views on what the people of the ARC are capable of and how fun they are to be around.

Details:

Contact Person: Kay Craig

Transportation: Oak Farm School Bus—depart at 12:45 PM and return to the school by 2:00 PM—bus driver stays with us at the ARC