

Courtney Robbins- AmeriCorps Fall 2003-2004

Irving School

My first classroom was an afternoon homework room. This class is made up of students who regularly don't get their homework done or students who are labeled with a disability. This is a very needy classroom. There are thirty-five students that another teacher and I are in charge of. Trying to help so many students and dealing with their teachers is very difficult. This is also a difficult situation for the students, they don't enjoy being in the room which causes them to be easily distracted and disrespectful. Through this program I have learned a lot of valuable parenting skills. I think that it is very important to care about your child's homework, have a good relationship with the teacher, and read to your children.

I had the opportunity to work with a student throughout the semester that was new to Irving. He was in the third grade and wasn't adjusting very well to the discipline there. We set up a plan to get the parents more involved with what happens in school and as the semester went on he began to work on his own and complete assignments. His biggest accomplishment was his writing assignments. He had great ideas but had difficulty spelling. I stepped in and began to write down on paper what he told me to write. His behavior improved immensely.

I absolutely love working with this student. I love challenges and I think that he and I have a great relationship because of this. This was a great experience for me. I have built a good relationship with him, and now I believe he respects me more than his other teachers.

Another placement I received was Title I reading recovery three days a week. I worked directly with six first graders on flash cards. They would bring books and read to me and we would play games to improve their reading.