

A Nursery Teacher

On Thursday 22nd April 2010 I shadowed Mrs. Ransom, a teacher at Little Saints, in 'Nursery Red'. Throughout the day, I helped out with many different, creative tasks. I encouraged the children to do some drawings and helped everyone do a painting each, whilst monitoring what exactly they were painting. The teachers and I served the children their lunch, and during their break time, I organised several games such as duck duck goose. It was so fulfilling to see their smiling faces looking up at me.

All the children got on very well, in their class and with the receptions whom were a year older than them. There was a huge variety of tasks available for the children to entertain themselves with so everyone was more than happy. Eve was the form leader so she took the register and led the class everywhere with the help of Mrs. Ransom. The building was fairly large, I could not even find the entrance when I came in the morning but by the end of the day I knew my way around as much as I know senior school.

The teaching assistants must all have gained at least a Grade C in English and Maths. They also would have needed to complete a course known as Initial Teacher Training (ITT). During that course they will have spent a minimum of 18 weeks in at least two schools completing a programme of observation and supervised teaching. In this way they would develop skills in planning and preparation, behaviour management, setting learning objectives and assessment. The main teachers, on the other hand, had to have everything I have already listed as well as a degree.

All of the teachers I saw were female; I am supposing this is because it is a girl's school therefore the parents probably prefer it to be female teachers. There was a huge vary in the age ranges of the teachers. Also, all of the teachers got on very well and chatted to each other in breaks as if they were best friends! They were also kind towards me, making me feel as welcome as possible, proving their skills as a teacher.

There was always a happy feel in every single place we went. Every child was very kind to each other and was careful of what they said, as they did not want to upset anyone. There are many advantages to this job such as being in a happy, excitable environment, as well as seeing the incredibly kind and helpful girls everyday. Another advantage may be the feeling of community between everyone as they are all part of one huge team who always work together. Also, by being a teacher, you would usually have the same holidays as perhaps your children did which is always an advantage. A disadvantage might be the fact that you would have to wake up quite early as you need to be in school, at latest, by eight.

I personally thoroughly enjoyed my day at little saints as it was a fun yet educational day which made me smile and laugh even more than usual. I loved every girl I met as each one had an independent personality trait which made them unique and fun to be around. I would love to go back there at some time in the future and I could definitely see myself doing that job as I love children - I even help out with an under 5's Sunday school at my church. Some of the girls persisted on me coming back so I told them I would visit some lunchtimes if they would like to see me again, a few girls even hugged me! I am extremely glad that I was able to have this experience and I am extremely thankful towards everyone who managed to organise it for me.