**Dialogue Paper Draft: Interviewing a K-5 LRT Teacher**

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**Introduction**

Assessments are very important part of education that does not seem to be portrayed a lot. Between this class and being able to interview teachers, it will help show why it is so important. This interview will give a great look at the ups and downs that are done by assessments. The two interviewing teachers are completely different in their ways. The first interview is done by a first year LRT teacher and the second interview will be done with a teacher of ten years.

**Interview One**

My first interviewed teacher, I will be addressing her as Miss. M throughout the interview. Miss. M is a first year LRT, she primarily works with first nation students. She graduated knowing she did not just want to be a teacher, but she really wanted to make sure she was helping out students that needed it the most. She started in the September by taking over her aunts’ classroom while she was still on maternity leave. Once her aunt was back, she was offered an LRT position as the same school to work with first nations students. She works with kids between kindergarten to grade 5. Since Miss. M works with multiple grades, I am really curious on how different or similar her answers will be to my cooperating teacher, who teaches grade one.

The first question I asked Miss. M was “Every student is different with their ways of learning and reactions to assessments, what is the best way to learn how each student needs to be assessed?”. She answered it very short but very educational. She mentions that a good assessment is one that can be used on a variety of students and can be adapted for individual student’s needs. A good way of approaching this would be to try out different assessments at the beginning of the year and then set a standard assessment that you consistently utilize throughout the year but adapt based on the unit/lesson. I believe she did a great job at answering the question asked and also gave some great advice. Assessment should be more about what works better for each individual student, than the class as a whole.

I then asked Miss. M how can students use the assessment as a learning tool and teachers use it as a support for learning. Miss. M mentioned that students can use assessments as a learning tool because they help inform them where they are in their learning and where they need to go. Schools have their assessments to be able to pass grades and classes, but assessments are much more than that. She goes on to saying through opportunities to engage in assessments such as self or peer assessment students can get instant feedback as to where they are in their learning. Students can also use assessments as a learning tool because it provides them with a bigger picture of what they will be learning and what they need to accomplish to meet a goal (the outcome). A good example of this would be utilizing a checklist method, students essentially can use this as a “to do” list when creating their work and know exactly what they must do to obtain marks. On the other end of the spectrum, teachers can utilize assessment tools to see exactly what the student is missing or learning. This can help teachers to alter learning plans and future assessments.

The next question was about the roles the students play when it comes to assessments and if it is more beneficial to have the students involved and she believes students play the main role when it comes to assessment. Students see a lot more success when they are included in the assessment process as they have a greater opportunity to understand and reach the learning goal. Allowing the students to be a part of the process, gives the teacher an opportunity to see what the students find helpful from assessments and how they prefer to be marked.

I wanted to know what Miss. M believed was the most important part of assessment. She mentions how assessment is extremely important in her classroom as it is a tool for not only her, but also for her students. Though differentiated assessment tools she can inform herself on her teaching and where she need to go moving forward with it. Assessment is essentially the data that every teacher needs to have in their back pocket. This data becomes relevant and can be utilized during parent/teacher conferences, IIP meetings, meetings with admin, etc.

For my final question, I was very curious on her favourite part about assessments.  Her favorite part about assessment is how it is constantly evolving. Many educators stick to rubric, or 5 scale rating assessments and do not always get the outcome from their students they were hoping for. Through familiarizing and staying up to date with the craft of assessment she has been able to use a variety of differentiated assessment tools to provide her students more informed opportunities to reach their learning goals. Assessment is an important part of her teaching process as it helps me group students based on their individual needs, she is then able to work with these groups one on one and create assessment tools for that group's specific needs.

**Conclusion**

I really enjoyed being able to interview Miss. M and I feel as if it has helped me a lot. Being a pre-service teacher, we are still learning about assessments and the importance of them. I really enjoyed being able to interview a first year teacher and getting her opinion on this topic. I believe she did a great job of explaining the simplest ideas. Being able to have all of this information all before pre-internship arrives again, will help me a lot.