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Observation and Interview

In ED 403, we will spend a considerable amount of time thinking about the design and enactment of a language arts curriculum. The purpose of this assignment is to support you in learning about the language arts curriculum in your practicum site. There are two parts to the assignment: observation and interview. Over the next two weeks, as you spend time in your field placement, please complete the following table by observing what happens in your classroom. In addition, please make time to interview your teacher, using the questions that follow this table. Since you are not in the field for the full school day, it is a good idea to ask your teacher to look at the table as you have completed it and to add opportunities that you might have missed.

Focus	Instructional materials used	Comments	Questions
Learning to read (e.g., vocabulary instruction, practice to increase reading rate or reading accuracy, reading strategy instruction)			
Using reading to learn (e.g., reading texts to learn science, history)			
Free choice reading			

Learning to write (e.g., brainstorming, conferencing about writing, sharing writing with classmates, handwriting)			
Using writing to learn (journaling, writing reports)			
Free choice writing			
Information and Communication literacy (e.g., using the Internet for research, preparing powerpoint presentations)			
Viewing (e.g., learning from multi-media)			

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Interview questions:

1. Does this school use a specific language arts curriculum? If so, what language arts program?
2. How do you assess your students' reading? Writing?
3. What are your principle goals for language instruction for this grade level at this time of year ?
4. What standards/benchmarks guide your instructional decision making?
5. What can I do to support your language arts instruction?