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Comms Class

Field Notes 1/20/12

Today was my first time going to Path Point this quarter and I could not wait to see if anything had changed. When we first arrived I noticed a few of the students outside relaxing, and then as I walked inside I was struck with a feeling of nostalgia. I was surprised, but a couple of students happened to remember who I was! This amazed me and also made me happy, because I realized that I had been able to make a good impression on them during the first quarter. My time today pasted slowly, however the activity I participated in proved to be a lot of fun. This activity happened to be bowling. We had around five students begin the game with us, with a sixth joining in later. The students that could not roll the ball on their own were helped through the use of a wooden board about two meters in length and one of the staff members. Each of the students would take a turn to bowl, but some took longer than others, due to the trash talking between the staff helper and the students. Even though it was trash talk, all of it was done in good humor and resulting in laughing from the rest of the group. A couple of the students were even able to get strikes, which given some of their current situations is a remarkable feat. About half way through the class section all the students took a ten minute break to use the bathroom and get a breather, then it was back to the game. An hour later class time finished and it was sadly time to get back to Cal Poly. I hope that the next couple of trips will be as fun as the one today was.

Field Notes 1/27/12

So here I am, it has been a week and I am heading back to Path Point. I wonder what kind of adventures today will bring. When we finally made it, I noticed a couple of the same students outside relaxing like they were last week. As we walked inside it was much the same as the week before, decide which last to help with then help. Unfortunately, I got stuck with bowling again. This time was almost a carbon copy of last week, around five to six students played. The main difference this time was during the break some of us used the punching bag and mini basketball hoops that are located in the room we set up the bowling. The major difference was that we actually bowled in the main room, due to today being movie day. Four tables became the lane, which made it kind of hard to get in-between them and reset the pins after each student went. Just like last week there were many strikes, which continues to amaze me due to the struggles that some of the students have. This time however, the staff who helped us continued to try and “help” them get a strike by moving the board a little bit. He did this with all of the students, so we were all fine with it. As I mentioned before I used the punching bag during the break, then as we continued the game it proved to be the same as the week before, strikes and spares mostly. A couple of students did not due as well this week, getting fours and sixes, but they still made up the points by getting strikes. After another hour it was sadly time to leave Path Point again, I cannot say that it was fun doing bowling again, but I did have a lot of fun working with the students again. I hope that next week turns out a little different from the last two weeks.

Field Notes 2/10

Today was my third trip down to Path Point this quarter and I had hoped that it would not be like the other two. Sadly, it was the exact same. I just happened to be stuck helping out with bowling once again. Now after three weeks this was starting to get annoying, however once the students started to play all my animosity was forgotten and I got involved in the game. A couple of the students did much worse this time around, getting no strikes, however one of them got even more strikes, which was really cool. She always gives us thumbs up when she gets a strike and the smile on her face just causes you to forget why you are there and just be happy with her. I have grown very fond of coming down to Path Point, even though I have been stuck with the exact same activity each time. This time in we had about eight students playing so as you can imagine it took some time to get through all of them. We were all able to be patient because we had learned over the last three weeks that each student has their own pace and it is impossible to rush them from that pace. As I look back on those three weeks, it has become apparent to me that continuing to help here causes me to relax and has allowed me to stay focused on my future. I highly look forward to next quarter when we begin our service learning project, and I cannot wait to see how the project benefits the students who I have come to know so well. With each week I learn more about them, the struggles they have gone through, what they want from their lives, and numerous other things that unless you take the time to listen, would never be heard. The next time I go to Path Point I hope that I am not stuck with bowling again, however it is always a unique experience that I would definitely help with again given the chance. It is always fun when we work down at Path Point and I hope the students benefit as much from our help as we have benefitted from their knowledge and creativity.