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you'll learn them soon enough

After just 2 1/2 days, I feel like I'm getting to know my students pretty well. I still feel a step behind in terms of classroom routines, especially knowing all the transition games/songs that Mrs. Trusty uses, but I'm catching up. And it's so fun to hear the kids learning my name and looking to me as an actual teacher!

I noticed that Mrs. Trusty refers to herself as Mrs. Trusty about half of the time when she's talking to the students, and I'm not sure why. I'll have to ask her.

This week we worked on stretching out our words during writer's workshop, and I made my first big mistake as a student teacher. I'm glad it happened already - get it out of the way! I was working with a student during WW and thought that I was supposed to be helping him stretch out his words like we had done during the mini-lesson. So I prompted him with a lot of "What sound do you hear next?" and questions like that. But when it came time for him to share his writing with the class, he couldn't remember what he had written. Mrs. Trusty explained that we're not supposed to give the kids that much support or modeling during WW, and that it's really important that he can re-read what he wrote, even if he only wrote the first letter of each word. She took me aside and explained that to me right after the sharing time, while it was still fresh in our minds, which I really appreciated. I apologized and thanked her for bringing it to my attention. Then yesterday during writer's workshop, I worked with another student but was careful with how I helped her. She wanted to spell "accidentally," so I asked her what sounds she heard. She wrote a-x-d, stopping after each letter to look at me for confirmation. I told her, "Sure," and then asked Melissa later what I should say when kids ask me if a technically wrong letter is right. She said that we just tell them, "Write down every sound you hear." I didn't repeat the word or stretch it out for this little girl yesterday; instead, I encouraged her to say the word over and stretch it out. I felt like I did a better job.

Not so terrible. That's why you're here for an entire year.

Teaching beginning reading and writing is no easy task. There's so much to learn, but don't be afraid to continue your efforts. Any "mistakes" that you make are not going to harm the children.

This is the mistake.