

LIVE NFK: AN INTERNS PERSPECTIVE

Camp, Kids, and Lettuce



Morgan reading to kids at a summer camp.

Summer Camp

Summer camps are one hour, twice a week at different recreation centers. I am teaching 5 - 7 year-olds about things they can do to help the environment and we plant lettuce seeds in upcycled coffee pods. The first time I went, I was nervous. I just haven't been around kids much in the last few years. I had forgotten that, in large numbers, they can get loud, distracted, and want to tell me about their turtle instead of answering my question.

I've Learned

The flip side to this is that these kids know a lot. They like telling me about what they do, or will do, to help their environment. Their favorite part is planting the lettuce seeds of course. I let them help scoop the dirt and put the seeds in. I even got a hug from a little girl at the last camp (aww!). After doing 4 camps I am much more confident. I have figured out how to get their attention back and make sure they aren't talking over me or others. I may not be reaching every kid, but there are always a few who seem very interested in what I am teaching. That's what makes the summer camps so great.

Reflection

I have always had respect for teachers and that respect has grown. Especially with a younger age group, it's difficult to keep their attention for long periods of time. So, a teacher must be very patient and able to simplify what might be a complex process. It's not easy. However, I do look forward to the opportunity to work with kids more, maybe even older students. Education is where it all starts. By "it" I mean just about everything. How to work with others, social skills, general knowledge, finding a passion, etc. It starts in school and I would like to be a part of that. I want to share my excitement for environmental stewardship and help influence a younger generation to be more mindful of their impact. After all, kids are the future.

