

“Catch Me, I’m Falling”

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Abstract

In this study, issues surrounding students who are at risk of failing in school are discussed. Characteristics of these students, including family and peer influences are investigated in order to allow myself, as a pre-service classroom teacher, to address the best way possible to reach every student. Methods of data collection include observation, interviews, questionnaires, journal entries, as well as a thorough search of previous research articles and literature on the subject. Findings are broad- but with an emphasis on motivation, parent involvement, and alternate programs that help increase the odds that a student will succeed in school. The information obtained will be utilized during my student teaching experience. At this time the research will take on a ‘practitioner research’ perspective, and steps will be taken to increase motivation and breech parent/school division. Since it is of the duty of educators to provide a successful learning environment for all students, this research will lead me closer to this goal.