

A Day in the Life of a *Project CHILD* student

Hi, my name is Cassie, I'm nine years old and I'm in the fourth grade. This year I am **SO** happy because I'm in *Project CHILD* again. This is my second year in *Project CHILD*. I love it because that means I have my favorite teacher again, Ms. Bronson. I also have Mr. Gray and Ms. Harris again too. Last year, my dad couldn't understand it when I told him I had 3 teachers. He said when he was in school, kids had only 1 teacher the whole year. That would be boring to me. I think I learn more with 3 really smart teachers. Plus, now I'm not worried about starting a new year, because I know my teachers, I know the kids in my class and I already know what to do in *Project CHILD*. Ms. Bronson says that's the best part for her because she can "get right down to business" and not waste time learning all about 30 new kids every year. Whatever!!!

Anyway, I better explain some things about *Project CHILD* to you because, if you're like my dad you're going to have lots of questions. From the stories my dad tells me about school when he was a kid, I have lots of explaining to do, because *Project CHILD* is different-- different in a really good way.

My dad always wants to know, "what did you do in school today?" I guess when my dad hears me talking about stations, marking my Passport and working at the computers everyday he gets real confused. He said to me yesterday, "I'm going to come and see what you're doing in *Project CHILD*, cause it sounds like you're having too much fun!" I said, "But Dad, learning in *Project CHILD* is fun!!!" So, he decided to come to school with me today. Okay, Dad, let's go!

I start out in my homeroom class with my teacher Ms. Bronson. I put my backpack in my cubby and then go straight to my table. We have certain tables that we sit at. I share a table with Samuel, Demetrius, Monique and Donna. First thing we do is all that "housekeeping" stuff, as my teacher calls it. We do the lunch count, attendance and then watch the morning announcements. Dad said, "so far this seems like school."

Now comes *Project CHILD* time. I told my dad to pay attention 'cause this is the important part. See, **we** get 10 days of training to get ready for *Project CHILD* and dad only has one day so...I don't want him to miss anything. Okay, remember when I said that I have three teachers? Well, first I start off with Ms. Bronson-- she is also my Math teacher. We have one hour of math with her, then we move to Mr. Gray's classroom for one hour of writing, he's our Language Arts teacher. Then we have a short recess outside and come back in for one hour of Reading with Ms. Harris.

We got my dad an extra chair so he could sit at our table. Ms. Bronson started off with a lesson about measurement-- we'll be studying about different ways to measure things for this unit. We all brought in different measurement tools for homework. What a collection- we had lots of rulers, a bathroom scale, a metric stick, 2 yardsticks, 3 kinds of balance scales and a couple of measuring tapes. We talked about all the different tools and what we could use them for. We made a big chart with all the different measuring

terms: centimeters, decimeters, meters, inches, yards, pounds, ounces, etc. Then we made a list of ways we use measurement tools. I never knew you measured so many things. Dad whispered to me, "You're right, there **is** a lot of learning going on--I had forgotten how little a centimeter was." Ms. Bronson asked Todd to put all the tools in the Exploration Station for us to use for a measuring activity.

Finally ready for station time. Our table leader passed out our Passports (those are our work logs) and we move to our assigned station. Dad asks Ms. Bronson how long we work at our learning stations. She says for about 40 minutes. First we look at the Daily Station Assignment Board to see at what station we start. When we are all done with the work there we go to another station. By the end of the week I get to every station at least one time.

I show my dad the 6 different stations that we go to. In Math we have Computer, Textbook, Exploration, Teacher, Challenge and Construction. We have work to do at all these stations. There's a Task Card that tells you what to do. You can't just mess around. It's good to practice at stations because we can learn more about measurement in lots of ways--using the computer programs, working on our textbook pages, using "manipulatives" (that's a math teacher's word for math equipment), and getting lessons from the teacher.

I go to the Computer Station first and work with my partner, Anna. I show my dad how I record the work I'm doing in my Passport. I record "estimating using centimeters." He said it looks like I'm learning how to be responsible and he likes that. We're working on a program where we have to estimate height and length. It is a challenge and we get better each time! My dad can't keep his hands off the keyboard, so we let him take a turn.

Next I'm off to the Teacher Station to work with Ms. Bronson and 5 other kids-- we are writing story problems. You have to use measurement to figure them out. Dad stayed at the Computer Station. We let him since he's just a guest. I made up a tricky problem-- it took Lexie a long time to solve it, but she did get it right. We turn in our completed problems to the "Finished Work" box. Ms. Bronson said we're going to make a class book of all our measurement problems. Cool, we get to make our own math books!

Now we're done at stations-- it always goes so fast, I love working at stations. I tell my dad that **Project CHILD** is all about spending more time learning and less time waiting around for everyone else to get done with their work. (I don't think my dad heard me, he was thinking about getting back to that Computer Station!) We clean up our work and go back to our tables, put up our Passports and have a closing time. A couple of kids share some work they did at the Exploration Station, using the balance scale. That looks neat. Hope I get there tomorrow.

Ms. Bronson tells us that tomorrow we begin our class measurement graph. We will measure everyone in class using 3 different measurement systems-- the American, Metric and Greek. She said for homework find out all you can about the Greek's measurement system. I don't have a clue! We're reading Greek myths in Ms. Harris' class so we might be able to find out something. I ask my dad if he knows if the Greeks used inches or centimeters and he said we will look it up tonight. I guess that's two new things he'll learn today. Not bad for a grown-up.

We get ready to line up and move to Mr. Gray's class for Language Arts. I can't wait to get to work on the myth that we've been writing. Then we have Reading class with Ms. Harris. I'll definitely try and find a book about how the Greeks used to measure things. I know they built fancy temples with columns. They must have had some fancy measuring tools!

Anyway, after our three hours of **Project CHILD**, it's lunchtime. We do more work in the afternoon with our homeroom teacher Ms. Bronson in science or learn more about our Greek theme we are studying. The last thing we do is go to our special area class like music or art or PE. Finally we go back to our homeroom class to clean up and get ready to go home. My dad said he wanted to get right home and get the encyclopedias out....he was mumbling something about Zeus and centimeters.