Final Summary for CAS 464/L - Jumpstart

I had a huge amount of excitement when beginning this semester. Finally, I was going to be able to work one on one with my target child. Not to mention this was my last semester before graduation. I was eager to do well in my classes, which included making a connection with R, my target child. The 15 weeks seemed to fly by in a matter of a week. The best experience while in Jumpstart has been working with my target child, bonding with my other team members, and having the opportunity to learn from the mind of the greatest Professor I know.

Working with R has been an amazing experience. Watching him grow and learn has been wonderful. Looking back at the beginning of the year, I was scared that R would never make a connection with me. At first he would resist working one on one with me, and would rather play with his friends. Quickly, R found out that I had more to offer him than his dinosaurs ever could. He soon would call me his best friend and question why I would have to leave before him everyday. My most memorable experience was when R read me a book that I often read to him. He was changing his voice, making facial expressions, and using hand motions, exactly like I would do. From that moment I knew I was having an impact on R.

Having colleagues like K and A has been a friendship come true. We work well as a group and we genuinely care for each other’s opinions and feelings. We each are able to bring a portion to the group that another person does not have. I enjoyed every minute I had to spend with the two of them.
They have been there for me when I have needed them the most. In the beginning of the semester I had a lot of other tasks going on. Both K and A were willing to pull extra weight in order for me to get through a difficult time in my life. Because of this you can see that Jumpstart has created a bond between us. This may have never happened, and for that I am thankful of being a part of Jumpstart.

I have been blessed with taking courses with Professor Seidman-Milburn every semester since I transferred into California State University, Fullerton. I have learned amazing information from being in her classes. Continuing with her in CAS 394 and 464 was an easy decision to make. I knew that I would be able to learn as much as possible in this field, from the professor who knows so much knowledge. She has been a role model, a teacher, and a friend. She has shown me nothing but professionalism while working with her. She has shown me that anything I put my mind to is possible, where before I would have questioned my ability. It has been a pleasure to learn from her, and when I look back and think about my college experience she will be the first person I think of.

Being in Jumpstart has turned out to be a better experience than I thought it ever could be. It has been my first experience working with children over a yearly period. Leaving the children on the last day has been one of the most difficult situations I have ever had to endure. I could see that the children didn’t understand why we had to leave. They enjoyed the party we threw for them, but kept saying, “don’t leave teacher” or “I love you teacher”.
Knowing that I have made an impact on children’s lives has made me become a better person. I believe Jumpstart has made this possible. I would recommend any other person interested in teaching to join Jumpstart, and I am thankful that I have had this experience.