

## **Field Experience: Exploring Teaching**

Field experience for students in teacher education is considered very important. It is this experience with children and youth, with teachers and other school personnel, that makes the formal classwork come to life, to become stimulating and relevant.

Since you are only beginning your preparation as a teacher, you will not have had much preparation in your chosen field nor in the professional aspects of teaching. Therefore, much of your experience in the schools during this class will be on two varieties: (1) observation and (2) assisting.

It will be necessary for you to observe the school, the students and teachers from the vantage point of one who is becoming a teacher and not as one of the school's students. Your primary purpose will be to identify the goals of school and classroom and then answer the various questions raised in the objectives stated below.

Much of your work will be centered in performing the tasks that will assist the teacher in the on-going program of education. Some of these may be in actual learning situations; however, others may be routine tasks of aiding the teacher do the myriad of jobs that seem to need doing in schools. Whatever you are asked to do, however, no matter how menial it may appear, please do it willingly and enthusiastically. You can profit from every responsibility if you will but view it as an opportunity rather than an assignment.

At this stage of your preparation, the aim is not to have you teach in your special area although you may be provided some such experiences. As you proceed through your preparation in the professional sequence, and in various major or minor areas beyond the present, you are being provided a foundation of direct experience, and it will prepare you for future course work and actual teaching. What is more important, while you are having these experiences on the job, you will be enjoying the contacts in the schools with teachers and students and will be emerging as a more understanding, knowledgeable and professional teacher.