Part 1: Magic

**Student Input**

In the article “Magic” by Carolyn Mamchur, Eileen is a special needs student that came into learning with a great attitude throughout the passage. Even though Eileen is a student with a disability, she managed to maintain a strong mentality and accept her disability. In the passage, Eileen did not tell her others about the pain in her legs at home until the nurse asked. The reason was she was unable to tell her mother was because she wanted to save her mother from further sadness. In addition, Eileen was able to feel comfortable with Carolyn and the people who welcomed her with a welcoming reaction and offered their help whenever she needs it. Eileen came into learning with an open mind that allowed her to model, encourage, expect, and understand much more than Carolyn initially thought.

**Environment**

Carolyn created an environment for Eileen in which her disability was not an obstacle to learning. Carolyn provided tasks to Eileen which made learning more interesting and applicable, rather than simply learning from a book, the passive teaching. Together, they went over “recipes and instructions” to teach Eileen how to read. Instead of learning safety rules written in plain text, Eileen and the Carolyn took the bus or walked to the store to gain real life experience. Life skills were learned in a practical way and it was essential that Eileen was able to participate in activities as normal person. Math was not taught out of a textbook using a pencil and paper. Instead, they sold homemade popcorn balls and handsewn aprons that required Eileen to do the calculations in a hands-on situation. The activities they did together created a meaningful lesson to both Eileen and Carolyn. Carolyn taught Eileen the life skills essential to maturity and functioning outside the walls of the school.

**Outcome**

The outcome of the student in that environment was organic teaching. The student and the teacher built a relationship and learned by connecting and exploring. Learning is a natural process and people can learn a lot through curiosity. Eileen seemed to have a general interest and desire to help others learn. She also had a lot of patience to help others, especially considering her own situation. The relationship that the teacher and Eileen had as well as the environment that they were in, created an opportunity for both of them to grow and learn from each other.

Part 2: Carolyn Mamchur point of view

**Student Learning**

Carolyn came into the learning with high school English teaching experience and the belief that girls should learn some basic skills in grooming, which implies that she made sure her nails were the same color as her lipstick. However, Carolyn was unaware that she had a number of life skills to share with students. Carolyn was able to share her experience with good grooming to the girls and set a great example for them to follow. Carolyn’s teaching style emphasized showing students skills through real life experiences, rather than telling.

**Environment**

Through interaction with Eileen, Carolyn was able to understand her condition and provide support. Carolyn taught Eileen several life skills that brought her out of her comfort zone to become an independent student who soon was able to teach her peers. She was able to support Eileen while developing a sense of understanding through their interactions. She realized that children taught her more about life skills than any textbook could have done. The environment created an opportunity for Carolyn to build a strong relationship with her student based on caring for one another. Most of the learning acquired by Carolyn was through observing Eileen’s model and encouraging herself as well as her peers.

**Outcome**

In that environment, Carolyn became open-minded and recognized that not only can students learn from their teachers, but teachers can learn from their students. Carolyn developed a strong relationship with Eileen that lasted beyond the school year and even after she moved away. By the end of the article, Carolyn stated that Eileen was a gift and an inspiration which means demonstrates her learning from Eileen and the journey they went through together.