Mentoring is one of the greatest opportunities to both gain teaching and communication experience along with helping children in need. The experience of being able to change a child’s life by sharing your insights in both life and school even in the slightest way is priceless.

One of the occasions where I really had an empowering moment as a mentor was in math class with my mentee. He was having a great deal of trouble learning fractions and how to interpret them. I thought to myself of how I was able to understand math and also remembered how being visual with the problems helped me tremendously. With this in mind, I explained to my mentee my old thoughts of fractions and to think of it as pizza. The bottom number is how many slices you are able to have in a whole pizza, and the top is how many slices you were given. It immediately began to sink in as he was extremely happy practicing problems and getting them right. With a little extra homework time and encouragement my mentee passed his math test with flying colors because of some extra time and insight from some one on one help.

It’s amazing to see how much we as college students really know and can teach to children in grades we have already experienced and worked through. I couldn’t begin to describe the feeling my mentee and I had seeing a 100 on his test and the hug and thank you that came after it.