University of Hertfordshire: Suggested school work experience tasks - Primary only

The suggested activities below will support you in beginning to understand the role of a teacher.

☐ Observe a taught lesson. Identify how the teacher supports learning through what they say, do or provide.
☐ Note the variety of strategies used to gain pupils' attention in different environments, for example the hall, playground outdoor learning area.
☐ Talk to a teacher about the principles of Early Reading and the teaching of phonics.
☐ Look at the phonics programme used. Observe a discrete phonics session. Prepare and read a story to a group of pupils. Reflect on your performance. What is the importance of reading aloud to pupils?
☐ Under the guidance of a teacher, support a small group work activity (30 – 40 mins). Give the teacher feedback on each child's progress.
☐ Shadow a teaching assistant, Learning Support Assistant or similar for half a day. Find out about their role in supporting pupils’ learning.

Following your visit/s, reflect on the experience and note key learning points below. Your notes may be helpful when either applying for a teacher training course or preparing for an interview.