Multicultural Profile Assignment

Part I:

There are exactly 20 students in the Kindergarten classroom that I have been observing. Of these, 7 are African-American, 9 are Hispanic, 2 are Asian, and 2 are Caucasian. There are two students in the class that I had difficulties in deciding the ethnicities of; they are two boys, both with Hispanic sounding last names, so I put them in the Hispanic category. There was also an African-American girl that transferred to another school, but I included her so that I would have 20 students to profile. I think it is interesting that the two majority ethnicities in the classroom are about the same in number and the two minority ethnicities are the exact same in number. All of the ethnicities are not equally represented, but I think it is safe to assume that the ethnicities of the surrounding community are correctly represented in this Kindergarten classroom.

Another mode of diversity I noticed was gender. In this classroom, there are 11 boys and 9 girls, so the genders are almost equally represented. I also noticed that there are almost an equal number of students in each level group for math and reading-high level, average level, and
The third way of diversity that I have observed in the classroom has to do with gender but is of the teacher’s doing; she has set up the groups of student desks so that each group has an equal number of girls and boys, with the exception of one table. I think this helps with preventing any kinds of cliques or groups being formed.

Part II:

I didn’t notice any significant ways of my teacher responding to cultural diversity, but rather her addressing each student as a person rather than as a member of an ethnic group as so many people in society do. I noticed that the books that she has in her classroom library and those that she chooses to check out from the library and read to the class have diverse cultures in their characters and settings. On many occasions, I have watched her read *Dora the Explorer* books in which the characters speak some Spanish. When I asked about the holiday celebrations in the classroom, my mentor teacher told me that, in the Social Studies part of the day, they discuss the holidays that different cultures celebrate, around the time that they are celebrated. For example, they compare and contrast the different ways Christmas is celebrated in the winter and they compare the American New Year with the Chinese New Year around the same time, as well. I also noticed that the school celebrates multiculturalism; there is a poster in one of the hallways that poses the question, “Where is Your Family From?” It shows a map that is marked with all of the different locations of students’ families. I think it is great that the school is making an attempt to include everyone in projects like these and make all of the students feel like an important part of the whole student body.