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EDU/SPE 220

Motivation for working with Individuals with Disabilities

 Getting the pleasure and opportunity to work with kids is something everyone should get the chance to experience. Kids are truly brilliant and have so much to learn from their peers and educators. The kids out there though with special needs or specific disabilities that require more help than others due to their condition; are just as important as kids that do well in a general education class. I believe it does take a certain kind of person to become a teacher and work with kids that have disabilities. The joy that it brings to me to see a child succeed and learn something is an incredible feeling to possess. Kids are so funny and so spunky to be around that I feel like it’s a career that I could find loving to go to everyday. I absolutely adore children and watching them grow up and I really want to make sure they take the right paths along the way.

 In high school, I was unsure of what I wanted to do and had no clue what I was good at. One day when I got asked to mentor in a fifth grade resource room, I took the opportunity not realizing what I was going to take from it. For a whole semester I worked with two kids with autism, a child with ADHD, and one with a specific learning disability in reading and math. What I found out is that these kids were actually really excited to learn but they just had trouble obtaining the information in their mind or had to look at the material in a different way. I worked with them in math trying to remember there times table, learning fractions and how to do long division. The teacher and I had rhymes to remember multiples for them and used objects or candy to show fractions. When it came to reading we used the computers a lot to help with their comprehension more. After the story was read to them online, they got to play word games, and take tests on their understanding of the story. After they got done, we then went into small group and took turns reading the story together. They understood the story so much more and began to pick out the plot, setting, and what the different characters brought to the story. They just seem to make such a progress in front of my eyes, and to be apart of that progress made me feel so incredible. This was really what made me start to want to work with kids that had disabilities.

 When I help kids learn something or how to do something, I get that sense of fulfillment and happiness. Giving kids a great education is the one thing that they need and can take with them for rest of their life. I really would love to work with kids with special needs because I am very patient, creative, and I feel like I can find ways to bring out what they are good at and help them achieve their very best. Children are so thoughtful and so excited to come to school and I love seeing them succeed. I’d like to show kids with special needs that they are just as important as others and are able to learn just as much as anyone else. They do have certain obstacles that they will have to power through and I want to be with them every step of the way and show them what they can really do and how to be successful.