

Louise Batten August 2, 2022

RESUME

Prompt: describe an experience working with youth and how it influenced your decision to be a teacher.

I worked in the Olympia schools as a Classified Substitute (paraeducator) for five years. I enjoyed working in a variety of different schools; mostly I wanted to see how I felt about a prospective career in teaching, as I had been interested in a career in teaching earlier in life; and whether I liked being at the schools.

I worked at many different schools, elementary, middle schools and high schools and the different grade levels. I found that I preferred the elementary schools, because this is where so many children don't get the help that they need. By that I don't mean teaching them about sex and politics. I mean helping them and helping families.

Perhaps my interest in developmental psychology and education will help young people i.e. children to learn those subjects that are needed to become a positive influence and a loyal American citizen. and I believe that teaching children is not only relatively easy, but also that it is imperative for children to begin learning at an early age. Without a positive experience during their elementary years in school; learning for them, and later learning will be made much harder.

I was once offered a permanent position as a Teacher's Assistant. I decided that I would rather be the teacher, and learn how to make a curriculum, lesson plans, and begin using educational strategies. This includes special education assessment, and participation in the school and the wider community, as well.

My resume includes a general description of the tasks I performed when I worked for the Public School's Personnel Cooperative. Included in these were conducting a class one day when the teacher was unexpectedly absent. I worked in the front office a few times at one school. Tasking included taking attendance rolls, helping with counseling students who were late or had other problems (attending to them, sitting with them to discuss personal issues, etc.) At another school I worked with students who were given a "time-out"; and I was working in the "homeless classroom", where students might be given a choice of whether to read, play a game, or just relax; before getting to their first class for the day.

Admission Prompts

A. I would like to continue to work within the school setting, and begin learning how to teach, how to organize my own curriculum and make lesson plans that potentially follow an outline for or from the curriculum. I want to further my education, and work within the public schools using basic educational theory such as Montessori and Piaget. I want to learn about progressive educational theory. I would like to plan according to their inherent talents or skill set and experience as well as their interests, and to emphasize basic skills. For example students from diverse backgrounds may often have a personal home dialog; or English as a second language, and there is the need for students with disabilities to be integrated into the general education classroom as much as, and whenever possible.

B. I have always loved learning. This was often the case in schools, but also I enjoyed learning about people in other countries, since my family traveled quite a lot. As a woman, and also my family was well-educated; so my family tree was considered important for financial and

professional success by counselors or school advisors as well as some teachers.

Learning is a process. I believe that we are leaving our children behind with such a strong emphasis on technology and digital learning. Students need to acquire skills for understanding and self-expression, for knowledge and appreciation of History, including American History. We can learn to understand our behaviors and our cultures, shared or diverse, and the importance of personal values over personal preferences.

Elementary education differs in that at this stage of learning, we should sometimes depend on simple instruction and repetition. Learning basic English, grammar, and the spelling and definition of words, including words like virtue, honesty, modesty, and gratitude, for example, words that may be new to them; students can learn through simple instruction, and regular attendance. They may have or be learning good manners, simple or plain spoken Standard English, Children's Literature, and so much more.

C. Our society at present is dominated by technology. When a society is centered on personal and corporate wealth, the benefits of social institutions such as public education seem to disappear from public discourse. Some teachers try to introduce their own personal beliefs (footnote 1.) as a way to help students to learn. But here in the United States we seem to be focused on mass media as the most important form of communication. Our lives are totally dominated by advertising, radical theories and the mass media. This has got to stop. But beneath it all so many have chosen personal and financial success over ethics, traditional values and culture not purveyed to us through television and the computer.. In a way they have given up. And I find the use of the word "unfair" in this question to be inappropriate.

Footnote 1. For example “Critical Race Theory”. These ideas (as well as current events) are getting skewed beyond recognition with great regularity.