

Alexis Payne

The community based organization that I worked at was the Evergreen Children's Center. During the spring I worked about 300 hours at the center. I spent my time working with 1-5 year old children. One of my goals was to get to know the children and interact with their families. I learned a lot about them and how I could support their growth. I was also responsible for making observations and planning activities. Each week I watched the kids and noticed areas where they had improved and areas for growth. I worked with the teacher to plan activities that assisted the kids with certain abilities. Some kids may need extra support with walking or standing. I would decide to do activities like walking with walkers or by holding hands. Another activity was having dance party to encourage physical activity and strengthen those areas. I was also required to interact with lead teachers to follow through with classroom tasks. This involved cleaning, preparing food, or assisting the kids. I gained a lot by working at the childcare center that will support my goal of becoming a teacher.

Another location that I volunteered at was Washington State School for the Blind. While working here I worked with a mentor who taught there. I worked with traditional subjects like Language Arts and Math. I also had the opportunity to assist in a special education class. Throughout the week I helped students in different subject areas. One of the language arts sessions I had to instruct the class on writing a narrative and to keep include important components. I noticed that some kids had a hard time with the organization so I wrote an outline of the plot as well as possible topics. This helped the class and helped me how well they knew the material. I also went around and worked one on one with students to help with questions or to brainstorm ideas. I also had to check in with the teacher to make sure that I did what was

expected of me. Usually, they were in the same class observing me while I worked with the class.

The math class that I helped with was also a woodshop. This was more of a realistic math class where we focused on traditional math along with wood working that required math. One of the things that I did was leading the kids in working out problems and writing them. Sometimes it was hard for everyone to understand which is when we used manipulatives. I tried to use tools that the kids were interested in so that they would be engaged. Some kids liked pizza so I found math counters that made up different pizza fractions. I used these to review addition, subtraction, and fractions. It was helpful and also helped me get to know what the students were interested in. The Language Arts and Math was with Abbie Resor and Steve Lowry I spent about 30 hours at this location in 2018.