

Velez, Lee Anne
MiT Elementary Education
Prompt A

My intentions to teach elementary education have been ignited by the past eleven years as an educational support professional, most currently in kindergarten. I have worked in a special education classroom, more specifically, a highly supported Kindergarten (HSK) classroom, supporting a general education class with two to four identified, high needs students. Those high needs were identified through their early learning years, needing support in areas of cognitive, social, speech and/or behavior. Recent course work that has prepared me to apply and pursue teaching in elementary education are the professional development courses in classroom management, behavior strategies, communication strategies and additional development courses around safety, and universal design for learning. While these development workshops are general, I have been consistent in my efforts to inquire strategies that relate to my current work as well as collaborate with other paraeducators and teachers to enhance my work and utilize it in the classroom right away.

My undergraduate coursework in communication, specifically broadcast journalism has been a foundation for public speaking and participation in school and community events. I have only grown more confident and steadfast while being able to substitute teach in emergency situations at my current school of employment. These experiences have connected important foundational skills in communication with students and families.

My areas of growth for course work are to find current and relevant strategies in a variety of classroom and school settings, alongside reading updated manuals and articles that pertain to procedures and teaching strategies for the varying elementary grade and age levels. I seek more culturally responsive courses and approaches for the K-8 range and aspire to connect the students and families and their roles in the community. My work in district community cafes have sparked those connections and I foresee a more demand for those connections, especially in the community I reside in. Being a part of the Evergreen community is another resource and aspect I look forward to, so these community members witness my participation and can share my passion for bringing them together and tapping into their experiences and talents that can be used for the greater whole.