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Prompt D

My time working with youth began working in childcare as a young teenager. Beginning at neighborhood babysitting, college childcare working, youth coaching, and parenthood. This collective experience has developed my perceptions and attitudes on who, what, why and how children are shaped into citizens of our world. My earliest recognition of influence was as a middle school teenager at our American school's bus stop. Since I grew up as a military child and traveled overseas, I lived in local towns, rather than in military housing, which allowed me to travel to school via the American school bus. I believe the young mother of two was looking for a fellow American to help babysit her two young children and after several conversations with her and her children, she sought me out to babysit. I remember reading and sounding out letters and words with the young boy and as the year went on, reading paper copies of books that rhymed and soon he was reading Dr. Seuss books to me, not from memory, but from sounding out words and remembering that the sight words were connecting words. This development process was intriguing and that laid a good, core memory and layer to my educational interest.

Fast forward to parenthood and as my children grew, made new friends and had new social circles, my sense of fostering youth in their educational endeavors were heightened. Each of my children had different ways of learning both at the social and academic levels and I was interested in the whys and hows. How was I to be a better parent with all different needs? How was I going to help them if I needed help in learning new learning styles and techniques? That led me to volunteering in the schools to learn and talk with teachers on a more frequent basis so I could help them succeed. After numerous volunteer hours, I got a part time position as a preschool paraeducator and as I was able to see these children like they were my own and get academic, social and behavioral results that the teacher couldn't, I knew teaching was in my niche. I've taken that teaching level to coaching and was able to apply strategies to a sports level and continue to use those skills in the classroom(s) I work in.

I believe that children need continuous, consistent support and I hope to be that as a teacher. I know that some children see their teachers more than their parents during the weekdays because parents need to work. But building partnerships are vital and necessary. As "connected" as our world seems with technology, we still lack that part in connecting face to face with our children. I know I can't replace parenthood but children need to know that teachers are there- they're present in their growth as students and humans. Teachers don't get the social recognition and sometimes, financial, but that doesn't adhere to all the heart and passion they have for shaping the children of the world. I hope to become a certified one (teacher) in the near future.