

Katie Wilson
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To whom it may concern,

I am applying for a Primary/Junior teaching position. Through the years I have developed my skills as a teacher; growth mindset, mindfulness, organization, knowledge of procedures, knowledge of curriculum expectations, knowledge of students, care, and devotion to the art of teaching. Through my experience of working with students who have exceptionalities, various ages, and various environments, I have developed my confidence in my teaching abilities, creativity and social skills. My experience working with the elderly has helped develop my patience and respect for my fellow humans. Everyone has something special to offer, and it is my duty as a teacher to cultivate a safe environment in which my students and staff feel comfortable enough to bloom.

Literacy is a tool I intend to use throughout all subjects. As a student who struggled with visualizing concepts, literature always helped cement ideas in my mind. A story allowed me to visualize how the concepts worked together and what they looked like in action. I also believe that all literature can be annotated, analyzed and interwoven into various subjects. For example, reading "The True Story of the Three Little Pigs", by Jon Scieszka in a media literacy unit about advertising. Students can focus on the notion of bias, point of view and validity of news reports. From this lesson one could teach a visual arts lesson on texture (fuzzy). The students could create a fuzzy texture on an outline cutout of a wolf and paint an image of a house, with a background and foreground. In mathematics one could teach the idea of measurement, whereby students would measure the three houses (straw, sticks, brick) and decide which house has the greatest perimeter, or for younger grades, what is the length and width and height of the houses. Students could create an advertisement or a news report for something near and dear to their hearts as a final assessment of learning for the advertising in the media literacy unit.

My Teaching Philosophy:

Teaching to me is not a career... It is a gateway to opportunities. Opportunities to inspire children and guardians that learning can happen anywhere and at any age. All you need is a deep self-love and a desire to learn from mistakes. True knowledge comes from the acceptance of failure, the self-compassion to hug yourself, and the confidence to try again. Opportunities to humble myself, and share my story with children. So that the child at the back of the class will feel heard and seen. So that the child who does not have many friends, will know they are not alone. So the one who has trouble in math, will know they are smart, and just need to approach the problem from a different angle. Opportunities to work with like minded, passionate individuals who have devoted their lives to listening, crafting, reading, analyzing, reflecting, caring, and respecting. Opportunities for growth in myself, as I learn from my students, their guardians, and my colleagues. Learning is never completed, and that is one of my most favourite things in this "curiouser and curiouser" (Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland*, 1865) world. I strive to live by these words everyday; "have courage and be kind" (Cinderella, 2015), not only must you step out of your box, you must be kind for when you do step out, you are likely to fail. The beauty of this is that within every supposed failure, there is a lesson. By allowing my students to see me practicing self-compassion when I have made a mistake, or revealed my human side, I hope they will recognize that we are all human, and it is okay to make a mistake. Instilling the belief you have all the power to stand back up and try again, because a failure is not an ending, it is an opportunity to reflect and try again.

Sincerely,

Katie Wilson