



Efpraxia Makrisis **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

Biography

My very first experience with children was 10 years ago. I volunteered my time at an after school program at "Annunciation Church" twice a week. This program ranged from kindergarten to eighth grades. The main focus was to teach the children the Greek language, culture & history. Since I am fluent in the Greek language this was perfect for me. I volunteered my time in the kindergarten classroom for one year. I really enjoyed spending time with these children. After that I applied for a position. The following school year I began my first job in the kindergarten classroom. Soon after I realized how much I enjoyed working with young children & how much I had to offer. After I graduated high school I went to college & majored in ECE. I graduated from Community College of Philadelphia in 2004 with an Associates degree in ECE and recently finished at West Chester University with a Bachelors degree in Professional Studies with a minor in ECE and Secondary Education. After graduating from Community College I became a co-head teacher in a pre-school classroom at "The Caring Center". I have had the opportunity to work in a great Child Care Center and with many talented teachers that helped me become a better teacher.

Project- "Story Telling through Technology"

I would like my classroom to be introduced to technology in a whole different way than technology was introduced in the past to the children. I would like to see the world through the children's eyes. I want the children to learn how to use a digital camera and print out pictures on their own. The children will learn many skills by using a camera such as eye-hand coordination, strengthening and coordinating fine motor skills as well as concentrating and focusing on an image. "Story telling through technology" will allow the children to share experiences with peers and it will give the children a sense of pride in their work. Each child in the classroom will become a photographer and an author. After exploring their world by taking pictures, the children will create story books using their very own photos to become authors. Story telling in my classroom is very important. I encourage the children in my classroom to work and play cooperatively and challenge them to try new things. "Story telling through technology" is something new to the children in my classroom. This activity will enhance their literacy skills. The preschool years are important to the development of literacy. Along with other literacy activities in my classroom, this activity will serve as a building foundation for kindergarten readiness. This project will be beneficial for all of the children in the classroom.

