



Shawrene Rance **Fort Snelling, Minnesota**

Biography

When I was a little girl, I dreamed of being a teacher. I would line up my dolls (and occasionally my little brother) and pretend to teach them. My dream began to come true after graduating from high school when I entered the early childhood field as a teacher's aide. Later, I became a Lead Teacher in my own classroom. Soon, my director asked me to design and teach the pre-K program with the person who inspired me to enter the early childhood field - my mother, Mary-Jane Weltmer. Together, we created a preparatory curriculum for the children's successful transition into kindergarten, based on interviews with local kindergarten teachers. Utilizing my 13 years of ballet experience, I design, implement, and teach a weekly dance program to the toddler through pre-K children. I direct the center's holiday program where children sing and dance, which after ten years, has grown to involve props and costumes. I completed my A.S. degree in Child Development a year ago. This has given me confidence and new skills as teacher. I hold leadership roles as mentor to new staff and, occasionally, Morning Coordinator. Twenty years ago I embarked on a journey to teach children, turning my little girl dreams into a reality.



Project-"Drama & Story Telling with the Monarch Classroom"

For hundreds of years, stories have been handed down from generation to generation, keeping traditions alive and teaching life lessons. Aesop's Fables and parables in the Bible are two examples of stories that impart wisdom. The children in my classroom love to engage in make believe activities. My proposed project is to facilitate the children's development skills through use of plays, puppets, and props. Children's social/emotional skills are developed when they act out stories such as "The Little Red Hen", and "The Boy Who Cried Wolf". These stories teach about sharing, helping, and telling the truth. The children develop problem-solving and teamwork skills when they work together to perform, write and illustrate stories. Student's cognitive skills are developed through books such as, "Chicka, Chicka, Boom, Boom," and "Caps for Sale." These stories teach the children letter, mathematical, and rhyming concepts. The children's language skills are developed when they create themes and draw pictures to tell their own or class stories. I am excited to see my students grasp cognitive, language, and social/emotional concepts through drama and storytelling in new and exciting ways.