

I believe, as an early childhood educator (ECE), the most effective way children learn is through play. I want the children in my classroom to be able to explore and learn at their own pace and at their own developmental level. I think this is especially important for their development in all areas. I love watching the children guide their own learning and through that, show me what they already know and watch them discover more on their own.

My role as an effective early childhood educator in the classroom is to create the most positive and welcoming environment for the children. I want to make my classroom the place that they can't wait to get to each day. Somewhere that they feel safe and comfortable to be themselves. A place that they don't feel judged and where they will learn from their mistakes and build confidence. It will be a place to learn the skills they need, that will help them through the rest of their lives.

Some of my greatest attributes as an early childhood educator is being able to see the good in everyone, being patient, kind and understanding, and the flexibility to just go with the flow of the day. I think as an ECE, it is very important that we view all the children in our care with the respect and love they all deserve, even the ones who may challenge us. From experience, these are the children who have many hidden talents, abilities, and amazing qualities that we as ECE's are there to help them break through their shells and shine. Being patient, kind and understanding are very important to be able to help all our children with varying abilities show their true selves. Being flexible is also so important, because each day will bring its new challenges and we can never prepare for exactly what will happen that day. An area of growth for me would be to not be overly empathetic. Being too empathetic and letting the situation bother me is one thing I need to work on. I know having empathy is important, but I need to be able to let it go at the end of the day, and not let it interfere with my own personal life.

When my oldest son was in Kindergarten, he had an amazing educational assistant (EA). My son who had some disabilities at the time; his EA was his biggest advocate and his voice when he couldn't speak. I watched her and was so inspired by her dedication and her compassion; I knew I wanted to make the same positive impact on children too. Be a child's voice when they have none; be their advocate and make a difference in their lives. Then having a job within the schools as a parttime school aide solidified my calling. Being around the children and being someone that they could trust and rely on, was one of my biggest goals. I knew once I accomplished that, I could help them in other areas as well.