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My interest in Elementary Education dates back to the years of when I was in grade school, where I loved to go to school and play school when I got home. I was very eager to learn and have fun at school. I was very fortunate and went to a private school for all twelve years of school. I had wonderful teachers who were always willing to help when I needed it. When I entered college, I was not really sure if I wanted to become a teacher or not. I began my college career as a nursing major. I quickly learned that nursing was not the profession for me, and started to follow my dream of elementary education. I took Education 101 (Introduction to Teaching), and that class definitely encouraged me to become a teacher.

When I began my Introduction to Teaching class, I was not really sure of what grade I wanted to teach; although, I knew I wanted to stay within the elementary grades. I have been volunteering in a first grade classroom and absolutely love it. I really enjoy being able to help the students learn something new every day. I also enjoy being a part of their lives. As an elementary teacher, I want to be able to have a special connection with my students and help them succeed in their lives. I feel like I would be a good teacher because I love to help kids learn. I want my students to also have fun while they are learning. I am hoping that I will be able to teach my kids that learning is fun and not just a “job”. A good teacher needs to be knowledgeable, alive, articulate, innovative, patient, committed, and able to find joy in teaching. An effective teacher needs to be knowledgeable and have an understanding of what they are going to be teaching their students. I am a very energetic and patient person. In order to be an effective teacher I feel like these are qualities I need to possess. Being patient is going to be one of the most important qualities I am going to need to keep because being a teacher is very stressful and eventful at times.

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I am going to be a good listener for my students whenever they need someone to talk to, even if it is not school related, I will be there for them. There will come a time that I will have to draw the line between being the teacher and friend though. I feel like I am also innovative because I am always looking for new and exciting ways to teach something to my students at my service learning site. I am a very dedicated to helping my students learn.

I strongly believe in the progressivism philosophy. This world is quickly changing whether we like it or not, and I feel like students need to be prepared for this change. I feel like students need to be put into real life situations in order to learn. I want to structure my learning activities around what is going on in the world. I am going to encourage my students to come up with solutions on their own.

I have always wanted to work in an inner city school with underprivileged students. I feel like I was very fortunate in my education, and I would like to carry that on to help students that are not as privileged as I was. I feel like I have a lot of compassion for children and sometimes that is what they need the most to succeed. Students need someone to encourage them and reward them when they are doing well. There are many students at school 58 that are stuggling and I feel like I help them every time I come in to volunteer. Again, I feel like I am very patient and that is what the inner city schools need. I am hoping that I will have students that are eager to learn, and if they are not eager to learn, I can try and help them understand why learning is important in life.

I look forward to becoming an elementary education teacher. I cannot wait to help students meet their goals. I am hoping that I can make a difference in my student’s lives.

**Erica Johnson**

**Standard #9: REFLECTIVE PRACTICE: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Personal Statement**

**November 2011**

**Education 101 Introduction to Teaching**

**Standard #9: REFLECTIVE PRACTICE: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The teacher is a reflective practitioner who continually evaluates the effects of his/her choices and actions on others (students, parents, and other professionals in the learning community) and who actively seeks out opportunities to grow professionally.

In this assignment I was required to write my personal statement about why I wanted to become a teacher. I have studied different philosophies and qualities of good teachers. This helped me understand how to become a good teacher. To document my understanding of an effective teacher who is a reflective practitioner who continually evaluates his/her choices and actions on other students, parents, and other professionals in the learning community, I have included my personal statement.

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Personal Statement

Erica Johnson

Ivy Tech Community College – Central Indiana