Davis

Mrs. Turner

English IV

24 February 2014

Early Education

Did you know that 16.8% of elementary school teachers are employed every year? (Elementary School) After shadowing I learned that I am still confident in my career choice. Mrs. Comstock, a teacher I had my junior year, used to say, “You want to find a job that you love so much, so it doesn’t feel like work.” I took this quote to heart while I was shadowing, and this is the career path for me. While growing up it has always been a dream to help children in some kind of way. With shadowing I was able to understand the steps I must take, the ups and downs, and how supportive this job would be for me and my future. Learning all of these things and getting to experience what it would be like teaching, I came to the decision that being an early educator is the best career path for me.

When becoming a teacher there are just a few steps you must take. First, you must attend a four year college or university. While attending school, you must aim towards your bachelors degree. One program that some colleges or universities offer is for you to become a student teacher. While being a student teacher, you are completing a teacher education program and you will eventually receive a license to teach in your state. In order to receive a license to teach in your state you must pass the PRAXIS Series Test. This test evaluates your teaching skills and your knowledge in various subjects (Kentucky Teaching). When you become a new teacher it is a qualification for you to enroll in the Kentucky Teacher Internship Program (KTIP). KTIP is designed to help teachers succeed in their first year (Kentucky Teaching).

As an early education educator you are working with children from kindergarten to sixth grade (primary school). Throughout these years you are introducing students to their basic education such as math, language, social studies, and science. You must be able to teach each of these subjects and at times be able to come up with your own lesson plans. Your classes are full of students from the range of 15-30. You spend your weekends planning and grading papers. At times you may find the job stressful, especially always being on your feet, but you will come to learn that it is very rewarding. While you are teaching your students all of these different subjects, the main point is to be preparing them along with their parents for the years to come and the transfer to secondary school, seventh through twelfth grade, so when the time comes everyone will feel confident and comfortable (Ireland's Online).

While I was shadowing, I got to experience what it was like being in an actual classroom. I was able to work with all kinds of different students. I worked with students who has no problems, students who had behavioral problems, students who were autistic, and students who had learning disorders such as ADD and ADHD. While working with these students I was really able to decide if this was something I wanted to do. I was able to work with the children and help them out when they needed me. It was extremely chaotic, but I think that is what drove me to choose the career of early education. There was one student that I got to work with a lot throughout the day; he was autistic and working with him showed me the light at the end of the tunnel. Not everyone is perfect and sometimes children need the extra help. When I was working with him and he got an answer right or understood something, his face just lit up. Every time I would see his face light up it just made me want to become a teacher even more. I love knowing that in some way I am changing a little child’s life and helping them.

 When you decide to become an elementary school there are many traits you must have. You are working with children for eight hours a day. At times this can be frustrating but you must be patient. If you want to become an elementary school teacher, you must enjoy working with children (Career Cruising). You must be a positive, understand person who is good with communication. Working with little children it is very key to communicate with their parents. Their parents aren’t used to their kids being in school so they are trusting you to let them know what is going on in their child’s life.

 After learning all of this and being able to experience what it will be like to become an early educator, I have decided that becoming an elementary school teacher is the career that fits me best. It is something that I will enjoy doing for the rest of my life. I have learned that it will will take a lot more than I thought to become an early educator, but I am willing to do whatever it takes so that I will become an early educator. I have many of the traits you must partake in to become an elementary teacher. I am a very patient person who loves to work with children; I am fun, enthusiastic and most importantly I love when I am working with a child and they understand something and their face just lights up. When it was time for me to start picking out future jobs for myself I always told myself that I want a job where I would help children and change their lives.

Works Cited

"Elementary School Teacher." *Job Overview*. US News, n.d. Web. 11 Dec. 2013.

"Ireland's Online Resource for Parents & Teachers." *Transition from Primary School to*

 *Secondary School*. School Days, n.d. Web. 13 Dec. 2013.

"Kentucky Teaching Certification Overview: Become a Certified Teacher." *How to Earn Your Kentucky Teaching License*. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 Dec. 2013.

“Career Cruising.” *Career Cruising.* ILP, n.d. Web. 22 Nov. 2013