A Hopeful Start

96SS Jessica Yoo (Hye-Jin Yoo)

There are countless teachers in the world. However, are they all the same? The answer is no. This is the reason why I am here. I want to learn and experience more. In my opinion, this is the perfect place. In each classroom, there are students who have worked in different fields or who have experienced various things. So we are not only studying the materials but also learning from each other.

I have always been interested in education. I think it started when I was young. For instance, during my teenage years, I like to help my friends with the course materials especially during the testing period. Also, I am used to help my younger sister with anything that she needs help with such as homework. Not only that, when I was in the University, I took some part-time job in every summer vacation at the English academy in Korea. The experiences that I have gained were incredible. I had so much fun teaching them and also learned many things from them. I think these past events caused influence on me. It gave me the desire to learn about the education and to be an effective teacher.

Currently I am teaching the 6th graders’ English at the elementary school. I always thought of this job and I told myself that one day I would accomplish it. Then it came to me, and I am extremely excited that I got this opportunity. I recall my experiences that I had from the past. In my undergraduate years, I volunteered for a teacher at the Methodist Sunday school. I was helping the little kids to understand the Bible easily. While I was doing the job, I got to be friends with each one of them. The kids came up to me and talked to me about their interests and their feelings. I also had so much fun listening and sharing thoughts. As working at the elementary school, I noticed the same thing. Simply teaching course materials with the old way is not enough to be a good teacher.

I realized that there are different ways of teaching methods. Also, as I was teaching the students I was craving for more effective ways of teaching skills. Therefore, to be a good teacher, I needed to study and experience different skills. I think to study those different skills would help me to guide my teaching techniques to be in a right direction to become a good teacher. So I decided to join the TESOL course to obtain some knowledge and to study various methods.

There is no limit to our desire to learn. So I want to help my students to feel the same way. As we grow older and attend many schools, we get to meet many teachers. However, how many good teachers do you remember? I couldn’t answer it right away. So, I want to remain in students’ minds as a good teacher. To accomplish it, taking the TESOL class could be a hopeful start.