**My Dream as a Teacher of Young English Learners**

**KTC 183 First Essay Seul ki Lee**

Since September 5,2018 I have started attending TESOL for Children certification program class certified by the California State University Long Beach Office of Continuing and Professional Education Times Media. It’s been more than 3 years that I finally got out of my home and to do some social activity, meet new people other than moms and babies (though many of them do have babies). I’m so excited to learn new things and thankful that I haven’t missed the chance of directly using it for my own parenting later on.

What I hope to gain from the class is simple : I want to learn and practice how to teach English effectively to young learners, so that I can start seeking a career in this field afterwards. So the main focus is on Teaching/English/Young learners, and I find it very amusing to get to know each fields. Though I’ve been studying and communicating in English on and off for more than 20 years by now, ‘teaching’ and ‘young learners’ make it very much more challenging and exciting. I double-majored in Chinese and international studies at college and have worked at an airline company in the online marketing department, which means that I haven’t had much of a career in education at all.

A long time ago, I had been told from several other people that I would make a good teacher and it could be my calling. At that time, I denied that this was possible. Because as far as I know, being a teacher meant something more than just having a career to teach something to someone. I didn’t have the faith nor the energy at that time. It seemed extremely difficult to become a good teacher in Korea, and most teachers got criticism and ignorance, or even hostility from students.

Time has passed and I gave a birth to my child. Going through motherhood brought me to a whole new world of affection, caring and endurance. I didn’t know that I would love my boy so much, and from the moment I started loving my child, all other children also became each special and lovely to me. And as I became a daily life teacher for my son as a parent, I became more conscious of how education in the young age is important. I wanted to learn basic teaching skills and become professional myself for the good of my child and the children around us. That’s how I started considering my path as a teacher of young learners.

Why English education? Because I find language, especially English to be an essential tool for the children to see and experience the broader world. One of my favorite Disney song is “A Whole New World”, that Aladdin sings ‘I can show you the world. Shining, shimmering, splendid’ and that’s what happens when you learn English. Learning a new language means grasping a new culture with a new lens.

I have lived in Japan for 3 years when I was in elementary school. I went to a Japanese school (which was very much similar to Korean schools but still better in education quality) for 2 years and in the International school for one year. Of course I struggled a lot to learn Japanese/English from scratch, but still the one year I’ve spent at international school had truly a big impact on my experience of living abroad.

During that time at school, I had written a mystery novel and an autobiography of myself, and had conducted a social research and written a paper, played violin and participated in a musical. All these activities I enjoyed very much in every aspect, but which I almost haven’t experienced at all back in Korea. After coming back to Korea and proceeding to middle school, I had to adapt myself one more time to totally behaviorist education system. It is just left in my memory that I felt cultural shock and vivid aliveness at different school systems.

Not every child has a chance of studying abroad and to go to an international school. I was a lucky girl in a sense. Experiencing both education system, I know what I would like to pursue in my own English class: I want my students to experience learning English in humanistic and constructivist atmosphere, with all different activities and having a lot of fun. I want to show my students that learning English is not just memorizing vocabulary or grammar, but to enjoy communicating with others with different ideas and even different backgrounds.

Ten years later in my future, I wish I would have set up my own institution of teaching foreign language for young learners, mainly English but Japanese and Chinese too, if I have a chance.

I want to find people who share the same education values to work with me, because teaching three languages all by myself would be a difficult goal to achieve for the professionalism issue. My big picture is to set up a foreign language picture book library in the institution, so that students can freely get good language sources and teachers can use it in their class.

I would truly wish to understand each of my students and I am willing to give of myself openly without reservations to my students, and in that way me as a teacher would grow up with my students mentally. I should admit that I have made many mistakes to my child not because I didn’t love him, but because I was ignorant of what children are like at different ages. I want to keep learning, thinking, and practicing what works best for young learners and gain insights from them. That would make me a better teacher and possibly also a better parent too.

Taking this TESOL for Children class is the first milestone in the long journey I’m planning on. It’s also a great pleasure to have met such a wonderful teacher and passionate colleagues, I haven’t expected at all. I feel that we will have a lot of fun and share happy memories during the course. I love you all!