

Nicole Bechen—AmeriCorps Fall 2002

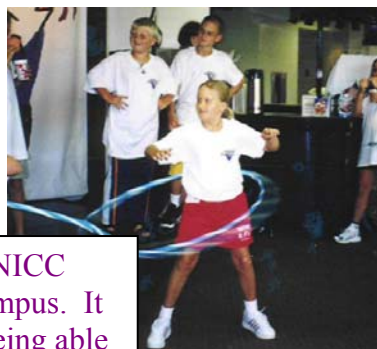
Parents As Teachers

My placement site was at Parents As Teachers as a part-time 450 hours position. During this time I have had the privilege of working with some wonderful and inspirational people. I have met some incredible families and gained knowledge about myself. Not only have I learned about myself as a person, and what I am capable of accomplishing, I have learned so much about my community. In all, what I have gained in that short amount of time has both impressed and amazed me.

My first assignment was to create a Lending Library for the program. I was not sure that I was capable of completing such a task. Never had I put together something so important for someone else. I really put a lot of heart into this project and while it was rewarding when it was completed, there were many struggles along the way.



My second large assignment was to start play groups with families from birth to five years of age. This was more challenging than I had ever imagined. I spent many hours organizing and preparing for these play groups, only to have 2 or 3 families attend. I also discovered I was not as comfortable leading these groups as I originally thought I would be. The families that did attend were not necessarily interested in the activities I prepared. In the end I felt that I was over prepared and needed to just relax and take my cues from the group and not my itinerary. I learned a good life lesson.



I helped at NICC Kids on Campus. It was great being able to work with older kids also.

In the end, I am really proud of my accomplishments. I enjoyed my time with AmeriCorps and feel that my term was a success. At times it was difficult to balance AmeriCorps, school, family and a full time job. Yet pushing myself, not only to balance these things, but to do them well, has shown me again my potential. This is a great program with great people and serves a wonderful purpose.