

## Rachel Wagner - AmeriCorps Summer 2003-2004

### Camps and Audubon Playground

My second term of summer AmeriCorps has been a challenging and fun experience. I have made numerous friends with other AmeriCorps members that I worked with and I have learned a great deal that will help me in my future as a teacher. Throughout the summer I did various activities including teaching babysitting, Fizz, Bubble, Goo camp, Thursday Library Program, and supervising the playground. I know a great deal more now about how to manage behavior problems, and I helped children learn problem solving skills. I feel I have truly made a positive influence in the lives of the kids I worked with.

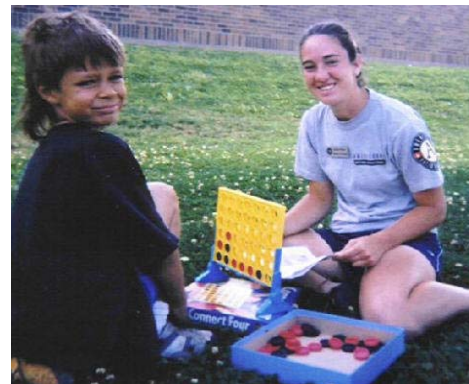
I was very excited to be Elmo during the Children's Spring Party at the Dubuque Arboretum. I loved Elmo as a kid and it was wonderful making the children's day by just being there.



Audubon playground gave me many opportunities to learn and grow in how I deal with children on an everyday basis. Many of the children came from difficult backgrounds and strongly needed a positive influence in their lives. Although it took a great deal of patience, it made me stronger and helped me to realize the troubles they face everyday. I hope that having the AmeriCorps on the playground was a positive experience for them, and that they not only had fun, but learned more about themselves and how to be better people.



Prescott JumpStart Kindergarten showed me how scared kids can be when they first start school. It was wonderful to help them foster a love for learning and school.



Some quiet activities to balance a day filled with races, tag and capture the flag!

*AmeriCorps has allowed me to see kids that have extremely diverse backgrounds and the effect that can have on their readiness to learn.*