

Sheri Leytem - AmeriCorps Fall 2003-2004

St. Joseph the Worker School

My placement was in the kindergarten class at St. Joseph the Worker School. My duties were to work with about two to three students from each class that really needed extra help with identifying their lower case letters and numbers. We played several different games that made it fun for them to learn. In the end they became very quick with identifying their numbers from one to twenty. This was a great achievement, and the results were awesome. After working with kindergarteners, I realized how much is expected of the students before they enter the first grade. It was an overwhelming experience working with them, and on the last day of school the kindergarten class took part of an adorable graduation.

I can't say enough about the experience and how much it has changed me as a person. I learned so much about what is expect of students and how different each and every one of them are.

I also worked one on one with a third grade student. This came to be the best experience of the year. We worked on reading classroom stories, completing language worksheets, and math assignments. The student struggled in reading, but really did well in math. I hope the student gained half as much out the experience as I did.

I truly am grateful to AmeriCorps and my placement for these past two years. It was a wonderful experience and very rewarding.

Throughout the year I also helped out with a fourth grade classroom. I worked with the same four students all year. We mostly worked on reading, language, and spelling. The students were a challenging group to work with and there were a lot of days that I became frustrated. However, I tried my hardest. I think that all teachers should have an AmeriCorps member in their classroom. If I were a teacher, I know that I would appreciate it!