

Ashley Bedford- AmeriCorps Summer 2003 Dubuque Community Y

I was placed at the Dubuque Community Y for 300 hours during the summer. Volunteering with AmeriCorps over the summer was an amazing experience for me. It gave me the chance to work with children again. I lucked out when I was placed at the Y because the age group I worked with was a lot of fun. I was placed with the three to five year old group. We did some really neat activities both inside and outside of the classroom. We also were able to go on a lot of great field trips. We were able to take the kids to the IMAX theatre in Cedar Rapids and it was a wonderful experience.



The kids really had a great time at the Putnam Museum.

Working with the kids during art and circle time was a lot of fun. I think both the kids and I learned a lot from these times together. We had themes in the preschool room every week ranging from farm week to circus week to manners week. During manners week we really stressed the importance of manners and taught the kids proper social skills. The kids were praised for good behavior, nice manners, and sharing. Because of this, I saw a lot of improvement over the summer.

I joined AmeriCorps so that I could help out in my community. I wanted to meet new people and experience new things. After completing my 300 hours, I feel like I have done just that.

