

Jerri Thompson, M.Ed. ECE
P.O Box 40821
Austin, Tx. 78704
713-305-1799
jerriannthompson@gmail.com

12/30/2013

Carolyn Moreau
Chair – St. George’s Episcopal School Search Committee
4301 North IH-35
Austin, Texas 78722

Dear Carolyn Moreau,

I am excited about an opportunity to interview with St. George’s Episcopal School. I hold a Master in Education, specializing in Early Childhood Education. I have over 15 years of teaching experience in early childhood programs and over 12 years experience in administration of early childhood programs.

Since my time in college, my experiences have allowed me to work in San Antonio, Houston, and now, Austin. My time spent in Houston advanced me in the field of Early Childhood Education, giving me the opportunity to establish myself as a leader in the field, overseeing one of the largest private National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accredited preschool's in the city. As my curriculum vitae will point out, I am very experienced at managing, leading, and mentoring staff, families, and children.

During my at least 12 years of administration, I have focused on developing programs that ensured family involvement, the latest in child development education, and a school culture emphasizing ethics, team work, and a desire to learn. Along with these standards, I also understand the importance of laying a foundation for a school using policies, procedures, and evaluation tools relevant to families, staff, and children, organizational systems for management, and continued teacher training.

But perhaps my passion for teaching makes me a candidate worthy of even more serious consideration for the position. After 30 years in the field, I know first-hand the value a Director brings to a program when he or she has practical experience enhanced by theoretical knowledge. My understanding of children, developmentally appropriate practice, and curriculum and instruction gives me the insight to mentor and coach teachers to grow in their profession. Teaching in the Houston Community College Child Development Department also helped me develop my own skills as an instructor, trainer, and mentor.

A “Scope and Sequence” I created for infants through kindergarten, along with assessment tools, also provide valuable help to teachers and parents, as they navigate

through the early years of childhood development. My Scope and Sequence has helped many teachers with intentionality and a broader understanding of how to facilitate each child's learning, as well as evaluates their progress.

Through the acceptance of the Texas Healthy Child – Child Health Care Consultants training program, I have obtained a Health Care Consultants Certification which will only increase my knowledge of health and safety for early childhood programs.

My certification as a Master Registered Trainer through the Texas Early Childhood Development System is another valuable asset, ensuring high quality training for staff and the community at large.

My strong belief that enrolling children into a school program involves not only filling out paperwork regarding the child, but also establishing a relationship with the parents, enables me to advocate that teachers build strong bonds with parents in order to best meet each child's individual needs. I always say that "in order to reach the child, you must first go through the parents."

My experience managing a 1.8 million dollar budget taught me to build the line items necessary to establish a high quality program with low teacher child ratios, low group size, and high teacher education qualification. Among those priorities, I focused heavily on earmarking money to support teachers in their pursuit of higher education. By giving them the time and money to continue their education while maintaining a full time job, I significantly reduced teacher turnover and increased the quality of their performance.

Ongoing goals for a school seeking excellence are as follows:

- Presentation of curriculum through developmentally appropriate practice
- Tailoring curriculum to meet children's individual needs and learning styles
- Providing a welcoming atmosphere for families
- Teaching that reflects the most current thought in early childhood
- Providing teachers who reflect Christian principals of loving God and loving neighbor
- Ongoing parent education for the families served by this program
- Ongoing teacher education for the staff
- Serving the community at large with a safe, loving, nurturing environment for children to thrive
- Staying aware of church and community needs at all times

Thank you for your time and consideration for the position of St. George's Head of School.

Sincerely,

Jerri Thompson, M.Ed.

www.ecetoday.com

Jerri Thompson, M.Ed. ECE
P.O Box 40821
Austin, Tx. 78704
713-305-1799
jerriannthompson@gmail.com

Dear Carolyn Moreau,

My statement of educational philosophy is three fold.

As a teacher:

My approach to teaching young children is rooted in Developmentally Appropriate Practice. When we understand a child's developmental milestones, we can tailor our curriculum to meet their individual needs. I believe children learn through meaningful hands-on experiences. So fostering a child's social and emotional development is at the core of everything I promote in my classroom. It is my view that providing a nurturing, positive, and comfortable environment is the key to building a child's trust and connection with the teacher and the school, thereby promoting his or her social and emotional development, so language, cognitive, and physical development can follow through positive experiences.

As a school administrator:

I begin with the assumption that every employee who works in a school already has the desire to have a positive influence on children's lives. Given that assumption, then, I approach school administration by trying to help each employee give their best. My goal is to improve the employees' work performance by leading through example. As a manager, therefore, I seek to interact with all of my school's positions on a regular basis so that I have a clear grasp of the demands of each position. Ultimately, the core principles of respect, fairness, and ethics drive all of my management decisions. Those decisions, after all, centrally determine whether the needs of each child are going to be met.

As a trainer:

When working with a group of educators, I always want to be sensitive to the various levels of learning: auditory, visual, and kinesthetic. So not only will I take into account the best way to teach using each style of learning, but also the importance of learning to apply in actual practice the principles I am teaching. That's why in addition to transmitting the relevant information, I seek to delineate clear objectives for the workshop and then allow adequate time to practice what is being taught. This brings each training full circle. My job as a trainer, then, is both to perfect the skills you already possess as well as open your mind to new ideas.