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June Nelson Memorial Scholarship

“Tell a Story” Essay

Small Things Matter Too

There are some experiences that happen in a person’s life that seem insignificant to others, but life changing to the person who is experiencing it. My revelation is simple, yet extremely important to me, and it actually all started with a story of its own.

When I was about thirteen years old, my mom, who is currently a Kindergarten teacher, came home with a story to tell me. I remember she was near tears, and I sat down waiting to listen to whatever struggle she had experienced. She told me that one of her students had come in crying. She had taken him aside and let him cry on her shoulder for a little bit. When he calmed down a bit, she asked what was wrong. The student then shyly told my mom that he had had a rough time at home. My mom asked the student to look her in the eyes. Once she held his gaze, she told him in a calm voice that she was sorry that he had such a rough time, but right now it was his job to leave those tears at the door, and focus on learning. She asked him if he could be strong for her, and he nodded his little head yes. As he walked into the classroom to join his classmates, he was a perfect picture of the special strength that only a child possesses.

As my mom told me this story something inside of myself, that can only be described as a passion that would then turn into a calling, began to reveal itself to me. I realized that even though being a teacher has many obstacles, that many people are not even aware of, the rewards far outweigh the bad. As a teacher in Early Childhood Education, you are given the unique opportunity to be one of the first teachers in a child’s life. I immediately fell in love with

the idea that as an Early Childhood teacher I would be given the privilege to plant within a young mind the desire to learn.

From that point on I aspired to make sure my dream became a reality. Everything that I did was geared towards achieving my goal. I worked hard to make sure that I challenged myself to succeed in everything activity I did. I started taking Introduction to Education classes, and I starting interning in a Kindergarten classroom. I got involved in Future Educators of Alaska, and the colleges I became interested in all had Early Childhood Education as one of their majors. I am now enrolled in a nice college with my major being my first priority. I have many teaching methods already stored in my head, and I cannot wait to start my journey as teacher. When looking back it really is amazing that all this motivation came from a simple sharing of a story, but sometimes it is the small things that have the biggest impact.