**COLLEEN GLEASON, Ed. M.**

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**(434) 414-8302**

**EDUCATION**

***Master's in Early Childhood Special Education (Birth to Three)***

***University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign***

2010 College of Education Outstanding Graduate Award

4.0 GPA; Bansau Scholarship 2009-2010- Competitive graduate student award

***Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary and Visual Special Education, May 1993***

***Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan***

 Four Year Merit Scholar

**EXPERIENCE IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP ROLES**

***Director, Gleason Developmental Services***

***August, 2016-present***

* Coaching caregivers and teachers working with children, young adults, and adults with developmental delays and behavior challenges.
* Supporting learners' ability to relate, communicate and think as a Play Project, using a biopsychosocial, video coaching method

***Lead Teacher, Full Circle School, Developmental Preschool, Kindergarten and 1st grade***

***January 2019-present***

* Launched this developmental, inclusive and multi-level classroom at Full Circle School, a private school in Rice, Virginia.
* Full Circle School serves children and teens from PreK to high school in a person-centered, relationship-based environment

***Director, Base Camp Corazón- A Nature-Based Preschool for Children of All Abilities Farmville, VA***

***August, 2016- January 2019***

* Created and directed this developmental, nature-based preschool
* Provided a tailored environment for children with and without autism, with the goals of relating, communicating, and creative thinking

***Early Childhood Special Educator, Prince Edward County Elementary School, Farmville, VA***

 ***August 2014- 2016***

* Planned and implemented pre-academic and academically differentiated

curriculum for diverse learners with developmental challenges ages 2-5

* Worked closely with parents of children with multiple risk factors
* Embedded earth-centered teaching in core curriculum through experiences in planting and maintaining gardens

***Developmental Educator, Infant and Toddler Connection of the Heartland,***

***Longwood University, Farmville, Virginia***

***January 2011-August 2013***

* Provided developmental assessment and educational services in natural settings to infants and toddlers with developmental delays, using family-centered principles such as caregiver coaching
* Co-wrote "Smart Beginnings" School Readiness Grant, helping implement Virginia's

 "Star Quality Initiative" in ten child care centers in Central Virginia

* Began "Stay and Play" parent-child multidisciplinary playgroups, supporting parents of children with developmental delays in group play with typically developing peers
* Presented classroom findings, “Crossing the Mental Health Divide: The Early Educator as Emotional Guide” at Virginia's Early Intervention Birth to Five Conference, "Creating Connections to Shining Stars" Virginia Beach, VA.

***Early Interventionist, Consultant, Guest Lecturer, Co. Cork, Ireland***

 ***2000-2010***

* Collaborated with and trained parents, professionals and paraprofessionals in comprehensive, relationship-based programs for children and adults with developmental delays including ASD
* Taught workshops and classes to parents and professionals, focusing on relationship-based, sensory integrative approaches to autism intervention
* Guest lectureship on early intervention for children with autism at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, and University College Cork, Cork City

***Creator and Head Teacher of Ann Margaret House, Hall School Wimbledon, London,***

 ***1998-2000***

* Designed, outfitted and taught at this school for five children (ages 4-6) with Autism Spectrum Disorder
* Wrote and implemented protocols for intervention, set goals in line with the British National Curriculum, trained staff, and taught students
* Created "reverse mainstreaming" and inclusion opportunities for all students

**REFERENCES**

Angela Whittaker, Ed. M., Director, Full Circle School, Rice, Virginia

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Dr. Mary-alayne Hughes, Professor, Advisor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

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