



STEPPING STONE

Center For Excellence In Special Education

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MESSAGE BOARD



Atty. Louie Aseoche
Adviser

Stepping Stone is not just a teaching school for children and adults with special needs.

We are also a learning school for therapy interns and SpEd students who rotate at the Center.

Stepping Stone molds not only the minds and behavior of our students but also inculcates discipline, hard work, compassion and real love for our **therapists, teachers** and **on-the-job SpEd trainees**.

While not everyone walks away happy, we are always glad to hear from those that cross our path.

May your journey with **Stepping Stone** be a life long experience.

Atty. Louie Aseoche
Founding Partner
Chavez, Miranda & Aseoche Law
Office



This the season to be jolly!

It was December and I was placed in my last pediatric rotation for 2 months at **Stepping Stone**.

Before the rotation, I looked forward to 3 things:

1. Co interns- new set of classmates to be with,
2. Christmas break
3. Calligraphy of M' Dom.

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At the same time, I was scared since what I had heard about these rotations did not equate to fun. Fortunately my **Stepping Stone** experience exceeded expectations.

The school is a far but then we had an easy ride that did not exceed 1 ½ hours. Second, the Occupational Therapy room is not the typical treatment room a clinician would prefer and although we lacked some toys to give a variety of activities to the dear kids, these hurdles brought out the best in me, and others.

As an **Occupational Therapist**, our skills in improvising and adapting were enhanced as we aim to still give the best to our patients despite challenges. The kids were also a handful of lessons, and I noticed how my co-interns really tried to understand our kids using different techniques on how to approach them.

At the start of the rotation, I honestly did not like it here because aside from the decking, we had many other requirements. But then it was only in this rotation that I had many self-learnings that I embraced.

We had great clinical supervisor. I was surrounded by wonderful co-interns. I met many amazing

Stepping Stone became my home for 2 months. At first, I was adjusting with the demands of the center, establishing rapport with the children and with the parents as well. I practiced with the kids for their Christmas party presentation and it brought me back to my childhood wherein I also participated in Christmas party programs. I enjoyed dancing and teaching the students to dance because I could see that most of them really like dancing.

On my second month here, I felt closer with the kids. I get a chance to talk with the parents or caregivers while waiting for my kids to come. Even though my schedule was full, I endured it and enjoyed every bit of it.

It might be challenging but at the end of the day what's important is that I helped my kids get closer to his or her goal. From scratches, grabbed hair, grabbed shirts to endless hugs from the children and thank yous from their caregivers and parents, I really felt that **Stepping Stone** became my home.



people (Stepping Stone staff), but then there was much more than just them.

I learned how to adjust and adapt to my kids. I wanted to give good feedback to the parents. I made sure I also collaborated with the **SpEd teachers**. I was more than willing to help a co-intern out. I was challenged to manage my time well (in the school and at home), and I learned how to find positivity in the days I thought I would dread.

The **Stepping Stone** experience was the outcome of good environment, abundant lessons and life long memories.

-Maria Daniella F. Custodio (T. Dang)



I would definitely miss the children in **Stepping Stone**. I am going to miss singing and dancing with them during the circle time. Most of all, I am going to miss providing services to the kids and seeing them grow and improve.

I have learned a lot in this rotation and I know that my experiences here would come in handy when the time comes. This is definitely one of the rotations that I would never forget.

- Alyssa Coleen Marie C. Salayo (T. Aly)

Our 2 months of clinical experience occurred during the months of December 2017 to January 2018. It was a great way to end the year and start another year filled with memories that I will treasure and look back someday.

It was one of the best rotations I ever had because of many overlapping factors. First, the amount of patient load strengthened us not just in terms of skills but also in other aspects, physically and mentally. The treatment sessions made us think outside the box, step out in our comfort zones and put our best foot forward all for the benefit of the patient and his/her family.

Second, our clinical supervisors were always there for us to guide us in the right direction in terms of improving our clinical reasoning, therapeutic use of self and providing applicable behavioral management techniques. We would always look up to them and consider them as “**#Goals**”. Lastly, I realized that the secret of eliminating stress in the workplace is loving what you do at work, and loving your workmates as well.

A quote from **Hellen Keller** says, “**Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much**”. In this rotation, we



were able to help our co-interns whenever one needs assistance with anything, whether it’s patient management, preparation of materials, or sharing of materials/space.

Those are the little things that created our bond which later, turned into teamwork, collaboration, and most importantly, friendship.

- **Anne Kiarra G. Remo (T. Kia)**

Stepping Stone was my last pediatric rotation during this internship and I guess it was the most challenging yet unlike my first two rotations patient load wise and papers wise.

Stepping Stone was overwhelming at first based from feedbacks from previous interns and observations from my friends who got to rotate at Stepping Stone.

Although it may seem to be overwhelming at first, by the end of my last day at Stepping Stone I realized that I have learned to love Stepping Stone bigtime.

I really miss having circle time in the morning with the **Functional Academics (FA)** and **Early Intervention (EI)** class and sometimes with the **Teen Adult (TA) class** and learn different songs for kids and even dance moves from some of them.

I also love to treat each of my patients although they have variety of needs and concerns and somehow we got to meet in the middle and maximize the 1 and a half months of treatment sessions with them.



To the teachers and clinical supervisors who were welcoming and hospitable to us interns and who guided us throughout the whole stay at Stepping Stone we are eternally grateful.

To the whole Stepping Stone administration we were honored and grateful for the opportunity to be a part of Stepping Stone and be able to experience Stepping Stone as it is and be better **Occupational Therapists** and persons in the future.

- **Lance A. Dayrit (T. Lance)**

My first day at **Stepping Stone** could be comparable to a bomb. Something that literally exploded which caused me deep permanent impacts.

Scars that I would love to remember and cherish throughout life from its 'what' to 'how' and the rest of its story. Stepping Stone provided me a complete package of learning and experience. From the *admin staff, teachers, parents, students, supervisors, morning routine, Zumba activity, cooking and selling activities*, and all that it offers, makes it a completely different story and a fun learning experience.

The respect and kind-heartedness of all the people that builds it, makes a collaboration possible to produce optimal outcomes that students benefit from.

Having been a part of this institution helped me to build a stronger foundation for a future *Occupational Therapist*. From clinical supervisors' different ways of supervision, heavy load composed of paper works, restless hands due to a lot of time allotted for writing, challenges in creativity, planning and organizing, it was really worth it.

Long travel time does not decrease the worth, fun and knowledge it can offer. I would not mind travelling that long distance over and over again just to complete a day with Stepping Stone, their staff, teachers and

Remarkable. There's not much I can say about **Stepping Stone** since one must really experience it to love it. I have grown to love the job, the environment, the lessons, and most especially the children and the difference we make in their lives.

Throughout my 2 months stay in Stepping Stone, I have learned to love my kids unconditionally; to make the most out of their abilities; and to help them grow to be dignified, independent individuals.

In here, every little improvement in the child made my day. Whether it was a few seconds of eye contact, compliance, or functional behaviors, every detail was so important to me. I wanted them to gain more and do more because they can!

Each child is special in his or her own way and I'm glad to have been part of their lives even just for a brief 2 months. **THANK YOU STEPPING STONE!!!**

- Pilar Yuzon Balboa (T. Pilar)



students.

Leaving Stepping Stone as my 2-month rotation here ended gave me happy and heavy feelings inside my heart. Happy for I was to leave without even a single time wasted but with improved skills, abilities and knowledge in treating pediatric cases, and heavy feelings for I would love to spend more time in Stepping Stone knowing that it would make my stay worthwhile.

May a lot of interns like me, have the chance of experiencing what Stepping Stone has to offer which I can confidently say to be one of the best and would definitely continue to be one.

- Suillan Deen Suillan (T. Deen)





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