



STEPPING STONE

Center For Excellence In Special Education

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SY 2017-2018

Issue No.

38

March 13, 2018

University of Makati SPED Teachers Interns

MESSAGE BOARD



Richard Santiago
Adviser

Stepping Stone is not just a Learning Center for Special Needs Children and Adults.

We are also a Teaching Institution, molding young minds from different Universities from Special Education Interns to Therapy Interns at the school.

Their direct exposure to students with different abilities and needs make us a one of a kind Special Education School.

More often than not, these interns learn much more through hands-on experiences they get by spending a few months with our school.

Some things cannot be taught in school. While the fundamentals of Special Education are necessary, there is no alternative to actual exposure to real life situations.

Richard Santiago
CEO
Ineng's Special BBQ Foods, Inc.



An Immesurable Experience

Irish M. Gratela (SPED Major Intern)

For my 300 hours of practice teaching at **Stepping Stone**, I can say that everyone there helped me to be a better teacher. They made me experience everything, and helped me to mold my character as a teacher. I learned a lot from the Teachers and the Occupational Therapists. Together, we exchanged ideas on how to help the child learn and stop the unwanted behaviors. The students are also adorable although challenging. They are unique and they have their special way of putting a mark on everyone they meet.

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The Teachers are very friendly and would really help you do your job. They share their experiences, allowed me the experience of handling each child and taught me what are the proper approach for each student. They explained everything I needed to learn, giving me feedback to improve my work.

Despite their position, they are willing to listen to my opinions and ideas. They also let me find my own unique way of handling and teaching the students, supported me during my demo for which I am very thankful. I really felt that I am one of them. Teachers also encouraged me to pursue a higher standard and gave me words of encouragement. The administration is also very accommodating and friendly too.

I won't forget my students, how they behave, their cutest side, how happy they are to receive happy face picture and how they greet me every morning and much more. The children are all different but I can describe them in one word, they are amazing! Why? ,because they taught me things not written on my Special Education books, even on the things that my Professors used as an example.





“Thank You for Molding Me to be Better”

By: *Maria Rosalia B. Apostol (SPED- Intern)*

It was a journey from the start to the end. Going through a three months on-the-job training at **Stepping Stone** definitely molded me to be a better special education teacher.

Meeting new people is always a big challenge but this hardship fades as time goes by. At **Stepping Stone** you feel and become as of the teachers’ younger siblings.

There were a lot of unexpected moments through this journey, like meeting international interns and lot of occupational and speech therapy interns from *University of Santo Tomas*. There were even some psychology students to observe the class.

Being with my students was filled with fun, yet very meaningful. I learned something new every day. I must say going through this journey has opened my eyes to new learnings and experiences that can only come when interacting with students.

All the fun activities left me amazed and contributed memories to be cherished. These experiences have built my stepping stone to reach my dreams, and I am actually looking forward to be one of the teachers of **Stepping Stone** in the near future. I don’t know why but I actually just feel this through me.

All the cooperating teachers might have big differences among each another but these differences mold us interns to be more capable in handling things. They might be strict but we know that it is just the right thing to do and for us to learn to be ready for the future.

Now that it is time for us to leave I feel so sad because I will miss all the fun stuff I have experienced here at this school; the students who greet me good morning, the students who make me sweat and the students who touch my heart and make me more inspired and motivated to pursue my teaching passion, the cooperating teachers who never fail to give advices and guidance and the co-interns that collaborate with my ideas.



There is a lot of things to be said but I know I can’t write everything although all these experiences will always remain with me. Although this must be the end of my journey as an intern, it just the start of a new chapter of my life as a special education teacher.

No tears but just smiles as it not goodbye, just till we see you next time we meet dear students and teachers. I will not forget this three consecutive months with you. I must say I am better than ever and for that I thank you so much. Words might not be enough to express how grateful am I but again I am truly blessed to be part of this family.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be part of this not so ordinary school and thank you

My Journey in Teaching

By: *Nelia Lyn A. Tuazon- SPED Intern*

There is an eagerness within me that wants me to be a teacher because I want the kids to learn how to read, write, count and do the basic learning. I know that they have potentials to show off. I know in my heart that “they have the ability to be the best that they can be”. It is a part of my upbringing to be fulfilled whenever my student learns even simple things. Given the opportunity to reflect on my teaching experiences has given me great pleasure and has been very fulfilling.

It has been several months of having my practice teaching at **Stepping Stone**. Truly, when you have this passion in teaching you never give up. I am thankful to have supportive cooperating teachers. They shared lots of ideas and opinions on how to address the behavior of the students. They taught me how to deal with difficulties and even trained me to do an impromptu teaching.

They shared their experience and even their personal life stories. Also, my students have given me a true reason to pursue and love this teaching career. They are compliant to me whenever I teach a topic and luckily, on the day of my demo, they all cooperated. My creativity, patience and teaching style was boosted.

At **Stepping Stone** teachers practice what is called as “*circle time*” which is incomparable to any classes that I have ever handled. Here, it is a must to be lively and energetic as well. There is daily dancing and singing and although honestly, I don’t have these talents, I do try. With daily practice my body and voice seems to be well coordinated now.

Kidding aside, I will never forget the moments with them. Those moments that I need to act firm while deep inside I need to hold my smile thru varied enjoyable scenarios. I learned to redirect their behavior by putting an “x” mark and happy or sad face. I give praise sometimes to students in an exaggerated way just to emphasize that they did their best. There is a saying that “if you can’t beat them, join them”, which I personally apply instead of losing patience. I appreciate my students as well for saying my name and greeting me every day.

I am now on a journey towards my own classroom set up. This will be all possible because I have



had the opportunity to meet those *M.A teachers* from the *University of Makati, Occupational Therapy Interns* from the *University of Santo Tomas, Psychology Interns* from *St. Paul, AIESEC Interns* from countries like *Mongolia* and *Indonesia* and most of all, **Stepping Stone's** teachers.

Although, we have different fields of specialization, the one thing that is common to us is our goal for each student to become responsible and independent enough. We address each other as “*teacher*” which is a good learning approach. I have learned many different techniques from them.

I have also enjoyed so much being with them as well of their approachable attitude. The teachers act in a professional way when the class starts but at the end of the day we keep on sharing stories that everyone can relate to, crack jokes and follow ridiculous latest trends. All the activities that we did reminded me of my childhood days. From that, I gained not just learning but also so memories to remember.

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