

Reflections on Internship at P.S.99 – The Before

After all the trips and the phone calls, I could finally release a sigh of relief because I have received an internship at P.S. 99, my very own elementary school. Not too long ago, I was discouraged because time and time again I was rejected, primarily because I was only a sophomore, an undergraduate. Nevertheless, my emotions at the onset are nothing less than ecstatic. I am ready to explore my profession at greater lengths beyond my college classroom and prove that age is nothing but a number. My stomach is in knots, my heart's racing and my mind can't help but to think of all the ways that I can contribute to lives of children. Now, I am a butterfly in a cocoon and I have yet to unleash my abilities to the world. This internship will surely make me grow. Whether the internship turns out to be a pleasing experience or not, it is always a learning experience. However, I am optimistic because with a strong, motivated mentality, nothing, well almost nothing, can dishearten me. The reasoning behind my madness is that I want to become more than just any ordinary speech-language pathologist. Speech-language pathology is my passion and I want to radiate my joy and love of speech-language pathology to others. I want others to question, how I came about finding my ideal profession, where I obtained my in depth knowledge, who helped me along my trials and tribulations to become successful and certainly I want to inspire others. As a speech-language pathologist, I will be able to change lives for better and I am honored to have that gift which means it is critical for me to bring the utmost care to each and every one of my patients. In order to achieve my aspirations, I believe I will need more than just a solid education. I need to explore the "real world" as they say and apply all my knowledge and skills and use them accordingly.

P.S. 99 will allow me to gain a firsthand look into how speech and language therapy is intertwined into the curriculum of elementary school children. Elementary school; after all, is a

fundamental contributor to each child and a proper education is necessary for further advancement. I have met with one out of the three speech therapists and I am sure that I will enjoy their company. So far, one of the speech language pathologists, J, was welcoming and made me feel comfortable. In fact, the other day, J mentioned that I could interact with the children during their therapy. I could not help but to put on the biggest smile because this internship is going to be very hands on. I was so content and grateful, especially because J was informing me about how her internships were very boring and she how she was always placed in a corner, only able to write notes. Other than that, I have the privilege of seeing various techniques each therapist uses to attend to each unique child. Every individual is different so I will undoubtedly benefit for seeing each therapist connect differently with their students as well as get an inside look at the tricks they hold under their sleeve.

This may be my first internship but I will make the most out of it. Opportunities like these do not come often and they are rewarding. I am ready and I am looking forward to flourish.