

**Name: Amber Clapper**

**Date: March 8, 2010**

**EDU 221: Introduction To Education**

**Thursday: 4:20-7:00 p.m.**

**Spring 2010**

**Instructor: Professor Dick Percy**

**Welcome Letter to parents, teachers, and school communities**

Dear parents and students and school community,

Welcome to the 2010-2011 school year! My name is Amber Clapper and I am very thrilled and excited to get to watch your preschoolers learn and grow. I am a first year student this semester, and graduated from Kansas State University in the spring. I majored in special and early education.

I grew up watching my mom be a teacher. I knew from early on that I wanted to follow in her footsteps. I remember being little and watching her be excited about her work and spending so much time working on making herself a better teacher and her classroom a better place. As I grew older I got to start participating in her classroom. It started as going to take your daughter to work days, then spending my breaks helping in her classroom and eventually got paid to be an assistant in summer school pre-k classrooms with her.

I believe that children learn best with hands on, interactive activities. In my classroom there will be lots of hands on, and creative learning. I believe that we are all life-long learners and that there will always be room for improvement in my classroom. I feel that the more the parents are involved, the better the classroom will run. I will be asking for parents to help with snacks, field trips, and office work as well as hosting many parent nights so parents can watch their child grow and see what their son or daughter creating in the classroom. I believe that the more friends a child has the better their learning experience will be. In my class there will be many groups, and lots of centers to rotate between, but each day will be a new group giving the kids a chance to know all of their friends in class, and create a bond with them.

My love for teaching comes from my love of giving. I love giving to others and sharing anything I have. Although I don't have the answers or money for everything, I am willing to give whatever it is I have. I enjoy the simplicity of a smile on a child's face or watching a group of kids run off to play together. To me, this is the greatest reward there is out there. I will make that little bit of time to bond with each child daily, and provide the same environment that I would want my own child to be raised in.

I have had many learning experiences provided to me throughout my life. I counsel church camps during my summers. I have gotten to work with the junior high age kids up there but hope to branch out to the younger kids, and also the older children. Also through my church I get to work in the nursery during Sunday services. I got to work the preschool and look after the new born and infants. I am on my third service learning experience. My first one was my senior year, and took place in a 6<sup>th</sup> grade classroom at Mesquite Elementary. The next one was in a resource preschool classroom at Kyrene De Las Ninos and, the most recent on in a kindergarten at the Chandler Traditional Academy at the Freedom Campus in Chandler. All of these opportunities have shaped me into the educator that I have become. These service learning opportunities have provided me with good and bad examples and taught me just what kind of teacher, and what methods I want to practice in my classroom.

Again, I would like to welcome you, and your child into my classroom! I am very excited to have your students in my first class! I look forward to all the ups and downs of this first year with you guys!

Sincerely,

Amber Clapper