



Tina Crookshank and Jordyn in the Kindergarten class at Edgehill School, School District #47, Powell River.

Jordyn McGregor was a participant of the Customized Employment Pilot project in Powell River that started in 2008. Early in the program through the Discovery process it was revealed that she had a strong theme in child care.

Jordyn volunteered at Mother Goose Daycare, Little Tugs Daycare and was employed by the City of Powell River to work as a Day Camp assistant. Jordyn and her support worker decided to look into education that would increase her qualifications to work in a child care setting.

Through exploration with her worker, Jordyn was able to find an online program at Northern Lights Distance Education that offered the Early Childhood Education Assistant Certificate. With some support Jordyn was able to pass the required course and applied for her ECEA status.

School District #47 Superintendent Jay Yule was approached with the idea of creating a more diversified workforce by hiring Jordyn to assist in the primary grades. Jordyn had an interview the next week and was hired by School District #47 for two mornings a week.

This is Jordyn's second year at Edgehill Elementary and she is really enjoying it. They are very happy with her performance and the Principal recently offered her an extra day of work. She is also involved in all the Professional Development days and is working towards her 45 hour Professional Development credits needed to keep her certification.

An Interview With Jordyn

How long did it take you for you to feel comfortable in the classroom?

"I was pretty nervous at first but over the course of a few weeks, I felt more comfortable. Now I love it!"

Would you recommend taking the ECE Assistant course and how could it be positive for people?

"I would totally recommend taking it because I wouldn't have my job without it. Taking the course enabled me to get a job I enjoy and that has been very positive for me."

How do you feel now in the class compared to how you felt at the beginning and what has changed for you?

"I have become more and more comfortable in my job as I gain confidence in my abilities."

How important do you think the teacher's personality and teaching style was as she mentored you in the classroom?

"Her positive approach and encouraging personality made a huge difference to me, especially in the beginning when I was discovering my role in the job. Her clear expectations and instructions have made it easier for me to do my job well and her positive feedback makes me feel like a valued part of the team."

Submitted by Lesley Thorsell of PRACL's Employment Services