

MRS. AMBER-JOY

Early Childhood Educator and Behavioral Guide

ajppreschool@gmail.com
443-810-6634



EDUCATION

Dekalb School of the Arts

Diploma of Distinction
2002 – 2006

Spelman College

Bachelor's of Arts in Early Childhood Education
2006 – 2010

Johns Hopkins University

Studies in Severe Disabilities and Autism
2010–2012

Georgia Southern University

Master's of Arts in Reading Education
2016 – 2018

CERTIFICATIONS

GA Teacher Certification ID: 1358821
(Expires June 2030)

- Certified Teacher in the area of Elementary Education: Preschool through Fifth Grade
- Certified Teacher in the area of General Special Education: Preschool through Twelfth Grade

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- School Readiness
- Social and Emotional Education
- Early Childhood Special Education
- Holistic Behavior Management
- Play Based Curriculum Development
- Interpersonal Communication
- Innovation/Creative Planning and Problem Solving
- Parent Collaboration and Consultation

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Owner and Director

A Joyous Playce | 2018 – Present

Founded a state licensed Family Childcare Learning Home, A Joyous Playce, in order to close the educational gap, experienced in low income and minority communities, and to provide the Historic West End with a high quality, inclusive, early childhood education option.

- Designed a play based and individualized curriculum for a diverse group of children, ages two to five, that was centered on inclusion of all abilities, early intervention, school readiness, social emotional regulation and development, and independence development.
- Developed a holistic behavioral program that utilized token boards, rhythm and movement, mindfulness and self reflection, meditation, affirmations, and yoga to mold positive behavioral health.
- Provided a safe, accommodating, and collaborative space for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder, their families, and support staff.

Preschool Special Education Teacher

Fulton County Schools SEC
Medlock Bridge Elementary | 2024- 2025

- Taught a mixed age group of students, ages 3-5, who had significant cognitive delays, speech and language impairments, physical disabilities, and Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- Collaborated with Fulton County Speech Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, and Physical Therapists to ensure students made progress on their speech, fine and gross motor, and sensory goals.
- Nominated for Teacher of the Year

Preschool Inclusion Consultant

The Adaptive Learning Center | 2023- 2024

- Observed and identified students experiencing development delays.
- Assessed students to determine their areas of need. Developed goals and objectives according to those needs. Implemented strategies and interventions to support growth and development and collected data on student progress.
- Collaborated with teachers, families, curriculum specialists, and family support coaches to ensure students have their individual needs met, according to their individualized student plans.
- Advocated for appropriate assessment and diagnosis.
- Caseload management
- Provided coaching and professional development, to teachers, on best inclusive practices and behavior management.

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

Case Manager

Applied Pediatrics | 2022 - 2023

- Case manager and academic lead for the Autism Accommodated Curriculum Program (grades 3-5) at Woodland Elementary School.
- Curated developmentally appropriate academic programming and instruction for students with severe Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- Composed and implemented individualized behavioral response and management plans.
- Managed Individualized Education Plans, data collection, goal monitoring and review.
- Collaborated with the school's Speech Language Pathologist and Occupational Therapist to support student growth.

Behavior Therapist

Rainbow Steps ABA Therapy | 2019 - 2020

- Provided direct behavioral therapy and incidental teaching to children on the Autism Spectrum.
- Provided families with behavioral support and therapy both in home and in the community.
- Implemented written behavioral and educational protocols and collected data on client-specific target behaviors.

Kindergarten Teacher (General Education)

The Kindezi Schools | 2017 - 2018

The Kindezi Schools is a cluster of Title 1 public charter schools serving the city of Atlanta.

- Taught general education language arts and social studies within a co-teaching model.
- Built a strong relationship with my co-teacher, of math and science, to ensure effective cross-disciplinary phonics instruction and writing took place within the math and science subject areas.
- Collaborated weekly with the ELA team to focus on student progression through activity based learning, creative assessment development, and data collection and analysis.

Kindergarten Teacher (General Ed and Inclusion)

Woodward Elementary School | 2013 - 2017

The student demographic at Woodward is ninety-six percent Latino and English Language Learners. It is a Title 1 school.

- Taught the special education inclusion class for two years.
- Managed IEPs and 504 plans.
- Provided behavior support to the kindergarten team by teaching educators how to compose behavior plans and token boards and how to differentiate their lessons to meet the needs of every learner.
- Recognized as a Star Teacher and Model Classroom for Hands-on Learning and Creativity.
- Culturally Responsive Teaching- translated my lessons and taught in both English and Spanish so that the foundational needs of my students were met.
- Chosen by the principal to be a mentor to first year teachers.
- Presented a school wide workshop on Differentiated Math Centers and shared the composition of my tactile math circuit.
- Served as an upper grade testing proctor during Milestone testing and volunteered as an after school chorus instructor.

Academic Tutor and Behavior Support Assistant

Emory Autism Center | 2012 - 2013

- Provided individualized academic tutoring and programming to students on the Autism Spectrum.
- Provided families with behavioral support and therapy, both in home and at Emory Autism Center, using Applied Behavior Analysis and incidental teaching.

Clinical Assistant

Kennedy Krieger Neurobehavioral Unit | 2010 - 2011

The Neurobehavioral Unit (NBU) is a unique, 16-bed inpatient unit dedicated to the assessment and treatment of children and young adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities paired with severe behavioral disorders.

- Provided direct care (bathing, grooming, feeding, toileting) and supervision of patients admitted to the unit, on the unit and in the community during community based outings.
- Implemented ABA based behavioral and educational plans and protocols (written by behavioral therapist)
- collected data on patient-specific target behaviors.