Riley Mercer

Preschool Teacher

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SUMMARY

Preschool teacher with 5 years leading classrooms of 3- and 4-year-olds in Head Start and private settings. Plans Creative Curriculum units, tracks developmental milestones for 18 children at a time, and runs a classroom where 90% of families rated communication as excellent on last year's survey. CDA credentialed with CPR and First Aid certification.

EXPERIENCE

Lead Preschool Teacher — Saguaro Blossom Early Learning Center

Tucson, AZ · Aug 2022 – Present

- Plan and lead daily Creative Curriculum lessons for 18 children ages 3–4, balancing literacy, math and motor skill stations across a 3-hour morning block.
- Track developmental milestones for each child using a 5-domain checklist, flagging 6 children for speech screening over 2 years, 4 of whom started early intervention.
- Redesigned the classroom's quiet corner and transition routine after noticing midday meltdowns, cutting daily tantrum incidents from about 5 to 1.
- Send weekly photo and progress updates to 18 families through a classroom app, with 90% rating communication excellent on last year's center survey.
- Mentor 1 teacher's aide on redirection techniques and lesson setup, now trusted to run small groups independently.

Preschool Teacher — Desert Marigold Head Start

Tucson, AZ · Jul 2020 – Jun 2022

- Led a mixed-age classroom of 16 children from low-income families, following Head Start school readiness goals across literacy, math and social-emotional domains.
- Ran home visits and parent-teacher conferences for 16 families twice a year, connecting 5 families to speech or nutrition services.
- Built a sensory play station from donated materials that raised fine motor engagement scores for 12 children by the spring assessment.
- Completed required state licensing paperwork and health checks for a classroom of 16 with zero compliance findings across 2 annual inspections.

SKILLS

Curriculum: Creative Curriculum, HighScope, Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework

Classroom: Lesson planning, circle time, center rotations, positive behavior redirection

Assessment: Developmental milestone tracking, Teaching Strategies GOLD, portfolio documentation

Family: Parent-teacher conferences, home visits, classroom app updates

CERTIFICATIONS

Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential, 2020

CPR and First Aid Certified, current

EDUCATION

A.A.S. Early Childhood Education, Pima Community College, 2020

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