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Abigail Fehr, B.A.



Abigail is a second-grade bilingual teacher in Romeoville, Illinois. Abigail has 11 years of experience teaching children in kindergarten through fifth grade as a Spanish/English bilingual educator. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in Teaching and Learning with an emphasis on Bilingual and ESL Education through the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. Abigail hopes to continue to incorporate the skills learned in Adventure Camp in her interactions with current and future students! Abigail explains that her motivation to join Adventure Camp began with a past student who exhibited characteristics of selective mutism (SM). Abigail went over and beyond to research SM so she

could better cater to the learning needs of her student. It was during this research that she found Advanced Therapeutic Solutions' Adventure Camp. Abigail integrates her love for work with children with her passion for helping others to inform her work at Adventure Camp. She is thankful and excited for the opportunity to help children overcome their fears and use their brave talk during Adventure Camp again this year!

Q & A with Abigail

What made you want to be an Adventure Camp counselor?

I wanted to be an Adventure Camp counselor for two reasons. The first reason is two years ago, I had a student who exhibited the characteristics of selective mutism. During the school year, I researched selective mutism in order to serve her better, but also to help her family find outside services that could help her. Through this research, I found out about Adventure Camp.

By attending the camp last year, I was able to support her and her classroom teacher this year and she continues to make gains by using her brave! The second reason I wanted to be an Adventure Camp counselor is because I love to help others. Through trying to help my student, I have seen a very small part of the struggle families go through in order to help their child that has selective mutism. I recognize that it is difficult and expensive to find services that can help their child. It is my hope that by being an Adventure Camp counselor, I can be a small part of the puzzle that helped their child speak.

How can you integrate this experience into your professional goals? What do you hope to take away from this experience?

As a teacher, I will implement this experience into helping my former student, but also future students. This past school year, I had a student that benefited from what I learned last year through my experience with Adventure Camp. It was so wonderful to be able to support her using the skills I learned last year as a counselor. I believe that being an Adventure Camp Counselor provided me with valuable training that can benefit a multitude of students, not just those with selective mutism, but any student that is reluctant to step out of their comfort zone. I am excited to continue this experience and continue to gain a better understanding of what selective mutism is and how to help children use their brave.

As a teacher, what motivates you to work with children? Why is working with children rewarding?

Even as a young child, I always dreamed of making a difference in the world. I did not know how I would do it—my career aspirations ranged from being an ENT to a child psychologist to a neonatal nurse—but it was always at the center of my aspirations. Thankfully, I fell into teaching as a senior in high school and knew at once that this was how I was going to make my impact on the world. I love working with children for so many reasons. I love their joy, the light in their eyes when they understand a new concept, their innocence, their silliness, and their openness to new people and ideas. Everyday I am rewarded as a teacher. I get hugs, thank you's, pictures, cards, smiles, and laughs! Each student has a special place in my heart and the biggest reward of all is knowing that although it may be small, I have made a difference in their life.

How do you "use your brave?"

I use my brave by stepping out of my comfort zone and trying new things! It is scary, but the more I practice, the easier it becomes. Breathe in the brave, blow out the scare!

If you could talk to your camper now, what would you tell him/her? What would you want him/her to know?

I would like him/her to know how incredibly excited I am to get to know them and spend the week of Adventure Camp together. I know that they are such a special and unique child. S/he is brave and we are in this TOGETHER!