



SIGN2ME®

Spotlight

a quarterly newsletter from the Presenters' Network of Sign2Me®

Spring 2008

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Notes from the Producer

Each Spring, I finish teaching my 12-week session, "Signing with Young Children" to the Early Childhood Education Department at our local community college in North Seattle. Each spring, I am left amazed and inspired by the motivation and determination of my students. Each spring, these students who are also Early Childhood Educators/Childcare Providers, bring the amazing benefits of signing with young children to *your* children.

My 12-week class is loaded with information on the History of American Sign Language (ASL), Deaf Culture, child appropriate signing vocabulary and activities that my students can take home and into the classrooms the very next day. They are encouraged to incorporate signing into their curriculum on a daily basis and even track the progress of their students using sign language. They are encouraged to further their ASL education by taking up formal ASL courses or inviting local members of the Deaf community to visit their classrooms. They, along with the hundreds of Sign2Me® Presenters world-wide are giving your children an amazing advantage by modeling another way of communication in the classroom.

It's no surprise to me that by spring, the children in their care are signing up a storm, the skeptic parent becomes

the biggest supporter and the childcare staff is having a blast incorporating a new way of communicating into their classroom.

Often times, these childcare providers go unnoticed and this spring I would like to take a moment to acknowledge them for their hard-work and their determined spirits. In the same way that I am left feeling amazed and inspired by my students each spring I know your signing children are making them *and* you feel the same.

Cheers to signing families, early childhood educators, child care providers, and children everywhere!

echo

Melissa 'echo' Greenlee
Presenters' Network
Coordinator

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