

Response to Life
By Jessica Eden

Over the past three years, life for me hasn't changed much; I am still teaching kindergarten at the same school. But can I say that the educational field is the same as when I began my Masters program? The answer is no. In order to be an effective teacher I need to change and respond to the changes. Examples of the multitude of changes I've faced include: adoption of the Common Core Standards, changes to teacher evaluation, and greater accountability for student test results. In order to be an effective teacher, I need to feel confident responding to these types of changes. Looking back on my goal statement, I am able to say that I have attained the goals I set for myself. When I wrote my goal statement I was reflecting upon my education as a student and how it influenced me as an educator. Now I can add my experience at Michigan State. When I think back to the past three years, I have realized the importance of being a receptive, responsive, and conscious educator.

When I think of my future I knew long before I applied to MSU that I loved my career and the grade level that was right for me. However, I knew that in order to be influential, I needed to push myself through hard work and continuing to learn. I wanted my work at Michigan State to provide me with more tools in my tool belt. I realized that my goals were to help my students become successful readers and address the needs of my special education students.

I came into the program thinking that I wanted to help my students gain the skills needed. Through the process of taking my classes with the Special Education concentration, I have gained the knowledge of how I can tackle the needs of my students through behavioral and academic intervention. The programs that I have focused in on are Response to Intervention or Positive Behavior Support. I really wanted to focus on my weakness of addressing problem behavior, and I feel like every issue is different. I have found tools that I can use to tackle the issues I face within my classroom. In order to address the needs of my readers, I am better able to pinpoint problems through assessment and intervention skills I have learned. One of these tools is Response to Intervention, I feel like Michigan State was my life intervention. I saw a need for myself to improve in the area of literacy and special education. After completing my time I believe that the intervention was a success.