

## MENTOR INTERVIEW QUESTIONS:

### 1.) Tell me about your first year of teaching. What or who helped prepare you the most?

My first year of teaching I worked at a Title 1 school in CA. The children were poor and many of them did not speak English. I taught a 3-4 in a makeshift classroom. I had no team support and basically was on my own. It was from that experience I learned to challenge myself and taught myself to create meaningful lessons.

### 2.) Why do you think that multicultural education is important?

We are all from different backgrounds and the more we understand each other the more compassionate we will be towards those of other cultural backgrounds.

### 3.) Tell me about how you implement different cultures into your own classroom?

It is ongoing. I don't teach one lesson about cultures. It is integrated into many lessons.....holidays, beliefs, in literature. etc.

### 4.) How do you deal with bullying and discrimination in your classes?

Zero tolerance for bullying and discrimination...I tend to nip it at the first hint of such actions. In the beginning of the year we discuss the difference between bullying and just being mean. We role play bullying by both sides and discuss the feelings that from each. I expect no bullying...thus far I haven't seen any of it this year.

### 5.) Do you think, as teachers, it is our responsibility to bring up topics like "racism" to our students?

I do not bring up the word "racism". Setting a tone of respect for all individuals and being kind to each other, regardless of what they look like or where they come from sets the example for "non-racist" behavior.

### 6.) What is your favorite/least favorite part about teaching?

I love many things about teaching.....planning creative lessons, seeing the excitement and engagement, creating bonds with parents and students and seeing my students come back to me after I have taught them and telling me how much they loved school when I was their teacher. The thing I do not like about teaching is the continuous stream of paperwork. I often say my second shift begins after the children leave...grading, meetings, tutoring, clubs, documentation for every word you say, etc.

7.) Share a personal experience where cultural difference (gender, race, culture, orientation, language, disability, etc.) was prevalent in your classroom. This year I have a child whose parents cannot speak English...I have found a person who translates for me via email and the parents are thrilled to death....it helps keep them abreast of what is going on and they feel a genuine part of the school this way.

### 8.) What role do you think parents play in children of all social classes educations?

Huge....parents are the primary teaching of it all.

9.) What made you want to become a teacher?

I enjoy learning and get excited about sharing new learnings with the children. Teaching allows you to be creative and create a classroom of learners.

10.) If you could go back in time and tell your past self (as a new teacher) what you know now, what would you tell her?

I would tell my past self or any new teacher, that teaching is very hard work. It is harder than you can imagine. The teaching aspect of it is about 10% of it is the easiest part!