## STEPHANIE MACFARLANE | Early Childhood Specialist

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## **TEACHING PHILOSOPHY**

My teaching philosophy centres around the belief that experiential, place-based learning is key to developing well-rounded students. I strongly advocate for play-based and land-based learning as it fosters deeper engagement and helps students create meaning, make connections across disciplines, and grow as innovative thinkers. Furthermore, it aligns with my commitment to integrating First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspectives into my lessons, ensuring that all students develop an appreciation and respect for Indigenous ways of knowing, being, and doing. By fostering self-motivated, caring, and cross-curricular learners, I aim to cultivate students who are equipped to contribute thoughtfully to their communities. It all begins by building authentic relationships with my students. This practice is the base on which my teaching practice stands. I believe in creating a trusting classroom community where students feel safe, comfortable, and valued as this supports their wellbeing and enables me to understand their individual learning needs and provide tailored support. Students should always come first, and I aim to foster an inclusive, engaging classroom where all students can thrive.

#### **HIGHLIGHT of QUALIFICATIONS**

**Relationship Building:** Prioritizes taking the time to understand individual needs, foster trust, and authentically connect with students, colleagues, and parents to cultivate meaningful relationships that enhance positive outcomes.

**Leadership:** Consistently takes initiative in education and extracurricular settings by ensuring clear communication, delegating responsibilities effectively, and supporting team members.

**Designing Authentic Learning Opportunities:** Committed to creating lessons that are aligned with curriculum goals while being meaningful and engaging for all students. This is achieved through authentic play-based lessons, cross-curricular connections, and establishing a supportive and inclusive environment. All lessons accommodate a range of learners through differentiated tasks and targeted support, with a goal of empowering students.

**Creativity:** Implementation of engaging and innovative learning experiences to meet diverse learning needs and interests. Incorporation of various resources, such as music, technology, and the outdoors are key to inspiring students.

**Classroom Management:** Sets clear expectations and uses positive reinforcement to foster a productive learning atmosphere. By being proactive and adaptable, classroom dynamics are effectively managed and dysregulated behaviors are addressed with empathy and consistency. Strategies include visual cues, structured routines, and emphasis on student wellness.

### **EDUCATION**

# **Bachelor of Education | University of Calgary**

**April 2025** 

Specialization in Early Childhood Education

· 3.9 GPA

### Field III and IV Grade 1 Student Teacher

Keeler School, Calgary, AB

- Nov 2024 April 2025
- Fostered positive pedagogical relationships with students and colleagues to create a caring and inclusive classroom environment where students feel valued and supported.
- Actively engaged in daily reflective practice and sought feedback to improve instruction and incorporate new strategies, including participation in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and Collaborative Response Models (CRMs).
- Supported students with highly diverse needs, including students coded with English as an Additional Language (EAL), Autism, ADHD, Expressive/Receptive Speech, and Selective Mutism.
- Utilized scaffolding, manipulatives, and individualized strategies to promote success for all students in learning and self-regulation. Further adapted lessons based on formative assessment.
- · Created differentiated tasks for a student on a modified program.
- · Incorporated First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (FNMI) content into lessons, fostering learning through Indigenous ways.

#### Field II Grade 1/2 Student Teacher

Winter 2024

Our Lady of the Rosary, Calgary, AB

- Effectively managed a combined grade classroom, addressing different curriculum expectations and learning levels through scaffolded activities and intentional groupings.
- Incorporated a variety of instructional strategies to meet diverse student needs, including utilizing formative and summative assessments to gauge student progress and provide targeted activities for additional practice.
- · Created hands-on, game-based learning activities to foster student engagement and enhance learning experiences.
- · Differentiated for students on Learner Support Plans, including planning for medical, behavioural, and academic needs

#### RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

### **Educational Assistant | Calgary Board of Education**

Dec 2024 - Current

Casual, Calgary Board of Education

- Provided one-on-one support for students with Autism, including non-verbal and violent behaviours, to foster a safe and supportive learning environment
- Supported students with severe trauma and anxiety by implementing strategies to promote emotional regulation and stability
- Applied "first, then" task systems and task bin systems to help structure student learning and effectively manage transitions.
- · Implemented sensory regulation techniques to support students' self-regulation and wellbeing
- · Utilized visual aids to enhance understanding and engagement

## Primary Years Program Year 1 Volunteer Teacher

**Sept - Oct 2024** 

SEK El Castillo, Madrid, Spain | Teachers Across Borders

- Supported students entering their first school experience by implementing sensory tools to mitigate emotional distress and promote self-regulation.
- Encouraged student independence through Montessori-based practices, such as self-serve lunch setups and providing opportunities for risk-taking in play.
- · Promoted inquiry-based learning, as per the International Baccalaureate Program outcomes.
- Supported students' English language skills in a primarily Spanish-speaking environment by bridging language barriers and building relationships with students.
- Continuously reflected on cultural differences in educational practices and the impact of these approaches on student development and learning.

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#### **Kindergarten Teacher Assistant Volunteer**

**Sept 2020 – June 2021** 

Chinook Park School, Calgary, AB

- Facilitated small group activities and lessons, fostering an inclusive and engaging learning environment for diverse student needs, including English as an Additional Language (EAL), dysregulated behaviors, speech delays, and fine-motor delays
- Engaged students in developmentally appropriate literature to enhance literacy skills and encouraging a love of reading.
- · Collaborated with lead teachers to plan and implement lessons, ensuring consistency and alignment with educational goals.
- Experienced French immersion and regular program kindergarten classes, adapting instruction to meet the unique needs of each group.
- Demonstrated a strong understanding of complex classroom dynamics, including managing diverse learning styles and fostering positive peer interactions.

Private Tutor Sept 2018 – Current

Self-Employed, Calgary, AB

- Designed and delivered lessons for students ranging from kindergarten to Grade 11, specializing in individualized math support at all levels.
- Developed targeted math and literacy interventions for students with diverse learning needs, including those with Dyslexia, ADHD, dysregulated behaviors, and English as an Additional Language (EAL).
- · Collaborated with teachers to ensure continuity and consistency in support.
- Tailored math lessons and assessments to meet the unique needs of students, from foundational skills to advanced concepts.

#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## **Education Students Association Professional Development Series**

- Executive Function Development and Support Strategies (Feb 2025)
- · Healthy Play with Word Play (Jan 2025)
- Educational Games for Kindergarten to Grade 3 (Oct 2021)
- · Classroom Design (Oct 2021)

#### **Health and Wellness**

- · Alberta Health Services Community Helpers Training (Nov 2024)
- · First Aid & CPR C (Oct 2024)

#### **VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

## Vice President of Fundraising and Events

May 2022 - Current

UC Cheer

- · Collaborated with other executive team members to coordinate organizational efforts, ensuring smooth operations and successful event execution.
- Scheduled and managed volunteer opportunities for team members, ensuring all roles and responsibilities were filled efficiently.
- Effectively communicated schedules, event details, and team expectations to members, ensuring clear understanding and timely participation in all activities.
- Organized and executed team fundraisers and events, including the Year End Gala, by coordinating sponsorships with community businesses, booking venues, arranging catering, and managing guest invitations.

Team Lead Volunteer Fall 2021

*University of Calgary* 

· Organized and led a team volunteers, ensuring tasks were delegated efficiently and all roles were fulfilled.

· Maintained effective communication with supervisors and the event coordinator to ensure smooth coordination and successful execution of the event.

## **ADDITIONAL SKILLS**

**Sign Language:** Understands the benefits of American Sign Language (ASL) in the classroom for inclusive practices.

**Spanish Language:** Intermediate proficiency in Spanish, including communication with Spanish-speaking students and families to foster an inclusive learning environment.

**Music Background:** Experience in violin, voice, guitar, and ukulele; allowing for the integration of music into the classroom to engage students creatively and enhance their learning experiences.

**Sports:** Experienced in building strong interpersonal relationships through sports programs, including 4 years on the University of Calgary Cheer Team, bringing a passion for movement and extracurricular involvement to the school community.

## **AWARDS**

## Jason Lang Scholarship

· 2022 and 2023 recipient for a minimum GPA of 3.20

## **President's Admission Scholarship**

University of Calgary

· 2021 recipient for an admission average of above 95%

## Norman Ronald Silver Memorial Entrance Scholarship

*University of Calgary* 

· 2021 recipient for strong citizenship qualities