

# April Brown

## EDUCATION

*Antioch University of New England, Keene, New Hampshire*

Masters in Education and Certification in Mindfulness (2017)

*Grand Valley State University, Allendale, Michigan*

Bachelor of Science (2011)

Major in Psychology and Special Education

Teaching Credentials in the following areas: Elementary K-5 (all subjects), K-8 (self-contained classroom), Cognitive Impairment (K-12), and Emotional Impairment (K-12)

*Certificate in Culturally Literature Instruction from Harvard University Graduate School of Education*

*Candidate for Trauma Informed Specialist Certification from The Center of Cognitive Diversity*

## EDUCATION CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

### **International Education Consultant and Coach**

Self-Employed

(August 2018-Present)

- Offers online and face-to-face consulting to empower educational organizations and school systems to design reflective, inclusive, and mindful learning experiences, curriculum, and environments that benefit all children.

## CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE

*Student Ignition Society (volunteer position)*

(February 2019-Present)

- Co-create/curate the radical resources early childhood educators need to get started discussing hard topics with students with direction from the founder of Books for Littles and Raising Luminaries.
- Facilitate collaborative action among group members to crowdsource #ownvoices resources (e.g. lessons, videos, and accessible actionable steps) and compile into simple toolkits parents, educators, and caregivers can use to support them in raising kind and brilliant kids.
- Moderate the Student Ignition Society on Facebook and increase community engagement through creating graphics, and sharing inclusive and supportive content.

*Goalbook*

(July 2019-Present)

- Designs Common Core aligned e-learning assessment items for math grades K-5.
- Creates rigorous and differentiated resources, activities, and projects for K-5.
- Collaborates and researches alongside editors and writers to meet the needs of students who qualify for special education through designing inclusive and accessible printable and e-learning resources.

*Education.com*

(March 2018- April 2020)

- Designed lesson plans, toolkits, assessments, leveled books, and a variety of rigorous and differentiated resources across all subject areas that align with national standards (PK-5).

- Researched and designed extensive scaffolded support lessons for English Learners of varying proficiencies.
- Reviewed content based on expertise and collaborates positively with team and editorial.

#### *Clarity Innovations*

(February-March 2020)

- Supported team in the beginning stages of a large-scale curriculum development project.
- Researched, designed, and drafted ideation outlines for assigned monthly theme of content at Pre-K (2-3y.o.) level while integrating social and emotional learning, STEM, mindfulness, and culturally responsive teaching practices.
- Authored content for assigned monthly theme/ideations of content at Pre-K (2-3 y.o.) level, including user-facing scripts for daily experiences, exploration stations, routines & transitions, and outdoor activities.

#### *CSA Creative*

(October-December 2018)

- Created inferential and literal assessment comprehension questions linked to nonfiction and fiction texts for grades K-6.

### WRITING EXPERIENCE

#### **Freelancer**

(May 2015-Present)

- Creates research-based articles, blogs, and newsletters for educational companies and parenting publications. Articles have been featured on publications including *Education.com* and *Motherly*.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE

#### **Professional Development Facilitator**

(July 2019-April 2020)

*Education.com*

- Facilitated professional development webinars to support schools as they integrate Education.com's high-quality, standards-aligned digital and printable resources, digital guided learning program, and academic progress tools within their classrooms.

### TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

#### **Adult Literacy Coach**

(July-November 2017)

*Free Spirit Learning Center, Placencia, Belize*

- Increased reading and literacy skills through sessions two times per week.
- Used mindfulness as a tool to help the learner settle in the body, be present in the moment, and lend compassion to oneself during the complicated process of learning to read as an adult.
- Gauged learning through culturally responsive teaching practices including interviews, dialogue, and a student-led autobiography project.

- Integrated a variety of interest-based music, books, videos, art materials, and other hands-on activities.

### **Founder and Head Teacher**

(July 2015-May 2016)

*Free Spirit Learning Center, Placencia, Belize*

- Taught in a multi-age setting with students ranging from 3-10 years old.
- Developed curriculum and scope/sequence in math, literacy, geo-literacy, and social emotional learning using a culturally responsive framework, inquiry-based learning, and UDL.
- Executed place-based learning activities to connect with curriculum.

### **Lower Primary Teacher & Instructional Coach**

(June 2014-June 2015)

*Peninsula International Academy, Placencia, Belize*

- Designed and co-presented professional development for new teachers on topics including: positive behavior supports, designing meaningful and culturally relevant lessons connected to standards, and classroom management practices that increase learning.
- Observed teachers and provided constructive feedback on best practices.
- Differentiated instruction to meet the needs of learners and inspired students to have a growth mindset in the classroom setting and in life.

### **Principal and PK-1 Early Childhood Teacher**

(June 2013-June 2014)

*Peninsula International Academy, Placencia, Belize*

- Collaborated with a team to start Peninsula International Academy.
- Co-developed school standards and a positive learning environment through the use of positive behavior supports.
- Introduced and modeled effective teaching pedagogies to staff.
- Held weekly meetings to check-in with staff and provided support in areas of need.
- Collaborated with and brought in international educational consultants for staff development and wellness.

### **Teacher Mentor and Literacy Coach (K-6th)**

(January-May 2013)

*Saint John's Elementary, Placencia, Belize*

- Introduced and implemented behavioral strategies in the classroom environment to increase student learning.
- Assisted the principal's goal of promoting literacy in the school through the use of research-based reading assessments and guided reading groups.
- Provided 1:1 literacy instruction and suggested classroom scaffolds for English Learners of varying proficiencies.
- Created a comprehensive plan to increase literacy success for all students.

### **Home-Based PK-2 Educator**

(December 2012-June 2013)

Self-Employed

- Taught multiple classes per week with students ranging from preschool through second grade.
- Developed holistic curriculum, with a focus on integrating sensory, play-based, and interest-based learning experiences that provided space for student-led inquiry, nature exploration, and critical unstructured moments.
- Collected and managed student portfolios with data (observational and formative assessments) to provide insight for caregivers and families on child development and next steps.
- Progress monitored students with IEP goals and provided detailed narratives/plans of action to parents and other educators working with particular students.

### **5th Grade Resource Room and Middle School Truancy Academy Teacher**

(June 2011- December 2012)

*Sylvester Elementary, Berrien Springs, Michigan*

- Developed meaningful curriculum across learning modalities to support neurodiverse and disabled students in mastering their IEP goals and grade level standards.
- Used Everyday Math, Aimsweb, Read Naturally, Lexia, DRA2, and Reader's Workshop to meet student learning needs.
- Co-wrote the 2012-13 5th grade district math assessment based on national standards.
- Co-developed and implemented an effective Tier 2 math intervention class using Aimsweb progress monitoring probes and small group instruction.
- Attended professional development including Writer's Workshop, Co-teaching and Differentiated Instruction, Literacy Development, Autism Training and MCEC.

### **Associate Teacher in 8th Grade Self-Contained EI Classroom**

(January -June 2010)

*Riverside Middle School, Grand Rapids, MI*

- Designed an integrated unit on career pathways to foster exploration of self, identity, and to support students in collaborative and field-based learning.
- Used a variety of formal and informal assessment techniques to evaluate student progress including running records, functional behavior analysis, ESTR scales, and student questionnaires.

### **Independent Research Assistant & Paraprofessional in Early Childhood AI room**

(2008-2009)

*Ottawa Area Center, Zeeland, Michigan*

- Implemented and gathered data on play skills.
- Supported students in day to day activities, including sensory integration to increase happiness, self-regulation, and academic achievement.
- Collaborated with a team of teachers and paraprofessionals to create a positive and cohesive learning environment for students.
- Supported students during field-based outings.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Horace Mann Spirit of Service Award, Antioch of New England (2016)
- Outstanding Undergraduate Student with a major in Special Education (2011)
- Michigan Council for Exceptional Children (2010-11) Student Presenter
- College of Education Scholarship, Awards and Merit Committee (2010-2011) Student Member
- Arthur and Greta DeLong Scholarship (Winter 2010) Professional Scholarship
- Holliday Willey Scholarship (2009-2011) Academic and Professional Scholarship