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Code Lists

- 1) **Family member** – influence from a family member who is/was a teacher, encouragement from a family member, and a family member as a role model to become a teacher.
- 2) **Love for children** – they became a teacher because they want to make an impact on children's lives to help and see them succeed; being with children.
- 3) **Schedule** - flexibility, time with family, holidays, and summer vacations
- 4) **Subject matter** – they became a teacher because of their favourite subject area (eg. Math, Science, Music etc..).
- 5) **Past Experiences** – good and bad experiences from teachers and high school, and tutoring/mentoring experiences; influence and encouragement from previous teachers
- 6) **Good fit** – passion for teaching, they feel like becoming a teacher is their calling, fit their lifestyle, and they have the skills for it.
- 7) **Career opportunity** – teaching is a career opportunity for those who can't find work in their field of expertise or dissatisfied with their jobs; career change.

Coded Data

Code		
Love for children = yellow	Past Experiences = pink	Good fit = turquoise
Schedule = green	Career Opportunity = red	
Subject matter = teal	Family member = gray	

- 1 I felt I could make a difference in children's lives and teach them effectively.
- 6 Coaching, summer vacation, my love of working with kids
- 12 I decided to go into teaching for several reasons. I love children, I feel I have a natural gift to teach children, and it's a great job for moms with children at home because of the schedule.
- 15 My husband died when I was 35 years old. I was content with staying at home and raising our son. I realized I needed to do something with my life. Going to school allowed me to be at home when my son was there. Also, I saw how he was judged by coming from
- 20 Helping kids, teaching science.
- 36 Love kids, always babysat
- 40 The fervor that my high school band director had for teaching motivated me most.
- 46 I enjoyed teaching swim lessons while in high school to preschoolers. I ended up teaching middle school when I discovered I didn't have the talent to teach the same students all day.
49. 49 Actually the very good and the very bad teachers I had were factors that led me into teaching. Another major factor was that I truly enjoyed high school.
49. 50 I enjoy the learning process. I also like working with kids and wasn't ready for the business world.
49. 51 My lover of music and the desire to show others the joy music can bring. I also enjoyed working with children.
- 54 The need for employment. My original bachelor's is chemistry. With no job prospects available in the field, teaching seemed a good place to be (funny how destiny works).
- 57 A teacher I had in school, the subject area, and I come from a long line of teachers.
- 64 I participated as a peer tutor in high school with students with disabilities and enjoyed it. The teacher for the class was a positive role model. I have always liked working with children so it made sense.
- 69 My desire to help and guide children, along with my love for children led me into teaching.
- 71 Being able to explain mathematical concepts to others easily.
73. 73 I like working with people, especially kids. I like having an impact on the future of our world. I am well rounded; I knew teaching involves many facets of other careers.
73. 74 Love of reading, summer off, father is a high school administrator, enjoy being around kids.
- 77 Love of kids and content area, enjoy social dynamics of the classroom setting
80. 80 A need/want to help others, love of learning and for children, helping create that lightbulb over someone's head when they finally get it.
80. 81 I love the working with children. I love the language (ASL).
- 83 Ability to impact lives, make a difference, improve lives, also fondness of subject.
- 85 Most of the teachers I had in school went out of their way to help me do good in school.
- 88 I wasn't happy interviewing for and planning to be in various kinds of sales. It didn't offer any intrinsic values. I hung out in Bloomington trying to figure out what I wanted to do with my BA in journalism and my business minor. I started training the s
- 100 Desire to work with kids, amount of business classes taken prior to choosing education, school calendar - time with own children, same schedule.
- 105 Summers off important when raising family, dealing with children
- 108 I love to instruct. Weekends, holidays with my family. I was a nurse for 10 years before I became a teacher.
- 110 High school teacher
- 112 The ability to work with other people was one of my strengths as a person.
- 121 Family background, desire to help kids, coaching
123. 123 My parents - they were both teachers, love of children, I thought teaching looked like it would be a fun and enjoyable career.

123. 124 Learning new things is my passion.
123. 125 Hours - Summer off - vacations with my children are the same. Also, love working with children.
123. 126 The students. Making an impact in young peoples' lives.
128. 128 Making a difference in children's lives. The ability to be with my children as they grow. My love for children.
128. 129 Wanted to make a difference. My mom was an excellent master teacher and example.
131 I enjoyed teaching kids and helping them learn new things. I always enjoyed my subject area, and saw that my teacher enjoyed it.
134 One of my teachers told me I'd make a good teacher.
136. 136 The opportunity to administer to children in a positive manner. Juvenile justice always had me dealing with bad children, and I wanted to see if the world had well-behaved kids.
136. 137 The teachers in my life. My parents also encouraged me.
136. 138 Wanting to help kids.
136. 139 I felt it would be a service to people. I wanted my work hours to coincide fairly closely with my children's school hours.
145 Being able to help children, watching them learn, watching them grow. the hours, the yearly schedule.
151. 151 I wanted to be able to help other children learn including my own.
151. 152 I wanted to make a positive impact on kids.
155 Some teachers who pushed me to be more than what I thought was capable.
157 I loved working with children and everyone always told me I would be a good teacher so I decided to try it.
162 The thought that I could help children better their lives.
164 Ability to influence and make a difference to children, time off.
168 I was working at a playground and found I enjoyed being with children far more than the courses I was taking to prepare for nursing.
171 I wanted to have a job where I would feel like I was impacting others.
176 My aunt was an inspiration to me. She taught 50 years. I admired one of my English teachers in high school who had a gift with students. In the early 1970s there was a need for teachers. I enjoyed working with children and my reading college professor said
178 Love of children and their excitement when learning. Wanting to share my love of reading with others.
180 Chance to work with kids. Opportunity to work in field of math and science and teach kids.
182 Desire to inspire children.
189. 189 Babysitting, youth group, young children, calendar
189. 190 Job burn out in retail management. Dissatisfaction with long hours, little vacation time.
189. 191 The satisfaction of seeing children being excited about learning new ideas/concepts.
193 I had some wonderful, talented teachers as well as some apathetic, terrible teachers. I knew I could be better than some I had, and I wanted to make people feel good and confident like the talented teachers I had.
195 I love being with children. I have always enjoyed helping others.
200 Educators in my family. Excellent teachers.
204 I am good at making complicated topics simple to understand.
206 My love for math and problem solving. My interest in making a change in children's lives. Convenience of work while my children were in school. Work schedule with my own children. Desire to help students make a positive attitude change about math.
209 My love for "special needs" students and the rewards that are far and few between but are so great when they happen. All these things I felt as a [para?] and as an older adult I knew then that I had to get my degree.
217 My mother owned a home day care for many years. I saw the impact she made on the lives of the children in her care. I also know that one day I wanted to have children of my own and teaching was a profession where I could make an impact and spend quality time
222 My teachers that I had going through school led me into teaching. I had several good teachers throughout my schooling experiences.
227 My experiences and relationships with my teachers encouraged me a great deal.

230. 230 The environment of being around kids - entertaining them. The time off. The lack of a "business world" atmosphere.

230. 231 Previous jobs (aide at a junior high school)

233 I think there is something very special about being able to watch a child grow in knowledge. I am amazed at young minds. I've always had a positive attitude towards school and I wanted to be a part of the process.

236 No written comments

239. 239 Knowing that I wanted a family and not wanting to be away from my own children. Helping make a difference in the lives of less fortunate kids.

239. 240 The poor quality of education that my children received. I just knew I could do better. A love of teaching. A love of children.

250 The opportunity to make a difference. The life style it affords.

252. 252 I am the oldest of five children. I love working with kids and watching them learn (I always have). Also, my mom began teaching when I was in middle school.

252. 253 I enjoy working with young people and my mother and father were both teachers.

252. 254 No written comments

256. 256 Musical talent, love for kids.

256. 257 Influence of teachers at all educational levels.

256. 258 Father was an educator. Always loved school and learning. Constant change in activities. Love people. High energy level.

262 I enjoy working with students.

259 A college mentor

266 Family history of teachers. Level of incompetence of a former college professor.

269. 269 Well respected career. Coaching.

269. 270 Love of sports. Like kids. Time off in summer.

273 I love kids. I love learning new things.

275. 275 No written comments

275. 276 My past elementary teachers.

281. 281 I enjoyed working with young kids. I felt I was a good leader and teacher. I am not concerned about money.

281. 282 I love children. Always found myself "teaching others." Idolized my teachers. Liked the idea of time off during holidays and summers.

285 My love for children and English (writing and literature)

287. 287 Working with kids. Enjoyed biology

287. 288 Being able to make a positive impact on students' lives.

291 The teacher I was working with in 1986.

297 Desire to have a positive impact on middle school students.

299 Acid rain, coaching football.

303 I love working with kids. I like to help others, and I like to be creative.

305 Support of family, friends. Prayer.

318. 318 Variety. Working with kids. Creativity. Flexibility

318. 319 The desire to be a principal and the connection with students and staff.

323 The major factor that led me into teaching was the ability to make a difference in the lives of children.

325. 325 The need for young, creative, and enthusiastic teachers.

326 Family support of my decision. I felt comfortable in education classes and in the classrooms I participated in.

Findings

Many teachers decided on their career because of their love of children. They wanted to make an impact on children's lives and see them grow and succeed. For example, a respondent said, *"I think there is something very special about being able to watch a child grow in knowledge."* Another respondent also said, *"The major factor that led me into teaching was the ability to make a difference in the lives of children."* Hence, most teachers decided on their career to inspire children by teaching and providing them knowledge. Many teachers also decided on their career because of past experiences. They became a teacher because of the good and bad experiences they had with previous teachers. For example, a respondent said, *"I had some wonderful, talented teachers as well as some apathetic, terrible teachers. I knew I could be better than some I had..."* Aside from good experiences, teachers who had bad experiences want to be better teachers and make a difference in children's lives. This somewhat relates to teachers wanting to have an impact on children's lives. Teachers hope that the learning experience they provide can impact children's lives and maybe become teachers themselves too one day.

Schedule is also another reason they become teachers. They wanted to have more time with their family and have summer off. For example, a respondent said, *"Summers off important when raising family, dealing with children"*. Another respondent said, *"I wanted my work hours to coincide fairly closely with my children's school hours"*. Compared with other careers, where work hours and vacation time are not fixed, it is reasonable for teachers who have children to have the flexibility to raise their children well without spending too much time on work (ie. Teaching).

Furthermore, teachers decided on their career because of their family member. They become a teacher because they see their parents as a role model. For example, a respondent said, *"My mother owned a home day care for many years. I saw the impact she made on the lives of the children in her care"*. Similar to past experiences, aside from previous teachers, family members also have an

impact on their decision to be a teacher because they see that their parents were good teachers and made a difference in children's lives.

Many teachers decided their career because of opportunity it brings. They saw that teaching is multidisciplinary. For example, a respondent said, *"My original bachelor's is chemistry. With no job prospects available in the field, teaching seemed a good place to be..."*. Others became teachers because they like teaching their favorite subjects. For example, they became teachers because of the *"Opportunity to work in field of math and science and teach kids"*. Hence, teaching has great opportunities for everyone in any field of interest. Whereas for others, they saw that teaching is a good fit for them. It is something they thought enjoyable and fun as a career. For example, a respondent said, *"I thought teaching looked like it would be a fun and enjoyable career."*

In conclusion, teachers decided their career because they want to make a difference, were influenced by family members and teachers, and they saw teaching has great opportunity for any field of interest.