

Bethany Lutheran College

# Teacher Disposition

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EDUC 310

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## **Caring**

### 1.2 Compassion: Developed

I never like to see people in pain or suffering. But like most people, some people's suffering seems minimal. I need to realize that all pain is pain, no matter what it is. Everyone has different pains in their life. For the most part, I think I can have compassion for the other person's pain. Many times, I've been in the other person's shoes whether it's stress from school, family, or a significant other. Hence, people often feel comfortable coming to me about issues because they know I will listen and maybe relate. I've been told I am the 'mother figure' before and I think mothers need to have compassion in order to try and help.

I had a soccer practice where one of my teammates shoulder had been dislocated and I immediately went to her side to help. I knew she needed help and I wanted to be there for her. I helped her all the way to the trainers and stayed with her the whole time. I let her squeeze my hand as hard as she needed in order to relieve some of her pain as the trainer popped her shoulder back in. My only thought was that she needed to be okay and I was going to help her through it.

### 1.3 Respect: Highly Developed

I have always had respect for everyone around me, especially authority figures. Some people don't deserve my respect but out of respect, I give it. I remember when I was in 5th grade and I had the best teacher ever. He taught 5th and 6th grade in one classroom and everyone loved him, and I mean literally every student. At the end of our

5th grade year, he told us he was leaving for a different school. We were all devastated and naturally we had a new teacher the next fall. Most of the class never even gave the new teacher a chance. I remember that even though I missed my old teacher, I never disrespected the new teacher like the other students did. I was always standing up for her and giving her the opportunity to prove herself as a good teacher. I remember the class giving me grief about being nice to her and would think to myself, "Why am I being so nice?" Well that's just the way I am and I am grateful for it.

#### 1.4 Passion: Developed

I have always had one true passion: children. I always wanted to be a mom and raise my children. The thing with that is mom's don't really make money. I had to use my passion to find a career. I have never thought of any other career other than teaching. I love children with all my heart. What better way to be around children than to help them grow into successful human beings. Children are great but they eventually grow up. I want to help make them into a person that they like. I've never really had a passion for anything other than children and my family. I'm now finding my passion for teaching the children that I love. I'm not quite there yet but I have no doubt that I won't develop it. I don't have the passion yet because teaching scares me. But it's a fear that I'm going to overcome with practice. I'm excited to overcome this fear because I am passionate about the practice.

I had my very first clinical experience which entailed me teaching first graders literature. I was very nervous but after my first day, I started to find that passion I was

looking for. I knew that this is what I wanted and needed to do with my life and it got me really excited to continue to journey.

### 1.5 Cultural Competence: Developing

I'm slowly starting to improve this area. It hasn't helped that I have only gone to schools where it has been predominantly white. Last year I helped out with a program at Eagle Lake. In the classroom I was with, there were a few Somali students. They had an English Language Barrier. I would often help them with their math homework. This was the first real taste I had with helping a student of diversity. At first it scared me because I didn't know how to help them but I helped them to the best of my abilities. For the Educational Psychology tutoring, I had to help a student from China with writing down simple sentences for a gym class. She spoke very little English and had to use an application on her phone that worked as a translator. We worked together to put together some rough sentences but we got it done and she was happy with her answers. It felt good to be able to help her in some way. As I continue to go through the education program, I am continuing to get cultural awareness and experience.

## **Communicative**

### 2.2 Responsiveness: Developed

Whenever I come to a situation where I need to help in some way, I have two paths I can take. I have to decide to either take the path that avoids the situation or take the path where I help the person. I'll be the first to admit that I sometimes take the path of ignorance because I don't want to deal with the situation. I am proud to say that I

usually take the path of helping. I have this need to try and help people however I can. Whether it's giving advice or simply listening. If someone were to come up to me seeking my help, I would never turn them away. I might turn them to someone who can help better than I but never away.

I am a Resident Assistant and one night, I was sitting in my dorm room when I heard intense sobbing. I immediately went to the girls' room where the crying was coming from. I didn't knock right away because I simply did not want to and wasn't sure if the resident would want me to. I eventually knocked and no one answered so I took that to her not wanting to talk. The next day I found her to see if she was okay. She told me she was fine and I left it at that. I made sure to tell her that she could talk to me whenever she needed to. Even though she didn't want to talk, I still went down the path to help and now she knows that I care.

### 2.3 Attentiveness: Developing

In order to truly understand what a person is talking about, one has to pay attention. It sounds simple, but I sometimes find myself doing the opposite. This has been something I have been working hard to improve. In order to do that I have to look at the person I'm talking to, not let distractions get in the way, and only focus on them. When I don't do this, I tend to not know what they just said. There have been times when I was in highschool and my mother would tell me to empty the dishwasher. As she was telling me I wasn't looking at her, doing something else, and not focusing on what she was saying. I of course did not empty the dishwasher because I forgot about her telling me. Knowing this information has helped me overcome this weakness.

## 2.4 Trustworthiness: Highly Developed

I think I am very trustworthy. People have confided in me for years about issues they don't want other people to know. Being an RA requires that I keep information confidential. I have had residents come up to me telling me how their hurt and don't want anyone else to know. I've listened and kept to my code. I only break that code when someone or themselves is in danger. Luckily I haven't had to do that yet.

I always have friends coming up to me to complain about other friends or other people in general. I listen and keep what they tell me confidential.

## **Creative**

### 3.1 Flexibility: Developing

I am very flexible when I come into a situation with an open mind. If I come into the situation thinking my way is the right way, then I have a hard time adapting. This doesn't happen very often but it's something that I still need to work on. Sometimes my stubbornness is indeed the correct way but it's the way I approach the situation that can be the downfall. I need to keep my ideas in check but with an attitude that makes others feel that their ideas are considered.

I remember I had done an assignment for one of my classes and when I presented it to the class, the teacher told me it was all wrong. I immediately got angry at myself and embarrassed. I fixed my mistake and adjusted to what I needed to get done. This happened because I didn't want to be flexible and do what the assignment originally asked me to do. I had set my mind to what I thought the assignment should be

and ignored the instructions. I found out in myself that I need to be flexible in many things, especially things out of my control.

### 3.2 Inventiveness: Developed

My ideas can be really good. The thing I need to work on is being confident in those ideas. I knew I was growing in this strength when I offered an idea at a meeting without hesitation. It was a very simple idea but when I suggested it everyone was happy I did. The idea turned concrete. The idea was turned into a plan and the plan was carried out. If I hadn't said my idea, then there might have been any new plan. The idea was for my interpersonal communications class where we needed to do a community service project. Instead of doing something that tends to be done a lot, I came up with a different idea. The idea was to write a letter to anyone. The letter writing happened the day before Valentine's day and then on Valentine's day, there was a letter for everyone to feel special.

### 3.3 Resourcefulness: Developed

I'm not afraid to ask people for something. If I need information, I dig around and figure out where I can get it. Being on a Fidelis staff makes the staff have to be resourceful. Trying to pictures can be a very difficult task. I need to know who to ask. If the person I ask doesn't know then I ask if they know. If they don't then I have to keep asking. This concept goes with anything I do. If I don't get an assignment, I ask around to see if anyone can help me or guide me.

## **Critical**

#### 4.1 Reflectiveness: Developing

I tend to only look at the short-term. I think of how is this going to affect me or others now. I tutored a 6th grader for almost a full school year. Right away I was getting a little frustrated at why she wasn't retaining any of the math we were learning. She couldn't get the basics down that needed to be learned in order to continue. I didn't know little changes right away. After a little while, I picked up on those little differences. I noticed that she loved it when I noticed. When I pointed out that she was getting better, she would get excited. By the end of the year, she had finally gotten the content down. If I would have noticed her improvements right away, I might have been able to help her get better and faster.

#### 4.2 Initiative: Developing

I only take initiative when I am interested in the subject. If I don't have interest but I have to find answers, I'm very reluctant to search for those answers. If I have to write two papers, one about political science and the other about abortion. I would much rather choose the more controversial topic because I'm passionate about it and have interest in it.

When it comes to seeking out answers to help other people, I don't think twice about it. Being a Resident Assistant provided me with a situation that lead me to talking with a resident about family issues. I knew I didn't have the skills or knowledge to help her so I immediately pointed her to counseling. I even emailed the counselor to make sure things were being set up. I wasn't afraid to tell her I didn't know how to help but I did listen which was all she really needed at the time.

### 4.3 Open-mindedness: Developed

I have my own set of beliefs and values but I always listen to others beliefs and values. Of course I think mine are correct but I can still give them the right to state theirs. I remember when I went to a church that allowed open communion. I grew up in a church that practiced closed. At first I rejected even the thought of open communion only because it was foreign to me. Once I let the idea soak into my thoughts and I did my research I came to the conclusion that I agree with open communion as long as the communicants know that church's beliefs. Before this event, I did not have a very open mind. Now, I take in all other views and then decide whether I agree with them or not. I can't reject it before I know anything about it.

## **Professional Disposition**

### 5.1 Professionalism: Highly Developed

I feel as if I've always been able to have a good balance between professional and casual. I can dress how a teacher needs to dress and act like a teacher should act without overdoing it. Yes, I occasionally like to wear heels and dresses but I can still follow through without going over the top. I'm also a person who hates to be late, even when the time is casual. I remember volunteering for the Speechless Film Festival. We were supposed to be there an hour before the show started. My ride made me ten minutes late. The people hosting it did not care at all that we were late, but it bothered me. If I'm told to be somewhere at a certain time then I want to be there even before that time.

### 5.3 Work Ethic/Responsibility: Highly Developed

If I'm going to work in a school then I intend to be there when I'm supposed to be there. I also predict that I will be there a lot even when I am not scheduled to be there. Teachers are always putting in so much time and I'm more than willing to put in that time. I remember when I worked at a Craft Store and almost once a week, someone would want to come in right as we closed. All the other employees would not let them in but I always did. Sometimes the customer was there for 20 minutes. I never minded staying late. My thought was, if this person wants to buy from our locally owned store, then of course I'm going to let them in. In my classroom, my responsibility will be my students. I will do whatever I have to in order to help them be as successful as possible.

### 5.4 Confidentiality: Highly Developed

As a Residential Assistant, I have been trained to keep all information confidential unless someone is in danger. I have no problem keeping my mouth shut. I know if the role were reversed, I would want information about me kept quiet. Anderson Hall had a medical emergency one night and the Resident Manager reminded us to not tell anyone about it. I of course already knew this and was happy to keep this to myself no matter how tempting it might be to talk to someone about it.

### Conclusion

As a future educator, I am going to be continuously learning and developing. I believe that I will be an advanced teacher when I get all of the points addressed in this

paper to highly developed. I am going to always be trying to better myself to be the teacher and person I need to be.