PROFILE

Who am I?

My name is Suzanne Perkins but I prefer to be called Suzy. I am 29 years old and I live in Pontarddulais, Swansea with my husband and two children. My favourite colour is blue and I enjoy swimming and making and decorating cakes for my family and friends. I am a Welsh learner and eager to get to grips with the language this year as it is my husband's first language and my children attend a Welsh school.

What was my degree and job?

Despite always having a keen interest in teaching, I decided to complete a degree in Marketing as business was the other area which interested me. After achieving a first in my Marketing degree, I became the Senior Marketing Executive at the LC Swansea with a target audience of children and families. Making things appealing to children and having their outlook at the forefront of my mind was the most enjoyable aspect of my role. Although I welcomed the challenge of presenting business plans, delegating and managing a large budget, I quickly realised that boosting company profits wasn't that fulfilling. Striving to make a difference in children's lives was where my heart truly lay and teaching was the profession that I wanted to build a career around.

What did I learn from it?

Dealing with suppliers, the media, difficult customers and team members has taught me that a range of approaches are required to reach the best solution. Encountering such issues, has given me valuable skills that will help in managing similar situations that may arise when teaching. Given my business background I am keen to encourage enterprising endeavours, promote problem solving skills and seek to apply creative and critical thinking in the classroom. I believe creativity is inclusive and can bring dreams and ambitions to life. During my time at the LC Swansea, my creative dream was to bring their mascot Tommy the Turtle to life in all the promotional material… my dream came true!

Life after the LC

During my 5 year career break to raise my two children, I have been actively involved in the local church, leading the mother and toddler group, teaching in children's clubs, organising and promoting various community events. These activities have reinforced how much I enjoy watching children develop but also presented me with an insight into the difficult backgrounds of some children. I believe I am a compassionate, understanding person with a desire to alleviate the impact of adverse childhood experiences. Having my own children, I understand how much fun they experience when taking part in a variety of activities. I am keen to participate in a range of school activities whether it be sports, cooking or art and crafts whilst completing my PGCE and beyond.

What is my school experience?

As my mum is an ALN teacher I have had many opportunities over the years to volunteer in her classroom. Most recently I have been volunteering in the year 5/6 class in Ysgol yr Hendy. I have observed a range of lessons and supported pupils in a variety of ways, demonstrating my ability to use my initiative and assisting those in need. Seeing the range of abilities in the class has been interesting and deepened my enthusiasm for helping children with additional learning needs. Staff noted that I demonstrated a kind and nurturing attitude towards the children, whilst encouraging them to use the skills that I have witnessed being taught to them. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and am looking forward to learning and observing different teaching strategies and styles in the year ahead.