



Autobiography

For 10 years, I had a rewarding career in the dental field employed as an Expanded Function Dental Assistant and earned numerous certifications and professional advancements. However, when my father was a patient in my dental chair, I discovered a questionable area, which was stage 3, head and neck cancer. After the long battle my family went through together, we learned that life is too short to settle for “good enough” and in my heart I knew something was missing. I realized the profession I succeeded at was work and only work. As a result, I began the most rewarding journey pursuing my goal and becoming an early childhood educator, a mentor, and a voice for children; so I can provide students the opportunity to move mountains and achieve his or her full potential.

In order to become an influential educator who seeks to foster academic and personal growth for all students, I actively sought professional development opportunities in and outside of the classroom. For instance, I am currently enrolled at the University of Pittsburgh earning my K-12 Reading Specialist Certificate of Advanced Study, and will complete a Reading Specialist Internship with Greensburg Salem School District at Nicely Elementary in August 2015. I believe that partnerships within the school and community are essential for a successful classroom. Therefore, I have cultivated relationships and have worked closely with school colleagues, various school districts and agencies in the larger community, such as Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Special Olympics of Pennsylvania, the Westmoreland County Food Bank, and Idlewild Park. I am a member of the National Education Association and in 2012 and 2013, I was elected to serve as a student delegate at the National Education Association’s Annual Representative Assembly. I am a member of the International Reading Association, Student Pennsylvania State Education Association, and the International Honor Society and Professional Association in Education- Pi Lambda Theta.

Through this incredible journey, I have discovered my passion and what makes my heart smile. These unforgettable experiences have taught me, “If you do not love what you are doing, then it is work; do what you love and you will never work a day. I am proud and honored to say my name is Corey Funk, and I am an early childhood educator.

*“The more you read, the more things you will know.
The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”*
-Dr. Seuss, *Oh, The Places You’ll Go!*

