

Gretchen Schmidt Mertes, M. Ed.

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Experience

Academy Schools, Tukwila, WA

2018-Present

Special Education Teacher and Social Emotional Learning Specialist

Responsibilities include managing and writing IEPs, and developing and implementing school wide social emotional learning for grades PK-12.

Social Thinking Speakers and Trainers Collaborative

2011-Present

Speaking engagements throughout the US and Canada on the Social Thinking Methodology as well as working closely with schools, clients, and families.

Private Practice – Educational Consulting in Autism and Social Communication

2000-Present

- Consulting on individual students and/or staff development within multiple districts, providing assessment, programming support and training. Districts have included: Clover Park, Eatonville, Fife, Franklin Pierce, Lake Washington, Orting, Olympia, Pullman, Puyallup, Renton, Seattle, Sumner, Tacoma, University Place, Washington Virtual Academy and White River.
- One on one instruction with students in Social Emotional Learning and Executive Functioning.

Bethel School District, Spanaway, WA

1993-2018

2004-2018, Educational Specialist, Autism

Responsibilities included developing and supporting 9 programs, supporting and mentoring teachers, IEP compliance training and checks, student observation and assessment, staff development, Safety Net IEP development and review, facilitating and supporting parent meetings including Functional Behavior Assessments and Behavior Intervention plans, and working closely with families and teachers

1999-2004, Elementary Resource Room/Special Education Teacher

1993-1998, 5th Grade Teacher, General Education

Other Experience

Autism Outreach Project, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

2000-2015, Regional Autism Facilitator/Trainer for Washington State

Professional Development in Autism Intensive, Kansas Center for Autism, Kansas University

2005

Professional Internship, University of Washington Autism Center

2000-2001

Education

City University, Seattle, WA

Masters of Education in Special Education, 4.0 GPA, Summa cum laude

Concordia College, Portland, OR

Bachelor of Arts Degree, 3.5 GPA, Cum laude, Leadership Award

Other Educational Experience

Up With People

1992-1993

Traveled with 125 international young adults visiting over 40 communities in 9 countries. City visits included volunteer projects, educational workshops, internship opportunities, staying with local host families, and musical performances. As a cast member I developed and practiced leadership, communication, intercultural and global citizenship skills.

Volunteer Work and Community Involvement

First Christian Church of Puyallup

2013-Present, Faith Formation Chair, Church Council, Elder and Communication and Green Teams

Metropolitan Ballet of Tacoma

1993-2007 Member of the Company

2007-Present, Mentor for current company members and school division dancers

Autism Society of Washington

2001-2004 Board Member