

Lauren Harrington Abel

By Mail: PO Box 924707, Houston, Texas 77292

By Phone: 281-715-2888

By Email: lauren@getinsnc.com

Personal Profile

I have always known I wanted to work with children. I grew up volunteering my time at church and in other local program and camps for children. When I was fourteen years old, I was introduced by a friend to a local organization working with children with ASD, who were looking for young people to train as in-home support to families. Upon completion of their training program, I began working for a family, providing support to twins with ASD. This relationship began while I was in high school and lasted until 2005, during which time I graduated from high school and went on to graduate with highest honors from the University of Houston. While in college, I conducted research for a local organization specializing in Applied Behavior Analysis, as well as worked as a research assistant at the Victims Resource Institute. After graduation I founded The Institute for Special Needs Children and began working with families and children as an independent in-home therapist. I developed the IDEA Learning System, an integrated developmental approach to teaching with special needs children. In late 2005, I founded The Next Step Academy, a therapeutic school for children with ASD and other developmental delays. In 2010, I became the president of the board of A Future for All, a 501c3 non-profit organization that works to provide best practices, training and resources to the special needs community. I am a licensed instructor in Brain Gym and Rhythmic Movement Training (RMTi). My passion is to find new and innovative ways to unlock the potential that lives in every human being. I love children, teaching, training others, and making a difference in my community. I am a mother to three, and I enjoy spending time playing, laughing and learning with my family.

Career Objective/ Summary

Professionally, I desire my efforts to produce tangible differences in the lives of special needs children, their parents, my staff and others in the special needs community. I believe in appropriate education for all children. I am an advocate for children to receive the care and treatment they require, in order to make developmental gains and improve their quality of life. I desire for all educators, therapists and parents to be exposed to the IDEA Learning System, so that they may utilize the system for the benefit of their students, clients and children.

Work Experience

2010 - Present

President of the Board of Directors

A Future for All, Inc

- Participate in board meetings
- Budgets and fundraising projections
- Oversee daily operations and activities

December 2005 - Present

Founder/Director

The Next Step Academy

- Responsible for all elements of business operations
- Develop individualized therapeutic programs for clients
- Train staff members and leaders in the organization
- Participate in weekly treatment meetings
- Develop systems to better meet the needs of clients & staff
- Develop training programs for staff, parents & community
- Fundraising

October 2005 - Present

Founder/Director

The Institute for Special Needs Children

- Responsible for all elements of business operations
- Develop IDEA Learning System
- Provide trainings in various modalities and on a variety of topics to the special needs community

January 2005 - October 2005

Senior Therapist

Texas Young Autism Project

- Provide Applied Behavior Analysis therapy to clients in 1:1 setting
- Develop, implement, update and report on programming
- Train others to work on client cases
- Assessment and Re-Assessment of client needs and progress
- Create lesson plans, develop curriculum for individual clients
- Participate in treatment meetings on a bi-weekly basis
- Conduct parent coaching and community sessions

August 2002 - May 2005

Research Assistant

Victims Resource Institute

- Conduct intake sessions with clients, including play therapy and assessments
- Maintain accurate and complete records
- Conduct quality assurance on records
- Participate in conducting and documenting research studies
- Train new research assistants

January 2000 - January 2005

Education

2013

Completed requirements for Licensure as a Brain Gym Instructor

2010

Completed requirements for Licensure as a Rhythmic Movement Training International Instructor

2009

Taught first two IDEA Learning system workshops

May 2005

Bachelor's of Science, Sum Cum Laude

University of Houston

Earned degree in Psychology, with an Undergraduate Honors Thesis entitled, "The Relationship Between Self-Stimulatory Behavior, Adaptive Behavior, and Intelligence in Children with Autism".

Achievements

Achievements:

- President of the Board of a Future for All
- Founder of The Next Step Academy
- Developer of the IDEA Learning System
- Founder of The Institute for Special Needs Children
- Volunteer in the Children's Ministry at Houston's First Baptist Church
- Presented honors thesis at the Applied Behavior Analysis Conference in 2004.