Sullivan University's Early Childhood Education graduates enjoy careers that impact the lives of children everyday. Graduates enjoy positions as Professional Certified Nannies, Early Childhood teachers and professionals in child development centers, directors or owners of a child development facility. Here’s a look at what three graduates say matters most to them in their careers.

**ANGELA BAILEY '06**

“My name is Angela Bailey and I am a graduate of Sullivan University. In 2006, I received my Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education. I’m proud to say that I work for Bright Horizons at The Plainview School as a preschool teacher. I have been at Plainview for seven years and have taught preschool for three years. My favorite thing about teaching preschool is watching the children’s faces light up when they do something new. I truly enjoy helping the children reach different milestones while they are in my class.”

**HOPE RYAN EMMER '08**

“My name is Hope Ryan Emery. I graduated from Sullivan in the spring of 2008 with an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education. I currently work at The Gardner School as an assistant in the Pre-Kindergarten room. I was offered the job while I was still in school doing my externship for Sullivan. Something I learned at Sullivan that I use everyday at work is ratio numbers and age appropriate information. For example, working with the Pre K children I know what they should be able to do according to the standards. My biggest advice I have for someone who is currently going to Sullivan for Early Childhood Education is to take school seriously. Don’t let your work pile up. As a result of procrastinating, you will find yourself staying up all night trying to get your work assignments done. Most of the work will be fun if you allow plenty of time to complete it. Another thing that would be very helpful is to work in a childcare facility while you are going to school; some of the things you will talk about in class will make more sense to you.

“I love working with Pre K; I can see a big difference in each child from the time they enter my room at age four to when they leave my room at age five and go off to Kindergarten. I feel I have a big responsibility to get my children ready for Kindergarten and I love it! With kids you never know what they are going to say or do next and that is why I get up everyday. I enjoy going to work because I know that no two days are going to be the same.”

**MICHELLE PROUDFOOT '97**

“I have been a nanny with the same family for 10 years and have loved every minute of it. Being a nanny has brought fun and excitement to my life that I never expected. I am thankful I decided to go through Sullivan’s Nanny program. The one thing that I have learned from the program is the scheduling process. Children need a structured day and it helps a lot to have that day planned out. Children move from one thing to the next so fast, if you’re not prepared you will lose your positive attention and you will lose their positive attention and you will lose the interest. I’d like to tell a future nanny to be very involved with the parents. You are helping them raise their child, it helps the child if everyone is working well together. It has helped me tremendously to have a very close relationship with the parents. They trust me enough to assume total responsibility of their children; they trust and listen to me.

“I have loved working with children my whole life but the one thing I love most about children is how they love you unconditionally; that you come to work prepared to play every day to show and teach them new things. They don’t care what it is, they just want you to love them and explore with them. The simplest things make the biggest impression on them. A nanny is a huge influence because they are with that person every day. They will love you so much and it will be so unexpected that it will surprise you in the best way.”

Sullivan’s Global E-learning grows to meet students’ needs

You are probably aware that Sullivan has campuses to serve students who live in the Louisville, Lexington and Ft. Knox areas. But Sullivan also has students in the rest of the United States including students deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as those working worldwide. Sullivan Global E-Learning provides services to students who take fully online classes and who may never set foot on a Sullivan campus. “Students elect to take online courses for a number of reasons,” said Dr. Anthony Pila, Dean of Online Studies.

*Stay-at-home parents, those with health issues and professionals whose work schedules conflict with regular day and evening classes can benefit from online courses.*

Some wonder whether students can learn as well online as they can from on-campus lectures. According to Dr. Pila, decades of studies comparing face-to-face courses with technology-delivered instruction indicate that students can learn just as well, regardless of how the instruction is delivered. More than 1,000 Sullivan students take online courses exclusively and are pursuing one of Sullivan’s 20 online degree and certificate programs. Many other current on-campus students are taking online courses in addition to their day or evening courses or are taking “blended” (formerly called web-assisted) courses that combine face-to-face class sessions with online sessions.

**Dr. Anthony Pila, Dean of Online Studies**

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**ECE students learn Olympics aren’t just for athletes!**

Students in Sullivan’s Early Childhood Education’s (ECE) program Infant Care class demonstrated their expertise by participating in the 2009 Infant Care Baby Olympics. The Baby Olympics challenges each “athlete” to complete five tasks needed to care for infants: swaddling, feeding, diapering, bathing and dressing. Each participant demonstrated his/her abilities and was judged by other students and the instructor. Medals were awarded for excellent achievement! After the Baby Olympics, students were challenged to learn some basic baby sign language words. Baby sign is used with babies and toddlers beginning at about six months of age. Unlike the non-verbal child communicate without words. Many of the ECE staff members are familiar with baby sign language, but some are different, more abbreviated versions. This helps children become self-confident and eases frustration.

Children often comprehend language before they can actually articulate the words, so baby sign offers a way to communicate. At about six months of age to help the non-verbal child communicate without words. Many of the signs are similar to adult sign language, but some are different, more abbreviated versions. This helps children become self-confident and eases frustration.

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While signing the word “milk,” one student had the QZ turned off and then the QZ turned back on. A student signed “eat” and then signed “milk” to show that the Quiet Zone is off. Sullivan’s Nanny program is open to anyone wanting to become a child care provider. They must be at least 18 years of age, complete a background check, and then sign and continue to practice in the safety of the classroom before actually using the skills with infants/toddlers in the field. Students were assigned several words and encouraged to teach classmates how to sign; about 50 words were learned! Both students learned the word “cuddles” and the sign is to curl your fingers into a circle and move your hand along with the word “cuddles.” Children often comprehend language before they can actually articulate the words, so baby sign offers a way to communicate.

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