

Linda L. Buchanan

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PROFILE

Professional Advocate for Individuals with Disabilities; Disabilities Consultant and/or Educational Consultant; Community Services Coordinator; and Licensed Special Education Teacher [Learning Disabilities-emphasis].

EXPERIENCE

Disabilities Consultant, Educational Consultants; Nashville, TN – 1984 - Present

Private Practice. Diagnostics, therapy, access to government services. Counseling with Parents regarding students' best learning modality, time management. Analyzed students school history and any private diagnostic testing that was pertinent to the students' school year. Testimony [Expert Witness] in over 20 school placements, residential rehabilitation facilities, or child custody cases. Participated in school meetings to explain child's learning disability and to provide prescriptive strategies to facilitate his participating in the regular curriculum as much as possible.

Liaison/Consultant, Statewide Independent Living Council of Tennessee; Nashville, TN – July 2001 - August 2001

Liaison/Consultant with regional independent living agencies toward providing strategies for discrimination of independent living legislation. Innovative accommodations for their clients. Design, coordinate and schedule seminars for contact personnel in the regional offices. Design and publish a monthly newsletter. Establish contact personnel in the colleges and universities throughout the state so that the state office could distribute useful information and services to the college students with disabilities.

Education Services Specialist, Memorial Hospital; Nashville, TN – August 1983 - October 1984

Provided educational services as described in the first paragraph.

Program Director, McDougal Center; Tupelo, MS – August 1977 - May 1980

Sixteen school district special education school for children with low-incidence disabling conditions and between the ages of two and eleven years of age. Handicapping conditions included autism, mild-moderate behavior problems, language learning disorders, to name a few. This program taught children on a one to one basis, and in a small classroom environment. I supervised a staff which typically consisted of 50 professionals and teaching assistants. The McDougal Center included a residential program Monday through Friday; students attending this program required short-term intensive, consistent and comprehensive programming, i.e. potty training, challenging interfering behaviors. We employed a full-time parent trainer who was available to parents and teachers in order to thoroughly coordinate the school program and the child's home life. The ultimate goal for every child was to be integrated into a public school program in his district. The teachers and therapists provided written education and behavior plans to the parents and the school districts. The program director was responsible for recruiting and training volunteers; coordinating and planning for parent association meetings and projects, and conducting public relations services in the 16 school districts participating in the McDougal Center.

Special Education Teacher, Lee County Schools; Tupelo, MS – August 1976 – May 1977

Special Education Resource classroom~K-6th grades.

County Wide Special Education Consultant, Sumner County School District; Tennessee – August 1974 – May 1976

Supervised special education teachers and aides. Planned and conducted countywide special education in-service training. Established a countywide special education resource center.

First Grade Teacher, Hardeman County School District; Tennessee – August 1973 – May 1974

Special Education Teacher, Sumner County School District; Tennessee – August 1970 – May 1973

Self-contained classroom.

First Grade Teacher, Sumner County School District; Tennessee – August 1969 – May 1970

EDUCATION

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN – M.ED. Special Education, 1980 – 1983

David Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN – B.S. Social Work, 1965 – 1969

SKILLS

Knowledge and familiarity with disability rights and laws and the philosophy upon which those laws are based.

Extensive experience in advocating for individuals with disabilities.

Extensive public speaking experience including testifying in numerous legal proceedings on behalf of individuals with disabilities.

Excellent research and writing skills.

Extensive experience in working as part of a professional team on behalf of individuals with disabilities and their families.

Ability to collaborate effectively with other professionals and groups.

Experience and knowledge of funding and administrative record-keeping requirements and reports.

Extensive experience and ability to represent an agency to the general public in a favorable way.

Basic computer knowledge.

REFERENCES

Upon Request