
Nicole Natale, M.S., CCC-SLP, A.T.P.

Senior Education Specialist

Professional Experience

Senior Education Specialist, CREC Resource Group, July 2018 – present | CREC | Hartford, CT

- Complete teacher evaluation for education specialist staff within the CREC Resource Group
- Coordinate with senior leadership to determine team-focused goals and assist team members in achieving them
- Work with team members to establish their professional goals and collaborate with leadership and team members to provide support as necessary
- Participate in all responsibilities of education specialist as well (see below)
- Coordinate special education reviews and audits for school districts

Interim Coordinator of Special Services Support Team (SSST), July 2017 – June 2018 | CREC

- Participated in the development of strategic planning and direction- setting for SSST and the Technical Assistance and Brokering Services (TABS) group of CREC
- Supervised, managed, and evaluated the SSST staff
- Developed new services and products based on customer need
- Coordinated workflow within SSST to ensure that all staff are maximized
- Monitored SSST budgets
- Worked with marketing representatives to develop and disseminate marketing materials
- Interacted with current and potential clients to identify needs and respond to them
- Recommended and implemented improved procedures and strategies for SSST to grow and remain entrepreneurial.
- Prepared and organized submission of proposals to districts (grants, proposals, and RFPs)
- Connected with state and national professional organizations to create partnerships locally, nationally and internationally
- Presented at workshops, developed products and model and train staff in both
- Maintained a cadre of temporary and independent consultants who support the work of SSST

Education Specialist for SSST, 2007 to July 2018 | CREC | Hartford, CT

- Collaborate with LEAs to provide high-quality services in the area of assistive technology (AT) as well as special education programming for students with disabilities.
- Developed and coordinate a successful AT consortium for LEAs and various other educational agencies to building capacity within school districts in AT and special education supports for students with disabilities.
- Complete special education reviews and audits for school districts resulting in a written report with recommendations and action plans
- Created an AT team that meets regularly and functions as a professional learning community (PLC).
- Partner with the State Technology Act program to garner funding for AT Consortium and materials.
- Complete AT assessments for student with dyslexia, dysgraphia, specific learning disability and/or those students require access to the educational curriculum and augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) assessments for students necessitating communication support.
- Co-authored an AT Guide for Students with Autism.
- Give local and national presentations regarding assistive technology.
- Provide AT intervention services, training and technical assistance to school districts with focus on building capacity at the district level.
- Develop and implement educational programs, professional development workshops, trainings and technical assistance regarding AT and for students with disabilities in general.
- Assess student educational programs to determine appropriate speech and language and special education supports that provide educational benefit.

Speech-Language Pathologist, 2004 to 2007 | Passaic County Elks High School, Clifton, NJ|

- Provided school-based speech-language pathology intervention and assessment services to students with multiple disabilities including autism and cerebral palsy.
- Specialized in providing AAC and AT services and supports for students who do not rely on speech to communicate.
- Supported students with dysphagia and feeding issues.
- Trained and collaborated with staff regarding student communication and goals

Previous experience includes AAC Specialist for NJ's Department of Human Services (2002 - 2004) and SLP for Sunny Days, Inc., Early Intervention from (2004 to 2007)

Education & Training

Pennsylvania State University, 2000 - 2002 | M.S. in Communication Sciences and Disorders

- Participated in federally funded pre-professional training grant for specialty in AAC.
- Completed additional AAC courses, seminars, research, technical labs and clinical experiences (outside of typical SLP curriculum) to develop specialized competencies in order to improve services and outcomes for individuals who use AAC in the educational setting.

University of Connecticut, 1996 - 2000 | B.A. in Communication Sciences and Disorders

- Minor in Psychology

Sacred Heart University, 2016 - 2017 | 092 Certification in Educational Leadership

- Pending program completion end of June, 2017

Certifications

- American Speech-Language and Hearing Association Certificate
- Department of Education, State of Connecticut, Provisional Educator Certificate – 061 (Speech-Language Pathologist)
- State of Connecticut Speech-Language Pathology License
- Assistive Technology Professional (A.T.P.) Certification from the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America
- 092 Candidate July 2017

Publications

- Cormier, C. & Natale, N. "Assistive Technology Guide to Maximize Learning for Students with Autism" (2013).
- *State of Connecticut, Department of Education's Assistive Technology Guidelines* (2013). Writing Group Member.
- *The Compass – Helping Paraprofessionals Navigate the Profession: Basic Modules Workbook* (2013). Contributing Author.
- *The Blueprint: Building Powerful IEPs to Increase Student Achievement: Workbook* (2013). Contributor.
- *Special Education Program Evaluation Manual* (2013). Co-author.
- Hustad, K., Auker, J., Natale, N. & Prusak, P. (2004). "Improving Intelligibility for Speakers with Profound Dysarthria and Cerebral Palsy." *Journal of Augmentative and Alternative Communication*.
