



From a young age, I've always felt a deep pull toward helping others, knowing that I wanted to build a career centered around making a meaningful difference in people's lives. While completing my DEC in Special Care Counseling, I had the opportunity to work with a diverse range of individuals, but it was my experience with children on the autism spectrum that truly transformed my path. What began as a placement quickly became a passion...and ultimately, my calling.

Working in this field is both challenging and incredibly rewarding. No two days are ever the same, and each moment brings new opportunities to connect, adapt, and grow. Being part of a child's progress, whether it's hearing their first word, witnessing a breakthrough, or seeing them gain confidence in a new skill, is something I carry with me every day. These milestones, big or small, are what make this work so deeply fulfilling.

I approach my role with patience, empathy, and a genuine love for what I do. I value building trust and creating a safe, supportive environment where each child feels understood and accepted. At the same time, I've come to realize that the learning goes both ways...just as I guide them, they continuously teach me about resilience, perspective, and the many ways communication and connection can exist beyond words.

Above all, this journey has shown me that true connection doesn't always require language. Compassion, presence, and understanding often speak louder...and that love, in its purest form, needs no words.

— Ariana Berardi