Spotlight on our SLPs!

DIONNE DIAS

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST

Dionne is a first-year SLP working in Old Mill, IL!

What do you like to do in your spare time?

"I am new to Chicago so I love to explore the city! Brunch, parks, museums. I *love* to roam museums and bookstores in my spare time."

Why did you choose a school setting vs. clinical?

"I believe that the populations in the schools need my help the most. They're often the kids that can't afford therapy anywhere else. I am driven by that need."

What are the biggest benefits of SSG as your employer?

"Having funds to further my professional development has been incredible. This summer I will have the opportunity to get trained on one of my favorite Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) platforms -- Words for Life by PRC. I am so excited to get this certification and it was completely covered by my professional development funds."

How do you stay up-to-date on best practices?

"I stay in close contact with my graduation cohort and with my mentors. They keep me updated and alert me to the most competitive CEUs."
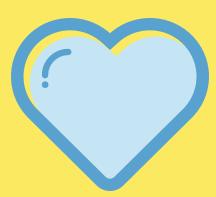
What motivates you to work hard?

"The parents of the kids I work with. I love when they email me just to tell me even the tiniest way I was able to make a difference at home. Making any kind of difference in the family of a special needs child is an incredible feeling that I will always chase."

What are you most passionate about professionally?

"I am most interested in developmental disorders, specifically in the moderate to severe range. My passion lies in helping kids and without an organic output of language (verbal speech or visual language) communicate through AAC devices."

WORDS OF WISDOM

"Never be the smartest person in the room."

Favorite tools to use in therapy

"My favorite tool is the Pixon Project Core Board -- it's magical for kids who struggle with expressive language. My favorite toy is bubbles because they are THRILLING for kids and you can target so many different goals using them."

Follow for more spotlights!