SAC Credential Spotlight and QSA Tool!

April 2019

Spotlight
SAC Credential Candidate Jill Furbeck of TSL Adventures

We spoke to Jill Furbeck about her work in afterschool. Jill began working at TSL Adventures in November 2016. She expanded her work in afterschool when she decided to work towards the NYS School-Age Care Credential in September 2018.

Jill informed us that her love for working with children first began when her neighbor gave birth nine years ago. She told us, “I have been close with these children since the day they were born. I realized how much I truly enjoyed the time I spent with these kids, playing with them, teaching them various things, and watching them grow up.” Because of that experience, Jill decided to pursue a career working with children.

Jill is currently an afterschool teacher at TSL Adventure in Niskayuna, NY so she is able to apply what she has learned in her SAC class to her workday with the children. Jill says, “It’s great to have met others currently working in this field to exchange ideas and share experiences with.”

Jill feels that there are so many benefits to the afterschool and summer program at TSL. She added, “For the children, they are able to enjoy an afterschool program with their school friends as well as meet other kids their age who attend different schools in their community. They get a chance to unwind, have fun, get homework support, and learn new things in our program. The kids that come to our program really like the sense of community we have in our program.” Jill urged that there are benefits for the parents as well. For example, Jill told us how there is school bus transportation directly from local schools to their site. “The kids really like coming to the program, and parents can truly rest assured their kids are safe, happy, and in a good environment while in our program!”
Jill added that her favorite part of her job is all the hugs she gets from the kids, and that she enjoys being called Ms. Jill!

Self-Assessment for Quality Improvement

The Quality Self-Assessment (QSA) Tool is designed to be a self-assessment, allowing users to participate in the quality improvement process in a low-stakes way. Stakeholders, such as program leaders, front-line staff, participants, parents, school staff, and more, can observe and rate the program without fear of negative repercussions from funders or other external sources as the responses are only shared with the other stakeholders in the process. This also encourages all users to fill out the self-assessment as honestly as possible. It is imperative to figure out where the program is starting so that the improvements made are targeted, efficient, and effective.

If you are just embarking on this process, don’t worry if your program rates at a 1 or a 2 in areas. While programs should eventually strive for a level 3 or higher, the important thing is to identify areas in need of improvement and create and follow a plan to make those improvements. And, don’t forget to celebrate the areas that area already ranking a 3 or a 4! This process also helps build consensus, communication, and buy in through focus group discussions to incorporate feedback from all stakeholders.

Learn more about self-assessment and how to create continuous quality improvement here.

New York’s ONLY Statewide Afterschool and Summer Learning Conference!

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*Other Ways to Register
To register via check or eip, email erin@networkforyouthsuccess.org.

Interested in advancing in the school-age field? Need the qualifications to become a Site Director?
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Upcoming Events

4/13: Long Island School Age Child Care Conference, Melville, NY
This professional development opportunity includes a selection of diverse presenters who will share their expertise of tools and strategies to establish and support social and emotional development in school age children. Keynote speaker Justin Shaifer, kicks off the day with a dive into the 'culturally responsive STEM curriculum.' The conference will be open to 150 registered child care providers who will receive 6 hours of OCFS training for attending. Click here for more information and how to register.

5/9: Community Schools and Multi-Tiered Systems, Newark, NY
Join the growing number of community and school professionals working together to integrate Multi-Tiered Systems of Support with Community Schools. Dr. Jason Andrews, NYS Superintendent of the Year, Lukas Weinstein from the National Center for Community Schools, and representatives from the Wayne County Partnerships for Strengthening Families and Midwest PBIS will explore ways to align and integrate existing programs and services with a community schools strategy. For more information and how to register, click here.

5/10-5/11: Network for Youth Success Annual Conference, Saratoga Springs, NY
Back by popular demand for one more year in Saratoga Springs! The New York State Network for Youth Success is holding its Annual Conference May 10 & 11! Come attend New York's only statewide conference for Afterschool, Summer, and Expanded Learning Professionals. This conference brings together over 200 professionals to participate in two full days of workshops on topics ranging from SEL to Leadership. Follow this link to register today!

5/20: Making Service Part of Your Afterschool Program Culture Webinar
This webinar will be approximately 30 minutes long and will feature at least one of the 96 tools from the Beyond the Bell Toolkit. The featured tool will be available for free download from the Beyond the