

Isabel Taswell

301-830-1818 · itaswell@bankstreet.edu · isabeltaswellmsed.com

ABOUT ME

Highly engaged, effective professional elementary school teacher with experience in private and public settings. Focus on children's social-emotional development and literacy. Committed to decolonizing education and fostering an antibias, antiracist classroom. Knowledgeable in play-based learning, creating curricula and connecting children with the natural environment. Also experienced in running a licensed cottage foods business and writing successful grants to local and national governments, such as for the Rwanda Education Assistance Project and City Growers.

EDUCATION

Bank Street Graduate School of Education	New York, NY
MSEd, Early Childhood and Childhood General Education	Expected May 2021
Barnard College, Columbia University	New York, NY
BA, English-Psychology, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Aug. 2017-May 2019
Hamilton College	Clinton, NY
Creative Writing	Aug. 2015-May 2017

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Bank Street School for Children	New York, NY
<i>Associate Teacher</i>	Sept. 2020-June 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teach 3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds online (due to COVID-19 pandemic), focusing on their social-emotional learning and development• Develop emergent social justice curriculum based on current sociopolitical contexts and events• Create lesson plans and curricula to support early literacy, math, and students' emerging interests• Support students and families in transition to remote learning and early school experiences	
Rwanda Education Assistance Project	New York, NY and Musha, Rwanda
<i>Education Specialist</i>	May 2018-present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worked with educators to develop and implement a model Early Childhood Development and Education center in Musha as an Awardee of the Mandela Washington Reciprocal Exchange Fellowship• Led workshops for early childhood educators on play-based learning, observation and recording, and social emotional development• Co-wrote proposal for and received the Citizen Diplomacy Action Fund Rapid Relief grant, which funded: producing/printing a calendar promoting health messages created by Musha residents for the community about the COVID-19 pandemic, 1 new handwashing station, PPE, 2 safety protocol trainings, and 3 COVID-safe events for the community	
P.S. 165 Robert E. Simon	New York, NY
<i>Literacy Tutor</i>	Sept. 2019-June 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worked with kindergarteners individually and in small groups to increase phonemic awareness and literacy using the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project (84% of children advanced more than 2 reading levels)• Participated in weekly professional development meetings with literacy tutors and specialists at Bank Street	

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Bank Street Graduate School of Education

New York, NY

Student Teacher

Sept. 2019-Mar. 2020

- Worked with classroom teachers at 3 separate schools over a 6-month period to create curricula based on students' identities and interests
- Fostered positive relationships with students through 1-on-1, small-group, and full-class activities
 - **Bank Street School for Children:** Taught 4- and 5-year-olds early literacy and social skills with a focus on social-emotional development
 - **P.S. 89 Liberty School:** Created and adapted lesson plans in math, reading, and social studies to address 3rd grade students' academic needs
 - **Manhattan Country School:** Created and taught lesson plans to 5th grade students in math, writing, literacy, and social studies

Barnard Toddler Center

New York, NY

Assistant Teacher

Sept. 2018-May 2019

- Supervised art activities, dramatic play, and large motor play
- Supported social skills, conflict mediation, and basic problem-solving development
- Participated in weekly seminars to explore language, sense of self, and early social-emotional development

CERTIFICATIONS

New York State

Expected May 2021

Birth – Grade 2; Grades 1 – 6

Rhode Island State

Expected June 2021

PK – Grade 2; Grades 1 – 6

SKILLS

- Languages – French (proficient); Swahili (conversational); Spanish (elementary)

HONORS & AWARDS

- Dean's List (Spring 2016 - Spring 2019)
- Academic Distinctions in Senior Requisite

PUBLICATIONS

- Taswell, I., Cindy, C., Najmaie, P. & Klein, T. (2019, April 29). Changes in Personal Perceptions: The Transformative Experience of Parenthood. Poster Presentation at the Spring Research Festival at Barnard College. New York, NY.
- Taswell, I. (May 2019). The Fantastic and the Uncanny: Nonsense language and self in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Barnard College, Columbia University. New York, NY.

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

- The Language Series at Bank Street (2019): Reading, Writing and Talk: Inclusive Teaching for Diverse Learners
- Educator Event at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (2019): Breaking the Rules
- Plant- Based Learning Projects in Classroom (grades Prek - 4) at Bank Street (2020)
- Infancy Institute at Bank Street (2020): Caring for Families and Ourselves