

MICHAEL ANDERSON

Art Therapist and Special Needs Educator

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Creative Early Childhood Special Needs Educator with a diverse background in art therapy and special education. With over 9 years of experience, I specialize in using artistic expression as a tool for emotional and cognitive development in children with special needs. My approach is centered around creating a safe and encouraging environment where children can explore their creativity while developing essential skills.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Art Therapist and Special Needs Educator | Creative Expressions Academy

Jan 2022 – Present

- Designed art-based programs to support emotional expression and communication.
- Collaborated with parents to develop strategies for home art activities.
- Monitored student progress and adjusted programs based on individual needs.
- Facilitated group art sessions to enhance social skills and cooperation.
- Incorporated art techniques into academic lessons to foster engagement.
- Trained staff on the benefits of art therapy in special education settings.

Special Education Instructor | Imagination Station

Jul 2019 – Dec 2021

- Implemented individualized art projects aligned with IEP goals.
- Engaged students in collaborative art projects to promote teamwork.
- Documented student creativity and growth for assessment purposes.
- Organized art exhibitions to showcase student work to the community.
- Developed resources for families to support art activities at home.
- Participated in community events to raise awareness about special education.

SKILLS

- Art therapy
- emotional expression
- curriculum integration
- parent collaboration
- program development
- assessment

EDUCATION

Master of Arts in Art Therapy from Art Institute University

2015 – 2019

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Increased student engagement in learning by 50% through art-based activities.
- Recognized for innovative teaching methods by the National Art Education Association in 2023.
- Developed a community outreach program that improved awareness of special needs education.

LANGUAGES

- English
- Spanish
- French