

Meet your Teacher: Laura Tooker

I am Laura Tooker, and I have been in the field of Exceptional Student Education since the mid-1990's. I decided to become an Exceptional Student educator as a freshman at Central Michigan University. During college, I volunteered for Special Olympics, was a camp counselor for a Language/Hearing Impaired camp, tutored adjudicated youth and interned taught at a juvenile detention facility.

Upon graduating from CMU with a teaching degree in Special Education, I became an elementary teacher for a self-contained class for students with Emotional/Behavioral Disorders. I taught in that setting for 15 years. During this time, I earned a Masters in Special Education from Grand Valley State University. For a change of pace, I changed teaching assignments and my next teaching endeavor was teaching the GED to inmates at the Van Buren County Jail (Michigan.)

After my husband's job was downsized in Michigan, we decided to throw caution to the wind and move 1500 miles south to Florida. I am so glad I did! After spending a year working respite with a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder, I found my dream job here at the Goodwill L.I.F.E. Academy.

Teaching students with special needs has always been a passion of mine. I believe that everyone is entitled to a quality education and enriching experiences. I love hands-on learning and seeing my students really grasp a concept. Watching the students achieve goals that enhance their understanding brings me great joy. I am happy to be able to attain these accomplishments at the Goodwill L.I.F.E. Academy.