

Talents to Teach

Sarah wanted to be a teacher ever since she was a little girl. Her mom told me that when she was seven or eight years old, she would line up her younger brothers and sisters in a makeshift classroom and begin teaching. Her mother also mentioned, that for a young girl, she was serious in her little classroom. “She made her siblings pay attention and behave.” Her desire to become a teacher finally led to her to college, heading for a degree in elementary education.

I met Sarah in her junior year of college. She told me that she had begun to question her decision to become a teacher. Through a series of conversations I discovered that she’d had a few bad experiences with teachers during some of her internships. She also told me that these experiences began to “dull” her passion for becoming a teacher. I urged her to take the StrengthsFinder assessment so we could unpack what might be happening.

A month later, Sarah contacted me after she had taken the assessment. Her top strengths were Developer, Input, Communication, Responsibility and Learner. As we discussed each of her strengths, she began to light up again. Her five signature themes made it obvious she was on a great course to fit into a place for which she was wired. She has the ability to see the potential in others. Her Communication theme gives her the ability to direct attention and inspire those she would teach. Her Learner theme gives her the interest level she needs to continue to excel in her passion.

Today, Sarah is in her third year of teaching and she loves it. Last year, she received honors from her school for being the most improved teacher of the year. Go Sarah.

Tracy Larson

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