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*Kelly Sorensen, Lead Teacher*

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**Career History:**

This is my 8th year in the special education world and I absolutely love it! I spent 5 years with Gilbert Public Schools as a kindergarten-first grade teacher for students with Autism. It was amazing! I've spent the last year and a half as the Special Education Coordinator for a charter school in Ahwatukee. I received my degrees from Arizona State University where I earned a Bachelor's degree in Family and Child Development and a Master's degree in Special Education.

**Personal Teaching Philosophy:**

"Every child deserves a champion- an adult who will never give up on them."

-Dr. Rita F. Pierson

I strongly believe that loving relationships are the foundation of learning and growth for our students. Students need to feel safe, loved, and valued before any real learning can occur. My goal is to bring joy, humor, a positive attitude, consistency, and warmth to my classroom each day in order to ultimately inspire and encourage the same traits in my students.

**Personal:**

I am a Gilbert girl through and through! I attended Houston Elementary, Gilbert Junior High, and Gilbert High School. I have 2 brothers and 1 sister and we all live in Gilbert. Most of my free time is spent with them and my 5 nieces and nephews! Every once in a while I get bit by the travel bug and plan a big adventure. Most recently I visited England, Ireland, and Scotland!