

## Latisha Studies to Become a Childcare Worker

Latisha finished high school last year and has just enrolled in a post-graduate program at her local technical high school to earn a certificate as a Childcare Provider. Even though she has never worked in childcare before, this certainly isn't her first job. All through high school, she worked at a local diner to help pay the family bills and to earn some spending money. She was actually quite a good waitperson. Latisha shared the following aspects of her personality that help to explain why:

"I know how to work under pressure and keep my cool."

"As a waitperson, I juggled lots of needs at once."

"I thrive on social energy."

"I take initiative and seek input when I need it."

"I find it hard to work in very quiet spaces, so the busy environment of the diner was perfect for me."

On the other hand, Latisha worries a bit about school. She shares, "If someone gives feedback in an abrupt way, I can be sensitive to it." She also realizes that she isn't always that patient with formal instruction if she can't connect to it. She says, "I find it hard to engage in trainings that seem pointless or that don't connect to the tasks at hand."

She also has had experience with kids because she was often left to watch her younger siblings and cousins when her mom and aunt got called into work. They tended to look up to her and listened pretty well. Sometimes they had their friends over so it wasn't just kids that she was related to.

So far, the program seems to be going well. Latisha realizes, however, that it is about much more than the daily interactions with kids and enjoying an energetic environment. She is surprised at all of the procedures and guidelines for running a safe and legal operation. She realizes that she finds it hard to listen during these parts of the training and that she turns off and tunes out. As she considers the disengaged, resistant feeling in her body, she realizes that in her experience kids are pretty resilient and some of the procedures seem overly protective. But she decides that if she doesn't learn this information deeply, she isn't going to be able to run her own center someday and so it is not an option to tune out as the information is presented. Instead, she needs to turn up her focus and find ways to work really hard at learning the information. Being a visual person, she decides to talk to her teacher about making a poster that she could put in the classroom to help remind everyone of the information.

She has been noticing that the head teacher in the program that she is assigned to, Shoba, has a gentle manner and is very encouraging to the children. This inspires a sense of calm because she is pretty sure that Shoba will be patient with her, too. The director of the program, Ronnie, is more challenging for her. Ronnie seems to know a lot about running a center but if an issue with the kids is not handled quickly and well, she can lose her cool with the assistant teachers. Latisha finds Ronnie's presence a bit triggering and realizes that, despite her own social energy, she shrinks back a bit when Ronnie is around.

*→What do you notice about Latisha as far as engaging in the moves of a Fast Fish Learner? What do you notice Latisha doing? What other actions related to being a Fast Fish Learner/Worker might you suggest to Latisha?*