

## Interview

**Name: Lauren Zimmers**

**Job: Intervention Specialist: Moderate to intense**

**How long have you been at this job?:** “I have been at Monroe for 3 years; my first year was with mild children, and my second and third year has been with moderate to intense children.”

**What do you like about this job?:** “I love the kids that I work with and my co-workers. I have a great classroom and the kids are great every year.”

**What is challenging?:** “Having the expectations from the state that we have to meet. With the children’s abilities, it can be challenging. Just all the expectations!”

**How is the job rewarding?:** “Seeing the growth definitely. Even if it is baby steps, any growth is amazing. Seeing a student decrease in bad habits and increase in good habits, is so rewarding.”

**What has changed in the profession in the last 5-10 years?:** “State expectations, just because in the past they wouldn’t have been pushed to take classes, the other students are taking. For example, the electives.”

**What is continuing to change?:** “Student expectations and IEP’s of the student.”

**What do you expect to change in the 5-10 years?:** “Getting evaluated by the state may go away in the next few years. When we have to get videoed; I think that might go away completely.”

**What sort of training/education did you need for this job?:** “I had a degree in business, went to college, got a masters degree and complete so many professional development hours a year.”

**Has the job market changed? If so, in what way(s)?:** “I haven’t really looked, but there may be more openings for jobs, so a higher demand.”

**Was it difficult to find work? If so, in what ways?:** “It wasn’t difficult for me; this was the 2nd place I interviewed. I think it just depends on the openings.”

**Do you think the job market will change?:** “Yes, I think there will be more demand for teachers because of the drop in wanting to go into the field of teaching. There will be more of a need for the jobs.”

**What advice would you give someone just entering this fields?:** “Stay on top of IEP’s, be organized, get IEP’s done early, planning ahead helps a lot, remember everyday is a new day; it can be challenging, so stay positive.”

**How should I prepare to enter this field?:** “Look into colleges known for this program. Xavier has a great program as well as UC. Know a cooperating teacher that you could shadow. Schedule a lot of job shadows, so you know exactly what it is like.”

**What do I need to know in order to be successful in this field?:** “Knowing different disabilities so when new kids come in you know the reason. Having a relationship with the parents. Looking and having knowledge about the child his/herself. Also know the law.”

**What about child psychology? Have you ever thought about that?:** “Actually, I started out with a major of psychology. Look into OT jobs!”

This interview helped me so much with figuring out what I want to do and the specifics of what they actually do. I loved talking to Ms. Zimmers and figuring out what to do next. She gave great advice on finding a college, what to study, who to talk to, as well as how to be positive. When I talked to her, it really opened my eyes, and it made me realize that I want to do this, because I could relate. I want to be in her position and watch the kids grow and seeing steps! I got a lot of knowledge about schooling and colleges and feel relieved about college and majors. I liked how she gave me specific details about people to talk to and how to get job shadows. I really appreciated this interview and the advice and details she gave me.