

Kira Robinson: First Intervener to Receive NICE Certification

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NCDB would like to congratulate Kira Robinson on becoming the first intervener to achieve NICE ([National Intervener Certification E-Portfolio](#)) certification. Kira, who lives in Logan, Utah with her husband, Layne, and son Raistlin, currently works as an intervener with two children. One will be in preschool during the coming school year and the other in high school. Through her work as an intervener Kira has learned to never underestimate anyone because, “You never know what a student is capable of and you don’t know what you yourself are capable of!”

Kira’s journey to become a certified intervener began when Susan Patten, director of the Utah Deaf-Blind Project, invited her to participate in a beta test of the NICE system last summer. Although she felt intimidated when she received information about what the process would entail, knowing that she had a strong support system of family and colleagues helped ease her anxiety. Kira reports she spent many hours working on her NICE portfolio during the beta test, but “In the end, it didn’t seem like as much work as I had originally thought it was going to be.”

Throughout the process, her mentor, Nikki Homestead, provided encouragement and guidance, and helped Kira problem-solve when she encountered difficulties.

After the beta test was concluded, Kira had an opportunity to apply for NICE certification. Her goal was to complete the process by the end of the 2016-2017 school year. Although she had a newborn, worked full time, and was taking courses toward a degree in social work, she believed obtaining certification was worth the effort. She used feedback received from reviewers during the beta test to

strengthen her work and her mentor, Nikki, and the Utah Deaf-Blind Project staff provided invaluable support throughout the process. Kira submitted her portfolio in early June 2017. When she received an e-mail a month later informing her that she had passed, she was elated.

Kira urges anyone considering pursuing certification through the NICE process to go for it and believes it is a great pathway to start a career. “You learn a lot about yourself and your students,” she says. “When watching videos of yourself working with a student, you must take a step back and look at what you're doing. This process has made me a better intervener, see my strengths and weaknesses, and better help my student. This is totally worth it!”



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