

As I anticipated graduating from BYU with a Bachelor of Science degree in Communication Disorders, I did not plan to continue my education in the Speech Pathology graduate program. I was unsure about pursuing a career, and a graduate degree was necessary to become a speech-language pathologist. Dr. Laurence Hilton encouraged me to enroll in the graduate program and continue my education. I am thankful for his encouragement, as it was this education that later allowed me to provide for myself and two small children when I experienced some unexpected challenges. Reflecting on more than thirty years as speech-language pathologist, I have felt light and joy as I work with young children and families, helping them learn skills to communicate more easily. Each new word or skill generates excitement, happiness, and brings families closer together. I am very thankful for my BYU experience, as it not only provided me with a strong foundation for working with children with communication disorders, but it was the caring and interest of my BYU professors that helped me realize the unique gifts Heavenly Father has given me to bless others as a speech-language pathologist.