

My Parameters...The Rules I Play By

- ◆ I will respect everyone that I come across.
- ◆ I will not compromise my integrity.
- ◆ I will take every opportunity to build trusting relationships.
- ◆ I will not let anyone take away the joy of life.
- ◆ I will inspire everyone that crosses my path.
- ◆ I will not miss an opportunity to travel.
- ◆ My life decisions will be made based on the best interests of my family (board of directors), with priority given to my marriage.



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"Life is a journey and not a destination"
- Author unknown

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My Mission Statement...

The mission of Ifthika "Shine" Nissar, a polylingual, bi-cultural, leading advocate in early childhood education is to ensure that underserved children with special needs discover their potential and pursue meaningful lives by:

- ◆ Promoting inclusive mindsets and practices
- ◆ Empowering families
- ◆ Supporting professionals, educators and specialists
- ◆ Establishing lasting relationships

My Core Beliefs... My Fundamental Core Values

I believe that:

Families come first. Parents are the first and most important teachers of their child.

All relationships are important: Open and honest communication (being authentic and sincere) builds trust, respect and integrity.

All young children will and can learn to reach their life's potential.

Positivity and optimism are contagious.

Hard work and determination result in accomplishment of goals.

Respecting and embracing diversity enriches me and my community.

Traveling long or short distances expands my mind and creates opportunities.



My Objectives... The Results of My Work

I will earn my doctoral degree in December 2016.

I will serve in a leadership role at the California Department of Education and/or U.S. Office of Education by December 2020.

I will serve as an ambassador, diplomat and practitioner at UNICEF by December 2025 and continue my work internationally to support underserved children with special needs to discover their potential and pursue meaningful lives.



My Strategies and Specific Results... How I will Achieve My Objectives and Reach My Mission

Strategy 1: Intellectual – I will graduate in December 2016 and earn my Ed.D.

Specific Results

- I will spend 2-3 hours a day on my literature review and completing my dissertation.
- I will complete my literature review, get through my comprehensive exam and get IRB approval by summer 2016.
- I will conduct my research and complete all requirements of my degree by November 2016.

Strategy 2: Health – I will live a healthy life – I will lose 10 pounds by December 2016.

Specific Results

- I will spend 2-3 hours with mama and Zinnoon every Sunday and take a break from my studies and work assignments.
- I will work out 45 minutes a day four times a week in order to stay fit.
- I will get 6-7 hours of sleep in order to stay healthy.

Strategy 3: I will align myself with professional connections and reach out to UNICEF and other international affiliations

Specific Results

- I will present at professional early childhood and early childhood special education conferences at state, national and international levels.
- I will serve in leadership positions in early childhood and early childhood special education organizations/committees (East County Child Care Council, Special Education Local Planning Area (SELPA), and Committees of Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) Early Childhood Education programs.
- I will maintain connections with my professional connections and affiliations in Sri Lanka to align myself with UNICEF.