



Working with Kindergartners Cusco, Peru

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The Country

In August 2015, right after graduation I took off to Cusco, Peru where I worked with youth in the community for a two week global special study. My time was spent with teachers and students every weekday at a local kindergarten. I loved gaining experience working with individuals of a culture completely different than my own and developing new perspectives.

A Broader View

While completing research for my trip, I discovered an international volunteer organization called A Broader View Volunteers. The program fee covered food, housing, and connected me with a volunteer site.

I was assigned a local coordinator who picked me up from the airport, connected me with a host family, and showed me how to get to my volunteer site.

The coordinator also gave me a tour of the city and was available for any questions or concerns I had during my trip. I was even able to meet another volunteer to spend time with!



The Kindergarten

- Working with the students in Peru was a very new and exciting experience.
- The language barrier made it difficult to communicate, teach, and empathize with the children; however, it did not prevent me from forming successful relationships
- I was still able to play, laugh, and have fun with the kids every day while learning basic Spanish
- I enjoyed providing assistance in the classroom and observing the educational styles of the teachers
- The students loved the additional attention of a third adult so I tried my best to engage them with interesting and empowering activities



Sightseeing

- Cusco was an amazing city with lots of things to do and see
- On the weekends I was able to travel around the country
- I visited Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley!



Classroom connections

My Child Development course provided knowledge on the importance of empathizing with children and allowing them to be heard.

Interpersonal Practice with Children and Youth and School Social Work Interventions provided knowledge and background on positive interventions for various age groups.

Advice

Go with the flow and have an open mind.

Be flexible, as things might not go exactly as planned.

Do not be afraid to try new things and embrace the culture.

Take advantage of your time abroad, it will go by fast!

If you have any questions about my Global Special Study experience, email me at schmtric@umich.edu

You can also check out A Broader View volunteers at <https://www.abroaderview.org/>