When writing your **Personal Statement/Essay**, please focus on **any and/or all** of the following:

1. **Teaching experience**
   a. Years, nature of prior/current teaching experience with young children (what ages/grades)
   b. Teaching experience with other age groups
   c. Other experience caring for/working with young children
2. **If your educational background** (e.g., bachelor's degree), **is not in early childhood or a related field**, **explain why you want to pursue a degree in early childhood education**; specifically, **what do you plan to do with a degree in ECE?**
3. **What are your main strengths?** What are the areas that you are still working on (e.g., weaknesses)?
4. **Why do you think you are a good candidate for our program?**
5. **Give an example of a time that you faced a challenge/difficulty while teaching or as a part of your studies** (if you do not have teaching experience) and explain how you solved the problem/addressed the issue.