

Malena Ugalde

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Working in the field of special education for the last 22 years, Malena has had the opportunity to educate those whose learning styles differ from a traditional model. Receiving her Bachelor of Science degree in Child Development, a Master of Science degree in Special Education and an Education Specialist Credential, Malena has been in the forefront of altering and ultimately the reshaping of behavior. As an Education Specialist, Vice-Principal and Preschool Director, Malena has served as an educator to over 300 students, a mentor and coach to aspiring colleagues, and a supervisor to a faculty of approximately 100 members. She has worked with students with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder, Emotional Disturbance, Speech or Language Impairment, Specific Learning Disability, Orthopedic Impairment, Intellectual Impairment and Multiple Disabilities.

During this time, she was involved in creating and implementing a meaningful and effective special education program that included academic intervention, augmentative and alternative communication strategies, sensory intervention, social-emotional techniques, gross and fine motor activities, and behavior modification strategies using research based instructional strategies. Malena provided supportive interventions by assisting in developing behavioral strategies, conducting ongoing functional behavior assessments, developing behavior plans and conducting trainings and professional development seminars. She ensured that the interpretation and analysis of the data collection information remained consistent and meaningful in order to confirm progress.

Malena's success in academia comes from the idea that behavior can be altered and thus reshaped, whether it's a 4th grader learning fractions, or a business attempting to increase their ROI. Partnering with The Trident Approach, Malena adheres to the necessity of collaboration, communication, and creativity to problem solving and advancement. Using data driven methods and Response to Intervention, Malena brings a multi-modality approach to team building. Malena believes in the power of collaboration, that all people must be treated with respect, and that everyone has abilities that need to be recognized.

Malena has been married for nine years and has a beautiful 7 year old girl. When she is not working, Malena enjoys reading and spending time with her family. She also sits on the Board of a non-profit organization that assists those afflicted with Epilepsy.

