

## ***Mini Brain Essay-Speech***

I am honoured to be in MACC because of all the privileges including the iPads and the laptops. I am honoured to have Mr. Gaitens as my teacher, and have all my new friends. Most of all I am honored to be a MACC Mini-Brain candidate. I believe our classroom is a wonderful place, and all we need is more. More field trips, more hands-on projects, and more necessary accessories that you request. Before I go any further I just want to remind you that you also acknowledged my good choices, my patience, and my organization.

Over the years I met a group of wonderful people. Ever since I was little they invited me and my family to a string of parties; ones which have helped me grow as a human being. Being at the parties taught me how to make good choices, since I am the oldest child of the group. There are currently seven young children. They have different ideas on how to have fun, and this can lead to arguments. In the meantime, I am stuck in a argument with myself that involves debating whether or not I should stop the fight. I think we all know the right answer, and I also know the right answer, but I didn't know how to stop it. I didn't want to escalate the fight, so I just stood there staring. But one time, I was at one of their parties; one of the children's birthday parties, so not only were there seven young children, but there were about fifteen, and by young I mean ages zero to five. There was a fight that changed my way of approaching things. The fight was about who got the *Special Bed* for their puppy game. I heard things like, "But I'm the birthday girl," and, "But I'm the guest." It wasn't bothering me, but I knew it would only get worse. There was so much going through my mind and I knew I had to do something. So I walked right up to them and said something like, "How about no one gets the special bed, if it causes so much trouble. You all can sleep on the floor, that's what normal puppies do anyway." They stared at me in shock and then decided to sleep on the floor. They had a lot of fun and invited me to be their owner. I said yes because they were adorable little kids, what else *could* I have said? I think it is important to have someone that can make good decisions as Mini-Brain because you want everything to run smoothly so you don't have to worry about that kind of thing.

About a year ago, I went to another one of those wonderfully confusing parties. The kids were not newborn babies anymore. They were aged two to seven, and the two-year olds were very vocal. They knew basic words, but they didn't know proper sentence structure, grammar, or complex words. I am like their "big sister" and they enjoy trying to have conversations with me. Sometimes I can understand them, but when I try to talk to them I didn't think to use very simple words. When I used words like

*complicated* and *colourful* they didn't understand me. I am not the best with synonyms, so when they asked what the word means, I had to move on to a different topic. That was before. I've learned to be more patient with the children and with myself. I think before I speak and I have become more open to understanding "two-year old language." How? During that party, I was talked to **a lot**. The parents expected me to play with the little ones and be super polite and friendly. Even if I was being attacked by a herd of little kids I was expected to smile brightly and say, "I'm glad you are having fun." It was not torture, but it was not super fun. During that one party there was more tumbling than usual and it was a little bit too rough. They were in my bubble. But, instead of having a half outburst and scaring them off of me, I calmly said, "Can you please get off of me" and they...didn't. So I called my mom over and she said, "Can you please get off of her, she needs space." Since it was an adult that was speaking they got scared and scurried away like little mice running from a cat. I knew using my mom would work but I didn't know it would scare them off of me. I don't know why adults are so scary, and I certainly wouldn't want to be a scary adult when I grow up. Now I know how to be patient but not passive. Patience is important for the classroom because people need time and space and don't need someone be constantly pushing them.

I used to be a very disorganized person, and then I realized it wasn't just putting more stress on my parents to have to clean up my messes, but it was also putting stress on me. I realized having a messy workspace was distracting and confusing. Studying in a messy workspace was even harder. That was when I got in the habit of cleaning up after myself. It was a lot easier to clean in small chunks than to have to have a long three hour clean up session. The first time I realized I didn't like things disorganized was when I was in grade 4, where we had weekly spelling tests. I didn't like getting any words wrong so I studied hard every week. It helped that a few of the words were really easy. Every week was the same, a few times I would get a word wrong but that was because it was new to me. There was one time that was different. While we were taking the test suddenly I didn't know how to spell "appear". I had studied hard and it wasn't like that word was new to me. I was thinking *How is this possible? I have studied harder than ever. The word is easier than all the other words on the test.* I was really mad at myself. After school I finally realized that I hadn't studied as hard as I thought. I wasn't focused because of all the distractions around me. When I got home I faced a horrible mess. It had already taken up so much space I thought that I would have to have a long three hour clean up session. I discovered that was not true. I could still clean in small chunks, focusing on one area at a time. It is important to be able to work comfortably and not have to stress about working in a disorganized space. That is why I believe the MACC Mini-Brain should be well organized.

If I become Mini-Brain I will negotiate a Free-Choice period, I will take suggestions for gym activities, I will take suggestions for accessories that will make our classroom a better place, I will do my best to satisfy everyone's needs, and I will bring a bowl of chocolate every Friday. I believe that every person should have a say in what we do, what we learn, how we learn, and how we have fun. I believe in class votes, diverse opinions, and interactive learning. No person is left behind. No person doesn't get to say yes or no. If I become Mini-Brain I can assure you I will make sure that everybody is a part of this classroom.

I will not use the Mini-Brain position to boss everybody around, but I will use it to make sure everybody is heard. Everybody should be happy, and have some sort of authority. Everybody has a say in this election, because everybody has a vote. Every vote counts, so think before you vote. Vote for a person who makes good decisions, vote for patience, vote for organization. Vote for hope, vote for change, vote for AMY.

***Thank You for Listening***