

MEET AET VOLUNTEER

Terri Kessler, MA



Level of AET membership:

Associate member, on my journey toward ET/P®

Type and location of practice:

Private practice in Los Angeles and I offer hybrid services

AET Committee(s) - including any leadership roles - in which you are/have been involved:

I look forward to applying my leadership skills in coaching and program administration to AET! So far, I have participated in virtual study groups and the Social Justice Committee. I also had the chance to introduce a speaker at the Annual Conference.

How long have you been an educational therapist?

I am in my second year. I'm just starting!!

What brought you to educational therapy?

I am passionate about empowering people to find enjoyment, confidence and autonomy in learning. As a special education teacher and administrator facilitating IEPs, I met a handful of educational therapists who had joined IEP teams. Additionally, several years ago, a friend of my mom's, Farryl Dickter, went further to explain her role as an ed therapist. The holistic nature of the work resonated with me and my experience in TK-12 schools.

I value the opportunity to continue to build relationships with learners, families, teachers, and other professionals so that we can put our heads together and determine what conditions can promote an individual's success in academic and social-emotional spheres.

Areas of expertise:

I consider literacy, executive functioning, advocacy for IEPs and navigating the public school system my niches.

What is the best career advice you can give to new ETs?

- Get policies and procedures straight
- Ensure you have a mentor to talk to
- Know the AET resources. For example, if you have a dilemma arise, you can reach out to the ethics community for support

Describe a challenge you have faced as an educational therapist:

A potential client was referred to me and though I wanted to help the child, there were probable boundary issues that made me uncomfortable and led me to determine that this would not be a good fit. Since this was one of my first potential clients, I was challenged even more as I work to expand my practice.

Describe a highlight of your educational therapy career:

This is easy! Seeing the steady growth in my clients -both in academic skills- and-their self-esteem is a highlight.

How have you benefited from your membership in AET?

AET grounds me in my work as I know I'm a part of this thoughtful and caring organization. As a lifelong learner, The AET professional learning community has been a huge draw for me. I loved the rich teachings, mingling and collaborating at both the annual conferences and local workshops. I am so thrilled to grow my career alongside like-minded professionals as this unique field continues to take root in a world that is increasingly accepting of neurodiverse learners.

Hobbies/Leisure Activities:

I practice and teach yoga, and I dabble in collage. Continuing to improve my Spanish is a passion for me! I also love traveling, time in nature, and at home! I enjoy the company of my dear Mom, pets and friends.

Anything else you want to add?

I am very interested in the social justice ramifications of our practice and bringing equity to everyone who could benefit from ET services.

