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To the Admissions Office at University of Padova,

Please accept my application to study the first-cycle Psychological Science course at the University of Padova that starts October 2019.

I have dedicated the last 12 years of my life to help raise children and have taught myself as best I can by reading every book I could find on developmental neuroscience, psychology, biopsychology, early childhood development and also versed myself in some of the main early childhood and psychology theories like Piaget, Vygotsky, Kohlberg, Steiner, Montessori, Loris Malaguzzi, amongst others.

I want to attend your school because I want to be able to do more in the world. I want to train myself as a professional and be able to contribute to the field, and consequently the world. From the moment I chose this career I knew this was what I wanted to dedicate my life to. I was certain that this was how I wanted to leave a footprint in the world and contribute to humanity.

I am limited in what I can do without a degree and believe I need to really be challenged and be taught by experts in the field. I look forward to learning side by side with individuals with similar interests and vision for children all over.

I am particularly interested in the neuropsychology of morality. This has been a question that has always plagued my mind and pushed me to learn more and try to understand how we develop. What role does the brain play? How could we be more deliberate in the shaping of our children's morality on a psychological level?

I am also intrigued by empathy and lack of empathy. Can we shape "goodness" in a person from an early age?

These are questions I hope to one day be able to answer. I think it could be significant to the way we currently educate our children.

Although my interests on science and psychology are what got me started in my career, I recognize that there is an element of humanity as a principle that is important and I strive to uphold in all decisions.

By the end of my lifetime I would like to have built a wealth of knowledge to change the way traditional school systems work and provide a new parenting method. I think we need to instill more humanity, compassion and noble values at an earlier age in children's development and help raise more noble human beings. I want to educate myself and grow my knowledge to responsibly create and develop a body of work to better children's lives.

I have worked with 9 families over the years, all with great results. I commit to each family and the development of their children and coming into a child's life is not a decision I make lightly. I try to be mindful in how affect their lives, and recognize everything I choose and do will affect that individual's life and how they see the world. My goal has always been to raise more compassionate children that can empathize with those around them and can discern right from wrong.

My approach is from multiple angles. I try to stimulate the child's physical, emotional, intellectual, moral, and social development. I also focus on the family dynamic, and try to help the parents with their own understanding process of evaluation.

I measure my results by comparing the child's behavior before and after intervention. I believe behavior is an effect of what is going on inside so this evaluation gives me insight to the child's inner world. The goal and the standard that I measure up against is how joyful the child is— do they have an overall sense of well being or do they feel insecure and therefore experience the need to throw tantrums.

Numerous families have consistently asked me for help with particular circumstances of tantrums and meltdowns, aggression, etc because of the understanding and knowledge I have gathered along my career and my own personal way of attending different situations. My approach is always to help the parents in order to help the child— these situations usually arise from a lack of understanding of what is going on with the child.

I have been mentored by a Pediatric Occupational Therapist (2006-2008), from her I learned not only developmental anatomy and physical therapy, along with early childhood development, but also to work hands-on with children. With her I developed the confidence to step up and evaluate best course of action and guide a child through a challenging or uncomfortable situation.

(I am not mentioning Keith, not sure if it's a good idea. And if it is, not sure how to portray it)

I take every opportunity to learn more and be better. I have had the pleasure of attending some of the Learning and the Brain conferences in the US and had the

privilege of receiving invaluable information from neuroscientists, biologists, educators, administrators, authors, all of whom I have great respect and admiration for including John Medina, author of “Brain Rules for Baby” and developmental molecular biologist.

I am currently working as a staff trainer at a multicultural school in Guadalajara, Mexico, that works with children from 0-7y/o. It is a small school but here I have been able to develop my tact with people and my ability to communicate and teach what I have had the honor of learning throughout my career. (I need more here...)

I am responsible for overseeing current teachers, capacitating incoming personnel and following through in their performance with the children.

I have been working on quantifying everything I have learned in my 12 years of experience to create a curriculum to help parents with their children. I have earned a certain authority with both parents and teachers through my work and dedication and currently hold a position where I am able to affect dozens of children at a time as opposed to one family at a time. It is a big responsibility and something I am cautious with

I am applying to the first-cycle course on Psychological Science. If accepted, I would like to continue on to Cognitive Neuroscience and Clinical Neuropsychology and eventually end up in the department of Developmental Neuroscience and Socialisation. I am aware I am coming in at a later age than most. I have had 12 years of experience already and I am choosing to apply now because of what I want to do in the world— this is not a decision I have made lightly.

I am determined on the path I am taking and have a clear vision of what I want to do in the world.

I currently reside in Mexico but lived in the US for 12 years. I am choosing to apply in Padova because of the University and its background. I also found the Department of Developmental Psychology very attractive. I have considered matriculating before but had not found a school with a diversity and depth like at University of Padova. I think you can only grow and be competitive in the field if you're surrounded by the best. One of the things I have been lacking is contributions and criticism from my peers and it is something I would welcome while forming myself at your university.

It would be a privilege to be accepted into your school. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Camila 