

Episode 44: A Conversation With Our 2nd Year Grad Student on Internship {Graduate Student Journeys}

Catch up with Bailee Jackson, a second-year graduate student at St. Cloud State University, who spoke about her experience studying speech pathology at the Master's level during a previous episode of The Missing Link. Bailee just began her 10-week internship program working with early childhood speech pathologists in an elementary school. She updates us on how that's going, what she's done to make the most of her practicum, and what she plans for once the internship is finished.

Discussion & Reflection Questions

1. How far into your practicum are you and how are things going?
2. Tell us about the setting you're working in and how a typical day at your internship rolls out.
3. Can you talk about your supervisor? What have you enjoyed about that relationship so far? What sort of feedback has she given you that's proved helpful?
4. What were some of your thoughts getting ready for the first day of your internship? What specifically did you do to ensure you made a good first impression?
5. What words of advice would you have for the student who was in an internship or a placement and it wasn't going as well?
6. Last time we spoke, you weren't entirely sure whether you wanted to work with adults or children once you finished your graduate program. Has that answer changed now that you're in a setting where you're working with kids?
7. What's something at your internship you look forward to every day? What's something you don't necessarily look forward to?
8. What are some of the goals you have for your internship?

9. Tell us what you have planned for after this internship ends. Have you studied for the Praxis or started looking for jobs yet?

Quote Of The Conversation

"It's 10 weeks and you're here to learn what you can from that experience. And maybe it teaches you what you want to do in the future. And maybe it teaches you something that you're like, 'Oh, maybe that's not how I want to be in the future.' I feel like just taking it for what it is is really important. Because there have been some days in my internship where I'm like, 'Oh, I didn't do that very well.' But then, instead of freaking out about it, I try to be like, 'Okay, you know what? What did I learn from the day? Let's move on.'" -Bailee Jackson

Bailee Jackson

Second-Year Graduate Student at St. Cloud State University



Bailee Jackson is a second-year graduate student in the Communication Sciences and Disorders program at St. Cloud State University. She also completed her undergraduate degree at St. Cloud State University, where she had initially planned on pursuing a biomedical degree. With the help of a friend, Bailee was introduced to the field of speech-language

pathology and has been hooked ever since. During her time as an undergraduate, Bailee competed on the St. Cloud State Women's Swim and Dive team and was heavily involved in the University's NSSHLA chapter and MNSHA's Future Professionals Committee. These organizations worked to connect students with similar passions both on campus and in other university programs across Minnesota. In her first year of graduate school, Bailee has had the opportunity to work with both pediatric and adult clients in the St. Cloud

State University clinic. Although she's still unsure what population she sees herself working with in the future, Bailee plans to work in a medical setting one day.

Keep the Conversation Going

Guest Speaker Information

Bailee Jackson

Second-Year Graduate Student at St. Cloud State University

Email - bljackson@go.stcloudstate.edu

Facebook - [Bailee Jackson](#)



Thank you for listening to *The Missing Link for SLPs* podcast! **If you enjoyed the show, I'd love you to subscribe, rate it and leave a short review.** Also, please share an episode with a friend. Together we can raise awareness and help more SLPs find and connect those missing links to help them feel confident in their patient care every step of the way.

Follow me on Instagram, join the Fresh SLP community on Facebook or learn more at FreshSLP.com. Let's make those connections. You got this!

*Do you have a question you'd like answered on the show?
Interested in sharing your experience as an SLP with our audience?
Send a message to Mattie@FreshSLP.com!*

Not a substitute for a formal SLP education or medical advice for patients/caregivers.

Mattie Murrey

Welcome to this episode of The Missing Link for SLPs podcast. We are welcoming back Ms. Bailee Jackson. She is a graduate student — second year. She's getting ready to graduate. And she was previously interviewed on episode 38. So, I think we played her episode around the end of November. And she was telling us how excited she was getting ready to head out to her internship, and now we've caught up with her on her internship. And she just has some really neat reflections on how things are going. So, welcome to this episode. Sit back and enjoy. And we'll see you on the other end.

Mattie Murrey

Hello and welcome to The Missing Link for SLPs podcast. I'm glad you're here. Remember what it was like back in graduate school? Or maybe you still are in grad school. Today's episode is part of the CSD Graduate Students Journey series. In this series, I talk to students who are either in school or fresh into their clinical fellowship year. We talk and cover real subjects, like how to get into graduate school, how to find and prepare for a medical internship, thoughts on teletherapy from a student's perspective, and lots more. Get ready for some real conversations with SLP students who are at the very beginning of their careers.

Mattie Murrey

Wonderful. So, I am back on for this episode with Ms. Bailee Jackson. Ms. Bailee in the pediatric clinic, as I'm sure they call you. Well, you're not far into your practicum. How far are you?

Bailee Jackson

I just finished my third week.

Mattie Murrey

How are things going?

Bailee Jackson

They're going super great. I love it. I love seeing what, you know, real life is really like, with a lot more clients and going every day, all day. It's been a really great learning experience.

Mattie Murrey

Tell me about your setting.

Bailee Jackson

So, I'm currently in an elementary school, but I'm with their early childhood speech pathologists. So, we've been seeing the preschoolers and kindergarteners.

Mattie Murrey

Sweet. How does your day roll out?



Bailee Jackson

So, it's been kind of tricky. This is something that I've learned: that, with the preschoolers, they're only in school half a day, typically, with the way my school sets it up. So, basically, we see our preschoolers in the morning. Then we see a chunk of kindergarteners in the middle of the day. And then we see our afternoon preschoolers at the end of the day. So, that's kind of how we block it out. And it's been really interesting, because I had never worked with that young of kids before. I had a couple clients who were like six or seven, but three is a very new age group for me. So, it's been interesting just to see the difference between a three year old and preschool and where they're at and how they learn, and then a four year old and how they learn and what they understand, and then all the way up to a kindergartener. You wouldn't think it was such a wide range between just a couple of ages, but it's very big. And it's been really fun to see that and learn from my supervisor.

Mattie Murrey

Tell me about your supervisor. What have you enjoyed about that relationship?

Bailee Jackson

She is seriously the best. I feel so lucky because, when we got there, she just like told me, "This is a safe space, and you're here to learn, so whatever you need from me is what I want to give you." So, it's been really great because the first week I just got to kind of like sit back and watch her with the kids. And I got to meet the kids because I was a new person, so they all kind of gave me this look like, "Why are you here? You don't normally come with us." So, that gave me a really good chance, and that was really nice to just feel comfortable and get to know her better and build a rapport with her before we started throwing me in with the kids. And so, that was really great. And she does a really good job of telling me things that I should do next time — like, "Oh, in this situation, try this with this client instead." But then she also does a really good job of being like, "Hey, you did this and that was really awesome, so keep doing that." Because sometimes I don't even know if what I'm doing is always good. So, it's nice to get the positive feedback to be like, "Oh, that was something that I maybe naturally did without thinking about it, and so now I'll remember it for the next time." She's been so great. Because I feel like it's so important to have a good relationship with them, so you can take their feedback and really learn from it. So yeah, it's been so great.

Mattie Murrey

Yeah, you're lucky. I have heard that not everybody has, you know, supervisors that are that open. And I love the comment she made about the safe space.

Bailee Jackson

Yeah.

Mattie Murrey



I'm sure going in as a student, you're like, "Oh, this is kind of scary." What were some of your thoughts getting ready for the first day?

Bailee Jackson

I was pretty nervous, just because I wanted to make a good first impression, because I knew I'd be with her for a while. And I guess I just wanted to show her that I really want to learn, and like, do what she does as good as she does. So, I was pretty nervous. But it also took some pressure off that I knew that I was just going to kind of be, like, hanging back for at least the first couple of days. So, there wasn't as much stress about, like, "Oh, I have to work with a kid right away." So, that helped. And then, yeah, just being super open and honest with her. Like, I remember, we talked, and I was like, "I feel a lot more confident doing this, but I haven't had a lot of experience with this. So, that might be an area that I need more help with." And then she did the same thing. She told me, she's like, "You know, this is my sixth year of being an SLP. Like, I still don't have a ton of experience in this." She's never done distance learning, and that's a lot of what I've done. So, I told her, I was like, "I haven't really worked with kids in person. I know, that's a whole different ball game." So, just like therapy ideas. And then, I've kind of helped her, too, a little bit by talking about boom card stuff. And we just... She's helped me. We've helped each other kind of, like, share our resources and stuff like that.

Mattie Murrey

That's the way a good working relationship should be, just very collaborative and very symbiotic, where you help one another.

Bailee Jackson

For sure. That's something that she said to me right away. She's like, "I know I'm your supervisor, but I also see you as a coworker. So, I value what you say." And I feel like that just made me feel valued and not nervous to say what I think or give ideas and stuff like that.

Mattie Murrey

What words of advice would you have for the student who was in an internship or a placement and it wasn't going as well?

Bailee Jackson

I feel like I kind of talked about this in my first podcast, but I feel like just putting it into perspective — knowing that it's 10 weeks, and you're here to learn what you can from that experience. And maybe it teaches you what you want to do in the future. And maybe it teaches you something that you're like, "Oh, maybe that's not how I want to be in the future." I feel like just taking it for what it is is really important. Because there have been some days in my internship where I'm like, "Oh, I didn't do that very good." But then, instead of freaking out about it, I try to be like, "Okay, you know what? What did I learn from the day? Let's move on." And obviously, 10 weeks is a long time if it's not going well. That does add up. But hopefully, just talking to your friends and being like, "This happened and it made me feel terrible." And then just trying to kind of go forward with it.



Mattie Murrey

We have days like that as speech pathologists who are not in our internships or clinical fellowships, just out in the regular world. Because sometimes things go wrong in a session. So, we can learn from what went wrong. Consult resources and reach out to a support system.

Bailee Jackson

For sure. And I think even like being open with your supervisor and being like, "Oh, I know that session was bad, and it made me feel bad." And then maybe they can help you kind of work through it. That's what my supervisor has done for me. I was like, "That made me feel not good." And she was like, "It's okay, though because next time this." And we just kind of put it behind us. We don't dwell on it, which really helps me.

Mattie Murrey

I love that mindset. It's an important mindset.

Bailee Jackson

Yes. Very important.

Mattie Murrey

So, we talked about how you got ready to start. What did you do specifically to make a good impression? Anything?

Bailee Jackson

We had a conversation right away in the beginning, and I feel like I maybe kind of initiated it. But I just told her, I was like, "I am so open to anything you have to say." I kind of just said, "You really can't hurt my feelings by telling me things that you think I can do better because I want to do them better. So, just tell me because I'm so happy to get any feedback." And I feel like that just made her feel comfortable around me and me feel comfortable around her. And I had started that open communication right away. Because you don't know what kind of students they've had in the past. Maybe someone didn't take the feedback as well. So, maybe they don't feel as comfortable giving it. But I was just like, "Please, give it to me. All of it."

Mattie Murrey

So, saying what you were looking for at the very beginning was important.

Bailee Jackson

Yeah.

Mattie Murrey

Excellent. What type of feedback has she given you that you found to be most helpful?

Bailee Jackson

I feel like just giving me the little tips and tricks in the moment, like when one of my little three year olds can't get one of their sounds. Maybe it's the K sound. And it's not very visual. And it's a



pretty tricky one, or something like that. She just has those tips and tricks that she's kind of developed over the years, that she can be like, "Hey, try this." And then it's just another tool in your toolbox when those things come up again. That's been really helpful, just because in my clinic experience so far, I've only worked on a handful of sounds with kids throughout the semesters. And so, there's some new sounds, and she just has really good little tips and tricks. And just how you word things too, to bring it down to their level a little bit better, has been really helpful.

Mattie Murrey

I know when I first met you in your first year in grad school, one of the questions I asked you is, "Are you interested in adults or children?" And you're like, "I don't know. I love them both." And you've done so many neat things in the clinic. Now that you're out in the setting where you're working with kids, has that answer changed?

Bailee Jackson

I think the kids have my heart for sure. I think that's where I will probably end up sticking after this. They just bring so much joy, and they're so innocent and pure and make me laugh. Not that the adults didn't do that. But I just really, really love being around them.

Mattie Murrey

Good. So, this has been a good opportunity for you to really learn what your passion is and where your passion is.

Bailee Jackson

Yeah, for sure. It's definitely given me a more real-world look into what kids all day could be like and stuff like that.

Mattie Murrey

What is the favorite thing that you do every day that you look forward to?

Bailee Jackson

My favorite part has been when the kids have worked really hard on something — and I've only been there for three weeks, so I feel like I haven't seen it to its fullest potential yet — but when it's been really hard, and they get it and they know they got it. And you're so proud of them for getting it, and they're so happy. Or the little hugs you get in the hallway when they're like, "Hi, Ms. Bailee," and they're already excited to see you. That just... I don't know. It just makes me so happy and makes me excited to come in the next day to be like, "Oh, I get to see these kids today." Even the hard ones. They make it worth it every now and then when they're just smiling so big at you or they finally do something that you've been working on.

Mattie Murrey

I've worked with some really challenging clients in the outpatient pediatric setting, like where the police are in the room next door. And these kids are just... They come from just some



challenging home lives. And I just... It rewards my heart so much when I'm able to connect with them because I know, for that moment in time, I am making a difference in their life.

Bailee Jackson

Yeah. For sure. Yeah, when they're excited to come to your room and play whatever game you have ready for them. And they're so happy to see you. Yeah, it just totally makes my day.

Mattie Murrey

My favorite ASL sign is the one for "happy." You're just kind of stroke upward. To me, that's just an energy, which is why... The listeners don't know this, but I didn't let you get hardly two words in before we started recording. Because I know when you and I start talking, we just...up we go.

Bailee Jackson

For sure.

Mattie Murrey

Super cool. What is something that you do not look forward to?

Bailee Jackson

That's a hard one. I don't want to say "nothing" because it's probably not true. I mean, maybe not something that I don't like, look forward to it, but there are those moments, you know, when I said, like, "Oh, that was bad," or when I'm not really sure where to go. Those don't make me feel good, so I probably don't look forward to those. But there's really nothing throughout the day that I'm like, "Oh, I don't want to go do that." Because it's meeting with your team members during the day. Or it's working with kids, or hanging out with your supervisor to see what she does and learn the paperwork side of things. All that stuff. So, honestly, there hasn't been anything that has really made me not look forward to it. Just those moments of "oops, I need to fix that in the future" that I'm like, "Ugh, I kind of felt bad."

Mattie Murrey

You have those your entire career. But having that "okay, I'm going to do better next time" is good. What do you think has been something that you did not expect to learn?

Bailee Jackson

I don't think I realized — like, we'd always talked about it in school — but I don't think I realized how much of a team aspect there really is. Because throughout our whole day, we're talking to the special ed teachers, the general classroom teachers, the other speech pathologists in the building, the paras that help some of these kids. And I just never realized how much communication goes on, especially like, even with the teachers. They come to us, like, "This is what I'm seeing in the classroom. And then we're like, "Oh yeah, maybe we should look at that." And, you know, what is the OT working on with this little client? And how can we maybe co-treat this client? Or I don't know. There are just so many things that actually really do play off each other. And, yeah, just how conversations with other professionals go, and how it is important to



know every person's role and kind of where you fit in. That's been a big learning experience for me, too.

Mattie Murrey

Sounds like you're off to the right start though.

Bailee Jackson

Yeah. I love the team aspect. I feel like, because I've been in sports my whole life, I just love that. So, that's something that's actually made me excited to maybe one day be in the schools, too, because I really like that collaboration.

Mattie Murrey

You are correct in that. Because in the outpatient pediatric setting, it's much more isolated from the school setting, where some of these little kiddos are. Come to us as an outpatient, you'll collaborate with other members on the rehab team or the pediatric team, but not necessarily as easily as in the school setting.

Bailee Jackson

Yeah, for sure. We always have people knocking on our door and being like, "Hey, I just saw so-and-so. What do you think?" And it's kind of cool to see the other professionals coming to us to ask, "Hey, what do you think?" and then us going to them and being like, "I saw this, what do you think?" I really like how no one's afraid to be like, "Hey, I don't know this. How can your knowledge base help me?"

Mattie Murrey

And seeing how all of the strengths and difficulties that a child is having can play out into all the different settings, like the language just sort of can play out into the reading and the writing and all of those other things in the classroom.

Bailee Jackson

For sure. Yeah. And it's also cool to have those kids who maybe really struggle, and then going to help their classroom teacher and being like, "Hey, give him choices," or, you know, to help him not have as many struggles in the classroom. It's really cool to help the teachers and give them strategies to help our clients outside of the speech room.

Mattie Murrey

Would you share with us a couple of goals you have during your internship?

Bailee Jackson

Yeah. I just want to keep growing in the area of my skill set — you know, obviously — but just to have all those tools to use when maybe something's not going right with a client in a session. And to know, like, "Oh, hey, I can try this and this will work." And learning more about how to help. You know, I haven't really worked with a lot of kids who have severe communication problems, and so, just learning strategies. Like, we've started to use PECS with some of our kids,



and I've never used PECS in real life. So, learning more about that. And learning how to collaborate with others and how the school system works. I definitely need to learn how to write IEPs and stuff. That's a goal of mine, to be confident in that, because I've never done that. And I also just want to grow in my own confidence. I know you and I have talked about that so many times, but just to keep getting better and learning and knowing that I can do it, even if it gets harder [or] you have a new client. And the school admin actually does have... You know, we have a few EL clients. So, that's been a huge learning experience, too, because I've never done that. So, learning how the assessment and intervention process works with those clients has been really cool, too.

Mattie Murrey

So, for those who don't know what EL is, what is that?

Bailee Jackson

Our English language learners. Bilingual clients.

Mattie Murrey

So, here's a neat question. I'm excited to hear your answer. Do you have a story you can share with us, where you've been working with a kiddo and you're like, "Yep, this is why I'm doing what I'm doing"?

Bailee Jackson

Well, the other day... So, I've only seen this little guy a couple of times. And I went into his classroom. They were kind of playing. He's a preschooler. And it was time for him to come with me. And the first couple of times, he didn't really want to come with me. And then he saw me and he stood up and was like, "Ms. Bailee," and gave me a hug. And I was like, "I'm so happy to see you today, buddy." And he was like, "Me, too." And then he came with us. And it just made me feel so good that he wanted to hang out with me for the day, even if it was just 15 minutes. But that was one where I was like, "Okay, yep. I love this."

Mattie Murrey

So, your hours are coming along well?

Bailee Jackson

Yep. I feel like I just... We've been adding kids that I see more and more, as I've been there a little bit longer. So, I add some more kids this coming week and then just keep adding them.

Mattie Murrey

And you have seven weeks left?

Bailee Jackson

Yep. Seven weeks. It's going by so fast already. It's crazy.



Mattie Murrey

Have you started studying for your Praxis?

Bailee Jackson

I just ordered the book. So, I haven't started yet. But that's on the to-do list.

Mattie Murrey

And then you're going to start. Do you know when you're taking the Praxis?

Bailee Jackson

I'm not really sure. As a cohort, we've kind of been talking about it because we weren't sure. And we've heard that this summer could be a good time to take it for us. So, maybe I will do it then. Potentially. I want to probably get through the internships first to take all that, learn as much as I can from those real-life situations, and then when things slow down a little bit...

Mattie Murrey

Have you started looking for jobs yet?

Bailee Jackson

No. I mean, I have kept my eye out, but I haven't seen a ton of postings and stuff. And I kind of asked my supervisor. I was like, "When does that normally happen?" And she said it could be a little bit later this year, just because of how crazy things have been. So, I haven't seen anything yet, but I'm keeping my eye out.

Mattie Murrey

So, will you jump back on with us at the end of your internship, as you're getting ready for your Praxis and give us an update?

Bailee Jackson

Yes, for sure. Hopefully, I'll have a lot more to share after seven more weeks. And then, on to the next one. And yeah.

Mattie Murrey

You are still one of the very top listened-to podcasts.

Bailee Jackson

Well, that's pretty cool.

Mattie Murrey

Everybody wants to hear how Ms. Bailee's doing on your graduate school journey.

Bailee Jackson Yes. Very cool.

Mattie Murrey Well, thanks for jumping on with us today.

Bailee Jackson Thanks for having me again.

