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Spring 5-3-2022

Childhood Memories and Experiences Interview

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Recommended Citation

Beckett, Jacquelyn T.. "Childhood Memories and Experiences Interview." (2022).
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Esme Heller
March 3rd, 2022
Interviewed by: Jackie Beckett
In Person Interview
Transcribed by: Jackie Beckett

Keywords: childhood, experiences, parents, grandparents, school, UNM, art, holidays, family, upbringing.

Jackie: My name is Jackie Beckett and I am here on March 3rd, 2022, with Esme Heller here in Albuquerque, NM. We are going to be talking about childhood experiences, so what year were you born?

Esme: I was born in 2002,

Jackie: What date and year were you born?

Esme: January 14th, 2002.

Jackie: Did your parents ever tell you anything about the day you were born?

Esme: Not really. I just know that my mom got a job at a bank and then suddenly she was going into labor and was like whelp I'm having my baby!

Jackie: Where were you born?

Esme: I was born in Phoenix, Arizona.

Jackie: Was there any reason why you were named Esme?

Esme: My mom picked it from a French book (1:00) that she liked called, "For Esme with Love and Squalor".

Jackie: Wow, that's really cool. Okay and what was the house like when you grew up or do you remember what the house was like?

Esme: It was always pretty fun. I was always hanging out with my grandparents or my mom.

Jackie: Nice, and who was more strict, your mom or your dad?

Esme: My mom was my only parent so she had both roles pretty much. It was definitely a variety of strictness.

Jackie: How many brothers and sisters do you have or do you have any?

Esme: I don't have any.

Jackie: Oh you don't your an only child. Did you have any pets?

Esme: No, I just had a fish in like (2:00) third grade maybe and then I had a hamster and it died after 2 weeks and I got too attached so I didn't have another pet after that.

Jackie: Aww man. What kind of school did you go to?

Esme: In elementary school I just went to a normal public one and then for middle and high school I went to a pretty weird tiny school. It was like a magnet school and I graduated with like only a class of twenty two kids.

Jackie: Wow yeah.

Esme: Yeah it was very tiny and very isolated. It was interesting.

Jackie: Yeah dang. Okay and how did your family celebrate holidays? Have you ever gone on vacation?

Esme: I feel like we just had pretty traditional celebrations. We didn't really go on trips on holidays, we just had little family gatherings.

Jackie: Oh that's really nice. Are there any gifts you remember receiving as a kid (3:00) that were a pretty big deal to you?

Esme: I was just always excited when I got toys when I was little. Like one time my aunt got me a build a bear like what it was a high school musical one.

Jackie: Awe yeah.

Esme: I was so excited.

Jackie: I get that, I was obsessed with that when I was little too. Okay and what did you wanna be when you grew up?

Esme: I think when I was really little I wanted to be an entertainer like a singer or actor. Like I was in kindergarten at that time and then I wanted to be like a doctor for pets and then in middle school I did not know what I wanted to do. In high school I wanted to be a doctor or like a pediatric nurse. But yeah it just always changed.

Jackie: Yeah I feel like that's everyone when you're little. You have like five careers (4:00). Okay and what big world events do you remember from when you were growing up?

Esme: I'd say it's hard to remember ones from when I was little but I think I'd have to say the elections were the main thing.

Jackie: Were there any phrases that were popular that you remember from when you were younger or like a teen?

Esme: I can't really remember any particular ones but I do remember a lot of vine references.

Jackie: Was there anything that you liked to wear a lot when you were little? Like color wise or sparkly stuff?

Esme: Yeah I loved sequins, sparkles, bright colors and mixing crazy patterns. (5:00) I just loved it.

Jackie: When did you learn how to drive and who taught you?

Esme: I learned to drive when I was fifteen, I think, and I just learned from driving school.

Jackie: What was your graduation from high school like?

Esme: Well I graduated in 2020 so that was right at the covid starting time. But since my class was so small we did have a nice graduation and we had a little get together at the park. So it wasn't as bad as it could have been. It was just a weird way to finish off high school like that.

Jackie: What dreams or goals did you have when you graduated, did you have anything in mind?

Esme: I think I knew I wanted to go to college. I planned on going to (6:00) UNM. But I went undecided because I was just hoping to explore.

Jackie: Do you have hobbies or special interests that you like to do?

Esme: Well I've always really liked art but I haven't been doing that as much since I've come to college. In high school I did a lot of art like mainly I liked to do watercolor. Other than that I've never had too many hobbies. I really just like to watch things and hang out with friends and just relax.

Jackie: Do you have any like favorite shows or movies? I know that can be a hard question sometimes.

Esme: I feel like it's just changing too much. Cause one minute I like the show and then I don't like it anymore.

Jackie: (7:00) We are approaching our time limit. Is there anything else that you would like to add about childhood experiences and memories?

Esme: I don't have too much to add. Maybe just that I don't like being so old and I miss my grandparents and spending time with them and all those good childhood experiences.

(End 7:26)