

Meet Your Stark DD Eastgate Preschool Room 102 Team:

Administrative Staff



Tammy Maney - Early Childhood Director

Tammy received her Bachelor's of Science degree in special education from the University of St. Francis in Fort Wayne, IN, followed by her Master's of Education in educational supervision from Kent State. Tammy has worked with all ages of children and adults with developmental disabilities over her career. She has been with Stark DD for 15 years. Since a teenager, Tammy has enjoyed volunteer activities in various organizations that benefit people with special needs. Tammy and her husband have fostered and adopted out many cats and dogs over the years. She also enjoys reading, knitting, traveling, crafting in various media, gardening and spending time with family.



Millie Morehead - Preschool Secretary

Millie is an invaluable member of the Stark DD preschool team. She has worked with our preschool program for 7 years but has been an employee of Stark DD for about 18 years which makes her a great resource on the agency. Millie enjoys helping others and can be seen at just about every event sponsored by our preschool and the agency in general. Millie is also a great support for her sister who has a developmental disability. She and her husband enjoy camping and traveling to Volkswagen swap meets all over the Midwest and eastern U.S.

Medical Services



Connie Hull - School Nurse

Connie has been a nurse with Stark DD's preschool program for 28 years and has 39 years experience working with people with special needs. Connie earned her Bachelor's of Science degree in nursing from the University of Akron with additional coursework to be certified as a School Nurse. Connie states she always wanted to be a nurse and enjoys working with the children, their families and the preschool staff to meet medical needs during the school day. Connie and her husband are enjoying spending time with their 2 grandchildren. In addition to doting on their grandchildren, they enjoy traveling and have been all over the U.S., Canada and Europe.



Classroom Staff



Erin Truman - Intervention Specialist

Erin has been a preschool teacher with Stark DD for 16 years. Erin completed her Bachelor's Degree at Walsh University in Early Childhood/Intervention Specialist Education and her Master's Degree in Special Education at the University of Akron. Erin says her students bring her so much joy and happiness, that there is nowhere else she would rather be! Erin has traveled to many countries abroad and says her favorite place was Piccadilly Circus in London. Erin and her husband have 2 children and she enjoys taking them to new places they've not visited before.



Tiara Vann—Classroom Assistant

Tiara joined the Stark DD Preschool staff 3 years ago and it was like she was always here! Tiara states she loves being part of a team that truly works hard everyday to meet the needs and educational goals of our students. In addition to Stark DD preschool, Tiara worked with adults with developmental disabilities for 9 years in various roles. Outside of work, Tiara enjoys playing at the park with her 5 children, being a "sports mom", walking her 2 dogs and watching movies.



Valarie Lancaster - Classroom Assistant

Valarie has been with Stark DD's preschool program for 13 years as an intervention specialist assistant sub and a follow along working with specific children to meet their educational goals. Valarie is a very creative person and enjoys coming up with ideas for bulletin boards and art projects for the students. Val feels the students are fun to work with and loves to see them "soar" in their learning. Val has a great laugh and also makes her co-workers laugh with her sense of humor!



Terri Huntsman— Classroom Assistant

Terri has been with the Stark County Board of DD preschool for 10 years. Prior to working for our agency, Terri worked at Little Angels Preschool for many years. Terri enjoys doing crafts of any kind and making chocolates including chocolate covered pretzels, Fritos, and just about anything else you can think of! Terri says it brings her joy to watch the preschoolers grow in their own way to become their own person and that she is constantly learning from the students and other staff.

Therapy Staff



Rachel Christopher - Speech and Language Pathologist

This will be Rachel's first year working with our preschool. She graduated from the University of Mount Union with an undergraduate degree in Early Childhood Education and minor in Intervention Specialist. Rachel then received her Master's Degree from the University of Akron in Speech Language Pathology. During clinicals through UA, Rachel gained experience in both the school-age and preschool-age children and realized she loves working with preschool students and really enjoys working with AAC devices. In her free time, Rachel enjoys going on hikes, running, and spending time on the lake with her husband and their chocolate lab, Murphy.



Melinda Kristoff - Occupational Therapist

Mindy has been with Stark DD as an occupational therapist for over 23 years, with the last 20 years in preschool. Mindy was inspired to enter this field by a neighbor when she was growing up who had muscular dystrophy and who Mindy would help frequently with doing his school work and therapy exercises. She has never looked back. Mindy states she loves working with preschoolers as she enjoys discovering the interests and talents of the young students. She considers it an amazing gift to watch the students learn new skills, have fun and form relationships. Mindy and her husband have a very artistically talented son and enjoy doting on their dog, Ollie!



Amanda Tabellion - Physical Therapist

After graduating from St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Amanda went on to get a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and a Master's Degree in Physical Therapy from Walsh University. She has worked with several school districts over the past 20+ years with the last 8 years being with Stark DD's preschool program. Amanda says she originally thought of becoming a teacher but then chose physical therapy and found that working in pediatric physical therapy is the best of both worlds. Amanda enjoys being part of all the "firsts"—rolling over, sitting up, first steps, riding a bike, etc. Amanda and her husband have 3 children with whom they are heavily involved in 4H with their hobby farm and variety of animals.



April Marshall-Woolf—Licensed Physical Therapist Asst.

April attended the physical therapist assistant program at Stark State College and has worked within Stark DD for a total of 20 years, with the last 12 years being in our preschool program. April says the students in preschool give her tremendous joy. April has a lot of energy and keeps herself busy outside of work with her children and grandchildren, gardening, getting together with friends and family and farm life which includes taking care of horses, cows, cats and a bird.

Other Stark DD Preschool Staff Who May Interact with Your Child:

Custodial Staff



Ken Anderson — Daytime Custodian

Ken has worked for the Stark County Board of DD for over 40 years, with Eastgate Early Childhood Center as his home base the last 20 years. Ken truly enjoys interacting with our students daily. He sent his own sons to our preschool program as part of our peer program and has enjoyed having grandchildren in attendance in recent years as well. Ken is a man of many skills and interests and enjoyed many hiking and mountain climbing trips in his day.

One of Ken's favorite sayings is "Not all who wander are lost."



Vicki Lincoln — Afternoon Custodian

While Vicki may only have 30-60 minutes in the building while the students are here, she truly enjoys her interactions with the children. While having only been with our preschool for a few months, Vicki's sweet demeanor has quickly made her a cherished member of the preschool staff. Outside of work, Vicki enjoys camping, swimming and spending time with her family.

Food Service Staff

Emily Weisend - Dishwasher

Emily is starting her third year as the dishwasher in our cafeteria. Emily enjoys being busy and participates in every staff activity that comes up. When not working in our preschool on Fridays, Emily can be found at Pegasus Farm. We are happy to have Emily working in our preschool.

Ann Kennedy - Head Cook

Anna is entering her second year as the cook in our preschool. In addition to serving delicious food in our cafeteria, Ann also works as a server at the Texas Roadhouse in Alliance. In addition, she is raising a teenage daughter. When does she have time for it all?!

Behavioral Support



Ann Williams—Intervention/Behavioral Specialist

Ann has a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Akron in child development, a Master's Degree from Akron in family development and certifications as an early childhood intervention specialist, behavior intervention specialist and as a Board Certified assistant Behavior Analyst. Ann has been with Stark DD working in our preschool program for 29+ years and says she

enjoys working with our program as each day presents new challenges and offers continuous learning, adapting and growing. Ann has a passion for trying to find out why kids do what they do behaviorally. Ann enjoys decorating, shopping, going for walks and vacationing with her husband in Mexico.

Classroom



Dawn Fish- Intervention Specialist Assistant (Floater)

Dawn has spent the last 12 years working in Stark DD's preschool program, first as a follow along working one on one with students in need of extra help and then becoming an intervention specialist assistant. Dawn had a neighbor as a child who had a disability that she would play with and help which inspired her to want to work with people with disabilities as her life's work. She also has experience working within group homes with adults with developmental disabilities.

Dawn says she loves watching the children grow and learn each day. In her spare time, Dawn enjoys scrapbooking, cross stitch, baking and doing crafts with her granddaughters, and supporting her son through his cross country races.



Karen Parrish— Intervention Specialist Substitute

We have been very fortunate to have Karen with us for the past 3 school years as a substitute for our teachers. Karen retired after a career as a teacher of students with multiple disabilities and Autism in North Carolina and moved back to her home state of Ohio in order to be near her children and grandchildren, one of whom has special needs. Karen brings great ideas to her subbing assignments along with a calm and easy going demeanor. In her spare time, Karen likes to travel with her husband, Scott, and dote on her miniature Goldendoodle, Mitchell.



Rheta Feller - Intervention Specialist Substitute

Rheta has worked for Stark DD for over 20 years with the last 8 in our preschool program. Rheta is a great resource for our preschool as she is able to step into about any role and contribute to whatever is going on in the classroom that day. Rheta has a Bachelor's of Science degree in technical education. She states she enjoys the children and staff and derives joy from seeing even the small accomplishments of our students. Rheta is very creative and enjoys gardening, drawing and painting as well as taking trips to Salt Fork State Park.



Faydra Young—Assistant

Faydra has been a part of the Stark DD preschool staff for 3 years but she has worked for Stark DD for over 25 years! She worked many years at our K-12 school, R. Stallman Southgate School, as a classroom assistant before joining us in preschool. Faydra is now moving into a classroom assistant role working within our Discrete Trial Teaching program and has spent the summer taking courses working toward her certification as a Registered Behavior Technician. Faydra has a natural feel for working with children with behavioral issues and this certification will allow her to contribute to a greater extent in working with our students with Autism. Outside of work, Faydra enjoys being outdoors and working with and riding her horses on the small ranch she owns and operates with her husband.



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Developmental Disabilities

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2024-2025

