

Meet Your Stark DD Eastgate Preschool Room 103 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 about 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



Taylor Edwards - Intervention Specialist

Taylor has taught students with special needs for eight years, with the last 5 years as a preschool teacher with Stark DD. Taylor received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Akron where she majored in early childhood education. She is licensed as both a general education teacher and as an intervention specialist. Taylor says that working with Stark DD Preschool is her dream job and that seeing the students accomplish goals brings her joy. Taylor and her husband are the proud parents of 4 boys, including their most recent addition just born in June, 2024!



Trina Wachtel- Intervention Specialist Assistant

Trina is one of our veteran preschool staff members, having been a part of our preschool family for 15 years thus far. Trina has always found herself drawn to working with people with special needs and, in addition to her time with Stark DD, she has worked in a group home with adults and was a volunteer religion teacher for people with developmental disabilities. In addition, Trina has taken special education coursework through Kent State. In her spare time, Trina enjoys reading, cooking, baking, walking, hiking and spending time with her husband, adult children, dogs and cats.



Jessica Collins - Classroom Assistant

The 24-25 school year will be Jessica's first with Stark DD's preschool program. She does not come to us without experience, however, as Jessica has a son with special needs as well as a brother for whom she helped provide care. For six years Jessica was the coordinator for Meals on Wheels in Alliance. She has a 14 year old Yorkie/Boston Terrier mixed dog name Shamus along with 5 cats. In her spare time, Jessica likes to bake and read.



Therapy Staff



Lori Gowins - Speech and Language Pathologist

Lori received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of New Mexico in Communicative Disorders and her Master of Arts degree from the University of Akron in Speech Language Pathology. Lori has worked within the Stark DD preschool for 27 years and enjoys working with the children, their families and the dedicated staff. She states that seeing the children progress, learn and grow brings her joy. Outside of work, Lori enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, swimming and being outdoors. Her favorite place she has visited is Italy!



Tara Mizner - Occupational Therapist

Tara spent the first 17 years of her career with Stark DD as a certified occupational therapy assistant. While working full time, she went back to school to gain her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in occupational therapy. As a result, Tara has spent the last 12 years as one of our OTs in preschool. Tara says she loves what she does, never gets bored, and after all these years, she is still happy with her choice to spend her career in this setting. Tara enjoys the giggles and innocence of the students and when she is able to help a child better participate in an activity by using something she modified or created for them. Tara enjoys outdoors activities such as hiking, trail running, backpacking trips, biking, and caving.



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 over 20 years with the last 12 years being with 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.

Anna 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.

Behavioral Support



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.



Stark County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

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2024-2025

