

# Meet Your Stark DD Eastgate Preschool Room 108 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

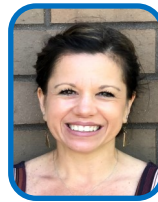


### **Connie Hull - School Nurse**

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



### **Holly Thomas - Intervention Specialist**

Holly began her career with Stark DD right out of high school 28 years ago and attended classes for her Bachelor's Degree in early childhood education at Walsh University while working full time. During this time, Holly worked as an intervention specialist assistant with both school age and preschool children, as well as a bus rider and also as a service coordinator for our early intervention program. She has been a full time preschool Intervention Specialist for 23 years and received her Master's Degree in early childhood education/special education from Walsh University. Holly states she absolutely loves watching the children develop their personalities and become proud of their accomplishments. Holly enjoys Crossfit workouts, singing and camping with family and friends.



### **Erin Sawyer- Intervention Specialist Assistant**

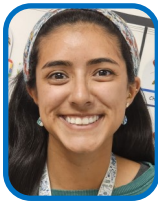
Erin started out as a follow along in our preschool many years ago, transferred to our K-12 school program and worked as a intervention specialist assistant there for several years. We are so happy she decided to come back to us in preschool 3 years ago! Erin is always a bright light and truly invested in the well being of our students. Outside of work, Erin enjoys spoiling her 2 children, dogs and husband. As a family, they like to go camping and on vacation to

Florida.



### **Brad Hamilton - Classroom Assistant**

We were fortunate when Brad decided to retire from working with Stark DD's adult services program 6+ years ago that he wanted to work in our preschool. We do not get too many men in preschool and the students love having Brad's kind and compassionate presence. Brad received his Bachelor's Degree in psychology from Liberty University. Brad states our students give him great perspective and keep him "young" emotionally. He loves working with the children and he says he identifies as a preschooler! Brad enjoys flea markets, antiques, fishing and taking road trips with his wife.



### **Natalie Mudd - Classroom Assistant**

Natalie is entering her first full year as a staff member in Stark DD's preschool, having joined us mid-way through the 23-24 school year. Natalie is a very positive person and fits right in with the rest of the staff. Believe it or not, Natalie has a Bachelor's Degree in Marine Biology and has previously worked in various positions using this degree in Florida, including as a park ranger in the Everglades. During the summer of 2024, Natalie was once again employed as a Park Ranger, but this time in Ohio at Perry's Victory International Peace Memorial in Put-In-Bay. She feels very fortunate to have 2 jobs that she loves, in our preschool and as a park ranger!

## 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,



### **Melinda Kristoff - Occupational Therapist**

Mindy has been with Stark DD as an occupational therapist for over 24 years, with the last 22 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 son and greatly enjoy playing with 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 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 13 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

# MEET YOUR CHILD'S PRESCHOOL STAFF MEMBERS 2024-2025

