



**BUILDING BLOCKS  
PRESCHOOL**  
at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

## **2018-2019 Building Blocks Preschool Staff**

### **Kathy Rebholz, M.Ed. - Preschool Director**

Ms. Kathy has been with Building Blocks Preschool for ten years. She holds a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree in Elementary Education. Before coming to Building Blocks, Kathy taught various grades and was a reading teacher in the Parkway School District for eight years. Prior to becoming director, Kathy taught in all the preschool classrooms and developed the Music and Movement program. She loves the children, the teachers and church staff, and believes in this wonderful learning community. Kathy and her husband, John, have three children. In her spare time, Kathy enjoys watching her children's sporting events, reading, exercising and doing home projects.

### **Jen Sullivan - Preschool One Teacher**

The Building Blocks staff is proud to have Mrs. Jen Sullivan on our team. Ms. Jen wins our one-year-olds over with her warm and loving demeanor! Her "little angels" literally jump into her arms and put her right to work. They play, get to know each other and have fun exploring their early developmental experiences together. This is Jen's sixth year at Building Blocks. Her previous experience working in an early childhood center and her own children's school comes through right off the bat. Jen has a degree in English and Journalism from University of Central Missouri. Professionally, Jen worked as a marketing representative for 8 years and stayed home with her children for 9 years. She and her husband, Sean, have two school-aged children.

### **Lisa Li - Preschool One and Preschool Two Teacher Assistant**

This is Lisa's 14<sup>th</sup> year at Building Blocks. Lisa has a wonderful rapport with her little toddlers and they love and trust her. Her soft and gentle demeanor makes her very approachable by children and parents. She especially enjoys arts and crafts with them. Lisa has a Bachelor's Degree in Economics and is a former accountant. Lisa has taken many early childhood classes and seminars. In Lisa's spare time, she teaches Chinese at the Daniel Boone Library. Lisa also likes to read and cook with her two children.

### **Sharon Howard - Preschool Two Teacher**

I am pleased to officially introduce our new Preschool Two Teacher, Sharon Howard! Sharon is a licensed attorney and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology with a concentration in criminology and a Doctorate of Law degree. However, working in childcare is where her heart is. Sharon was a stay-at-home mother for over 10 years and has been working as a childcare teacher for three years. Sharon truly loves being with our youngest preschoolers. Her positive energy and enthusiasm make learning fun! Sharon is excited to jump into the classroom with Susie! Sharon and her husband, Mike, have 5 children ranging from high school to adult. In addition, they enjoy caring for their many dogs and cats and spending time at their family farm.

### **Susie Klemm – Preschool Two Teacher**

This is Susie's fifth year at Building Blocks Preschool and she looks forward her second year in the Preschool Two classroom! Ms. Susie has been a lunch bunch teacher and substitute teacher for three years. She enjoys interacting with the children and watching them discover new things. After getting to know her students, Ms. Susie offers many learning opportunities based off her students' interests. Ms. Susie holds a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education and spent seven years teaching middle school social studies in Francis Howell School District before raising her four college-aged children. She spends many weekends traveling to various colleges to watch them all play soccer!

### **Carolyn Miller - Preschool Three Teacher**

This is Ms. Carolyn's second year at Building Blocks. Carolyn comes to Building Blocks with a passion for early childhood education and special education. Her playful personality is sure to build a lasting rapport with her students. Her classroom is always filled with opportunities for children to explore their own interests. Carolyn has experience teaching in various early childhood educational settings with her most recent position at *Action For Autism Academy* formerly known as Howard Park. In addition, Carolyn worked as a paraprofessional for Special School District for six years. Carolyn and her husband have three children and two grandchildren. We are very blessed to have her join our wonderful team.

### **Patty Geurkink – Preschool Three Teacher**

After many years away raising her children, Ms. Patty returned to Building Blocks Preschool just four years ago. Patty has over thirteen of experience working in early childhood classrooms and is a Missouri certified Parent Educator. She is an active member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and was an influential decision maker in the installation of the playground built many years ago. Patty has taught in all our preschool classrooms and appreciates the children at each developmental stage. She enjoys listening to her students express their thoughts and interests. Her enthusiastic, yet calm approach is always well received by our preschoolers and parents! Patty and her husband have two children.

### **Jen Rieves- Preschool Three Teacher**

Ms. Jen returns to Building Blocks Preschool as the Preschool Four teacher this school year! Ms. Jen comes to us with 11 years of experience in the early childhood setting and taught for 6 years in a three-year-old classroom. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Lindenwood University. Ms. Jen's enthusiasm in the classroom is engaging to her students. She enjoys providing a classroom environment for her students to explore and stimulating their curiosity. In turn, the children enjoy sharing with her what they're thinking! She looks forward to preparing her students for their kindergarten adventures. She and her husband enjoy attending their children's sporting events.

### **Susan Mayer - Preschool Four Teacher / Discovery Room Teacher**

Ms. Susan is a seasoned Building Blocks teacher and has been with us for 21 years! Previously, she was our Preschool Three Lead Teacher and assisted in the Discovery Room. This is her fifth year leading our Discovery Room and she approaches this task with ease and excitement. Susan enjoys the children's enthusiasm when they discover something new. The goal of the Discovery Room is help children see that the Discovery Channel is not the only place to learn about the wonders of the world. Susan has a degree in Gerontology and has participated in numerous Early Childhood Education training classes. Susan enjoys being a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. She enjoys spending time with her family and exercising. Susan is married to Dave and has three grown daughters and four grandchildren.

### **Taira Price, M.Ed. – Preschool Music and Movement Teacher**

After a two-year break from teaching, Ms. Taira returns for her tenth year at Building Blocks. Taira has a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and a Master's Degree in Reading Instruction and Communication. She is also certified in Early Childhood Education. Ms. Taira taught various grades in Parkway School District for six years. At Building Blocks, she has taught in all the classrooms including our music room. Taira incorporates many musical instruments and motor activities to develop the music in every child. She also uses music to teach early literacy and math skills. Her hobbies include attending her children's sporting events and designing accessories and personalized gifts. Taira and her husband, Jason, have four children all whom have attended Building Blocks in the last ten years.

### **Susan Miraflores, M.Ed. - Lunch Bunch Teacher / Substitute Teacher**

We are thrilled to welcome Susan Miraflores to the Building Blocks team! Susan Miraflores is our new lead lunch bunch teacher for our three and four-year-olds! Susan Miraflores has taught infants through third grade. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education, a Master's Degree in Educational Technology and a Master's Degree in kindergarten through fifth grade mathematics. Susan brings her talent and excitement with her as she returns to the classroom. Susan and her husband have three elementary aged children and one high school aged child. Her family recently joined Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. In her free time, Susan enjoys volunteering with her children's scout troops, cheering on her children's sports, and spending time outside with her family.

### **Valerie Verch – Lunch Bunch Teacher / Substitute Teacher**

Ms. Valerie has been a lunch bunch teacher and substitute for Building Blocks Preschool for five years, but began here as a parent volunteer while her children attended our preschool. Valerie is a certified dental assistant and spent ten years in this industry before having children. She loves working with children because their personalities bring her so much joy. Valerie's up-beat personality and flexibility makes her successful when working with our littlest preschoolers because she always has a smile on her face. She and her husband have three school-aged children. She enjoys reading, walks with her dog, and spending time with her family.