



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

2021-2022 Building Blocks Preschool Staff

Kathy Rebholz, M.Ed. - Preschool Director

Ms. Kathy returns to Building Blocks Preschool for her thirteenth school year. She holds a bachelor's and a master's degree in elementary education. Prior to becoming our preschool director, Kathy taught in every Building Block's classroom and developed the Music and Movement program. She loves the children and their families, the teachers and church staff, and believes in this wonderful learning community. Before coming to Building Blocks, Kathy taught in Parkway School District for eight years in grades first and second, and as a Title One reading teacher. Kathy and her husband, John, have three children. In her spare time, Kathy enjoys attending her children's sporting events, reading, exercising, and completing at home projects.

Taira Price, M.Ed. – All School Music and Movement Teacher

Ms. Taira returns for her thirteenth year at Building Blocks. Taira has a bachelor's degree in elementary education, a master's degree in reading instruction and communication, and possesses a certificate in early childhood education. She taught various grades in Parkway School District for six years. As Building Block's music teacher, Taira incorporates rhythm activities, instruments, and motor activities to develop the music in every child. She also uses music to teach early literacy and math concepts. Her hobbies include attending her children's sporting events and completing at home projects. Taira and her husband, Jason, have four children all who have attended Building Blocks.

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 ninth 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 children.

Julie Avise – Preschool One Teacher

Julie looks forward to another school year! She looks forward to exploring art, music, and literacy with her curious students. She believes a preschooler's first experience should be positive and fun-filled! Before coming to Building Blocks, Julie worked as a librarian for St. Louis County Library and Rockwood School District. Julie holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Missouri S&T. Julie and her husband have four children, whom they love watching do what *they* love and supporting their passions. You can find them at the pool, on the lacrosse field, or exploring a creek.

Jennifer Flanagan – Preschool One & Two Lunch Bunch Teacher / Substitute

Jennifer Flanagan, a former Building Blocks parent and substitute teacher, joins the Building Blocks Preschool staff! Jennifer is excited to be back in the classroom and looks forward to getting to know her new preschooler's personality, nurturing their curiosity, and fostering their independence. Jennifer holds a bachelor's degree in fashion merchandise from Missouri State University and was a market manager in downtown Chicago before raising her children. She and her husband, have three children in elementary school, middle school, and high school. Jennifer can often be found leading school events at her children's schools.

Michele Dolan –Preschool Two Teacher and Lunch Bunch Teacher

Ms. Michele returns for another year at Building Blocks Preschool! Michele comes to us with seven years preschool experience. Her nurturing personality sets children at ease from the get-go. Michele enjoys trying new things with them. Ms. Michele keeps her students on their toes during circle time; you never know what she will pull out of toolbox. Before teaching preschool, Michele was a dance teacher for over 25 years at her family-owned dance studio. Michele and her husband have been married for over 30 years and have three children. Together, they spend a lot of time running their family-owned business, *Casual Tees*, where they are celebrating 30 years of operation.

Susie Klemm – Preschool Two Teacher and Lunch Bunch Teacher

This is Susie's eighth year at Building Blocks Preschool, and she looks forward to her fifth year in the Preschool Two classroom! Her warm-hearted personality makes it easy for children to cling to her. They trust her joyous smile and she can often be found on the floor building towers or reading books with her. Susie enjoys interacting with the children and watching them discover new things. 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 adult children. Susie enjoys spending lots of time at her family farm.

Patty Geurkink – Preschool Three Teacher

After many years away raising her children, Ms. Patty returned to Building Blocks Preschool just nine years ago. Patty has over fifteen years of experience working in early childhood classrooms and is a Missouri certified Parent Educator. Patty was an influential decision maker in the installation of the Building Blocks 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! In the classroom, Patty can be found playing games, reading, painting or anything else with her students. Patty and her husband have two college-aged children.

Carolyn Miller - Preschool Three Teacher

This is Ms. Carolyn's fifth 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 such as *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 five grandchildren. We are very blessed to have her as part of our wonderful team.

Shelley Watkins Parker, M.A., LPC – P3 & P4 Lunch Bunch Teacher / Substitute

Ms. Shelley Watkins-Parker is excited for another year as our lunch bunch teacher! Shelley holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in counseling. As a licensed professional counselor, Shelley has experience working as a child and adolescent counselor and an intake counselor. Shelley and her husband, Shawn, are Good Shepherd church members and have two children. Shelley enjoys having conversations with her students and learning all about them. She enjoys watching students learn new things and seeing kids happy. Her creative lessons allow her students to explore art, their emotions, and ask questions. Shelley enjoys sewing and reading.

Jen Rieves- Preschool Four Teacher and Lunch Bunch Teacher

Ms. Jen returns to Building Blocks Preschool as the Preschool Four teacher this school year! Ms. Jen comes to us with 12 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 that encourages them to explore and stimulates their curiosity. In turn, the children enjoy sharing with her what they are thinking! She cares deeply about preparing her students for their kindergarten adventures. She and her husband have two children and enjoy attending their many sporting events.

Susan Mayer - Preschool Four Teacher and Discovery Room Science Teacher

Ms. Susan is a seasoned Building Blocks teacher and has been with us for 24 years! She taught our Preschool Three class for many years and decided to take on the Science Discovery Room eight years ago. Susan approaches this task with ease and excitement. Whether they are digging in dirt, gutting pumpkins, cooking, or investigating a project, kids like to get their hands dirty in during the many hands-on activities! Susan enjoys the children's enthusiasm when her students discover something new. She has a degree in gerontology and has participated in numerous early childhood education training classes. She enjoys spending time with her family and exercising. Susan is married to Dave and have three grown daughters and four grandchildren.

Shannon Callis, M.S.W. – Preschool Four and Lunch Bunch / Substitute

Ms. Shannon returns for her second year in the Preschool Four classroom this year! Shannon can often be found with role playing with children during open free play, reading stories to a group of children, or having an in-depth conversation with her students about any-giving topic. She always wants to help children grow and learn. Shannon holds a bachelor's and a master's degree in social work with a focus on children and family from William Woods College and University of Kansas. Her previous experience includes child therapy, early intervention, and autism. Most recently, she worked as a lead preschool teacher. She and her husband are blessed with two daughters. She enjoys being involved and supporting her daughters' activities. In her free time, Shannon likes biking, running, reading, and scrapbooking.