



BUILDING BLOCKS PRESCHOOL

at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church



Kathy Rebolz, M.Ed. - Preschool Director

Ms. Kathy returns to Building Blocks Preschool for her fourteenth school year. She holds a bachelor's and a master's degree in elementary education and has been working in early childhood education for over 25 years. Prior to becoming our preschool director, Kathy taught in every Building Block's classroom and developed the Music and Movement program. She loves her students and their families, the preschool and church staff, and believes in this wonderful learning community. Before coming to Building Blocks, Kathy spent eight years teaching grades first and second, and as a Title One reading teacher in Parkway School District. Kathy and her husband have three children. In her spare time, Kathy enjoys attending her children's sporting events, reading, exercising, and completing home projects.



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

Ms. Taira returns for her fourteenth 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 & Extended Day

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 tenth 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 her third year at Building Blocks! She enjoys 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. She 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 reading a book, on the lacrosse field, or exploring a creek.



Alyssa Lohmeier - Preschool One & Two Extended Day Teacher

Alyssa is excited to join the Building Blocks team and looks forward to working with all the wonderful teachers to help create a positive and engaging learning environment for each child! After graduating with a bachelor's degree in early childhood education, Alyssa spent four years in the classroom, three of which included teaching kindergarten. She and her husband have two children and Alyssa has enjoyed being a stay-at-home mom for the last five years. Their son attended Building Blocks Preschool the last four years and starts kindergarten this fall and their daughter will be in the Preschool Three class. Their family spends the summers swimming in their pool and visiting relatives!



Michele Dolan – Preschool Two Teacher and Extended Day 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 her 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 operating *Casual Tees*, their family-owned business, where they celebrating over 30 years of operation.



Mindy Bailey – Preschool Two Teacher

Mindy Bailey, a four-year Building Blocks substitute teacher, is thrilled to officially join our staff as a classroom teacher. She has enjoyed loving our Building Blocks students at every age level and cannot wait to have a Building Blocks P2 "family" of her own with Ms. Michele! She finds joy in each preschooler's personality and shares their enthusiasm for life! Mindy has been a Girl Scout leader for 13+ years and is an avid volunteer in her children's school activities. She holds a bachelor's degree in Spanish and business from Central Methodist University and was an Area Manager for AT&T prior to raising her three children. Born and raised in Lake of the Ozarks, Mindy and her husband of 20 years love calling St. Louis home!



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 23 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 adult children.



Carolyn Miller – Preschool Three Teacher

This is Ms. Carolyn's sixth 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. She and her husband have three children and seven grandchildren. We are very blessed to have her as part of our wonderful team.



Shelley Watkins Parker, M.A., LPC – P3 & P4 Extended Day Teacher

Ms. Shelley Watkins-Parker returns for her fourth year as our extended day 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.



Lisa Li – P3 & P4 Extended Day Teacher

We welcome Ms. Lisa back to Building Blocks this year. After taking some time off during the pandemic, Ms. Lisa returns for her 16th this year! As many of you know, Lisa has a wonderful rapport with her students because they love and trust her. Her soft and gentle demeanor makes her very approachable for children and parents. Lisa especially enjoys arts and crafts with them. Lisa has taken many early childhood classes and seminars and enjoys watching them learn and grow. Lisa has a bachelor's degree in economics and is a former accountant. She and her husband are proud parents of their adult children who are recent college graduates and living successful lives. Lisa teaches Chinese on the weekends and enjoys reading, cooking for many people, and exercising.



Jen Rieves - Preschool Four Teacher

Ms. Jen returns to Building Blocks Preschool as the Preschool Four teacher this school year! Ms. Jen comes to us with 20 years of experience in the early childhood setting and taught for 7 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 stimulates their curiosity and encourages them to explore. 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.



Barb Slavkin – Preschool Four Teacher Assistant (Mondays and Wednesdays)

We welcome Ms. Barb to Building Blocks this year where she will work alongside Ms. Jen and Ms. Susan! Barb has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Indiana State University. After teaching first-grade in the Parkway School District, Barb decided to stay home to raise her own children. Overtime, Barb pursued her creative side and began a career in interior design. While teaching preschool to her granddaughter during the pandemic, Barb realized how much she enjoyed the enthusiasm and excitement for a four-year-old's learning experience. Barb and her husband, David, have three sons and six grandchildren. In her spare time, she enjoys interior design projects, yoga, and visiting with family and friends. Barb is thrilled to join the Preschool Four Classroom!



Susan Mayer - Discovery Room Teacher / Preschool Four Teacher

Ms. Susan is a seasoned Building Blocks teacher and has been with us for 25 years! She taught our Preschool Three class for many years and decided to take on the Science Discovery Room several 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 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 has three grown daughters and four grandchildren.