



BUILDING BLOCKS PRESCHOOL

at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Kathy Rebholz, M.Ed. - Preschool Director



Ms. Kathy returns to Building Blocks Preschool for her 15th 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 including teaching and writing the Music and Movement program. She loves her students and their families, this 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 the Parkway School District. Kathy and her husband have three children all whom attended Building Blocks. In her spare time, Kathy enjoys attending her children's activities, reading, exercising, and completing home projects.

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



Ms. Taira returns for her 15th 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. This is Jen's 11th year at Building Blocks and she 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. 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 and enjoy actively cheering them on at their sporting events.

Julie Avise - Preschool One Teacher



Julie looks forward to her fourth 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 Julie reading a book, on the lacrosse field, or exploring a creek.



Lisa Li – P1 & P2 Extended Day Teacher

Ms. Lisa returns to Building Blocks for her 17th 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 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, exercising, and cooking for loved ones.



Casey Lossman – P1 & P2 Extended Day Teacher

Casey Lossman, a new Building Blocks P1 & P2 extended day and substitute teacher, is excited to join our staff this year. She has enjoyed the last 10 years staying home with her own four children where she volunteered in their schools and clubs and coached their sports teams. She looks forward to making memories with her new with Ms Lisa and her P1 & P2 friends! She loves to see the amazing learning that happens through play and exploration during preschool. Casey holds a bachelor's degree in Geography and GIS from the University of Arizona and was a customer support engineer and software trainer prior to raising her four boys. Born and raised in Arizona, Casey and her husband have made their home St Louis for the past 15 years.



Michele Dolan – Preschool Two Teacher / P1 & P2 Extended Day Teacher

Ms. Michele returns for her fourth 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 celebrate over 30 years of operation.



Mindy Bailey – Preschool Two Teacher

Mindy Bailey, a four-year Building Blocks substitute teacher, officially joined our staff as a classroom teacher last school year. She enjoys our Building Blocks students at every age level and loves having 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 over 15 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 over 20 years love calling St. Louis home.



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

Ms. Shelley Watkins-Parker returns for her fifth 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.



Alyssa Lohmeier – Preschool Three Teacher & P3 / P4 Extended Day Teacher

Alyssa joined the Building Blocks team last year after being a stay-at-home mom for the previous five years. 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 enjoys working with all the wonderful teachers to help create a positive and engaging learning environment for each child! She and her husband have two children who have enjoyed being a part of Building Blocks Preschool. Their family spends the summers swimming and visiting relatives!



Chrissie Staley – Preschool Three Teacher

We welcome Chrissie Staley to our the Building Blocks Preschool staff this year. Chrissie has a natural way of connecting with children and we welcome her teaching experience with children ranging from three-years-old thru high school. In Missouri and New Jersey, Chrissie worked as a three and four-year-old preschool teacher, a physical education teacher for all levels, and a coach for field hockey, lacrosse, and swimming. In addition, her bachelor's degree in English Communications provided many learning experiences in the business world. Chrissie and her husband have three children; two of whom attend Building Blocks. When not at school, Chrissie enjoys spending quality time with her children, family, and friends.



Jen Rieves - Preschool Four Teacher

Ms. Jen returns to for her seventh school year at Building Blocks Preschool! Ms. Jen comes to us with over 20 years of experience in the early childhood setting and previously taught for seven 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 back for another year at Building Blocks 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 work with her students 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 over 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.