



**April Niemi - Assistant Director of EHS & CC**

Hello, my name is April Niemi and I am an Assistant Director for Early Childhood Development. I have been in the field of education for 13 years. I graduated from UW-Stevens Point with a Master of Science in Human and Community Resources and with a Bachelors degree in Elementary Education and Early Childhood. Outside of my professional life, I enjoy spending time with my family. I also enjoy watching and participating in a variety of sports. If I was to choose a quote that fits my personality it would be:

“If a window of opportunity appears, don’t pull down the shade.”

[Tom Peters](#)



**Ellen Grod — Site Manager**

Hi! My name is Ellen Grod and I am the site manager at Children’s Discovery Center. I have a long history of working with children and I enjoy it. Children’s Discovery Center is a wonderful place and the families are outstanding.

I grew up in Chicago and moved to Mosinee in 1987. My husband Steve and I have 2 married children and two wonderful grandchildren.

In my free time, I enjoy gardening, reading, cooking, spending time with my family, and traveling.



**Jill Wilcox - Family Service Specialist**

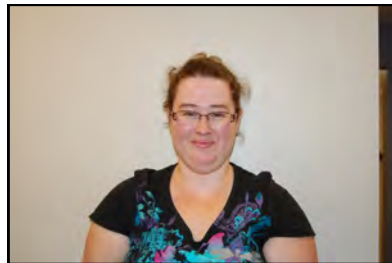
Hello. My name is Jill Wilcox and I am the Family Service Specialist for the Head Start class here at CDC. You will also see me doing the enrollment and recruitment for CDC and various other jobs up front. I received my BSW from UW-River Falls and have been a social worker really all of my life in a variety of jobs. I was also blessed to stay home with my kids for 9 years which has by far been my most rewarding job. I have been with CAP since 2010 and I love my position here. I am also a volunteer Sexual Assault Advocate for CAP Services SAVS program.

My husband Rich and I have two wonderful teenage boys and we absolutely adore our little dog Leia who is a bichon. I enjoy camping and scrapbooking and being with my family playing games and watching movies. Please stop by the front and say HI anytime.



**Sara Daven - Teacher (Classroom 1)**

Hi, my name is Sara Daven. I grew up in Port Edwards, Wisconsin. I graduated in August, 2010 from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. I studied Family Life Education. I also spent time interning with CAP Services as a way to learn more about what the Children's Discovery Center and Head Start had to offer. I am enjoying my career getting to know the children and families of the Children's Discovery Center. Children always know how to put a smile on my face! In my free time I like to go on bike rides, spend time with my family, fish, camp, and scrapbook. I look forward to the opportunity to work with you and your children.



**Miranda Borchardt-Classroom Assistant (Classroom 1)**

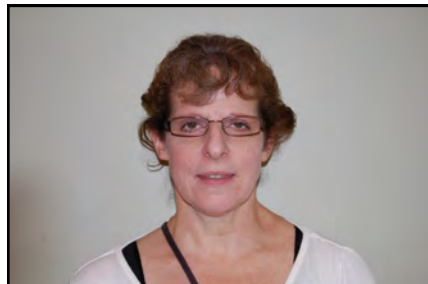
Hi! My name is Miranda Borchardt and I'm the Assistant Teacher in Classroom 1 with the infants (6 weeks to 6 months). I joined the Children's Discovery Team on July 24th, 2013. I graduated from MSTC in 2013 with an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Development. The reason I chose this field is because I've always had a passion when it comes to working with young children. I enjoy every moment I spend with the children and look forward to making them smile each day. I grew up in the small town of Almond, Wisconsin. I have a younger brother named Sam. On my free time I enjoy spending time with my family and my Teddy Bear dog named Chloe.



**Shannon Seidel-Teacher (Classroom 2)**

Hi, my name is Shannon Seidel. I am a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh where I received my Bachelor Degree in Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Needs Education. I am the Lead Teacher in Room 2.

I live in Waupaca with my boyfriend, dog (Melissa) and two cats (Keeley and Mia). I love spending time with my family and friends. I am passionate about music and have learned to play the guitar. In addition, I adore meeting new people, learning about different languages and cultures, going to concerts, attending musicals, and exploring museums.



**Linda Cerling - Classroom Assistant (Classroom 2)**

Hi, my name is Linda Cerling. I have several years experience in working with children. In the eighties (yes the eighties) I ran a certified home child care while I attended college. In the nineties I taught elementary and special education in both a public and private school. I took a break for a while and worked in an office. Now, I am privileged to be working with children again and I am excited to see what I can learn from your children every day.



**Betsy Gauthier-Koth – Teacher (Classroom 3)**

My name is Betsy Gauthier-Koth. I have been working at CAP Services ECD for several years in the Infant and Toddler program at Family Development Center and now at CDC. I graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Child Psychology and later obtained the Infant & Toddler Credential from Mid-State Technical College. I have cared for children in many different settings; In-Home Day Care, Crisis Worker, Foster Care Provider and Group Care, as well as being a parent and grandparent. My goal in whatever aspect I'm working with children is to help them reach their highest potential. I am married with four children and three grandchildren. I enjoy fishing, hiking, gardening and Judo.



**Kim Moen - Teacher Assistant (Classroom 3)**

My name is Kim and I am the Classroom Assistant in classroom 3. I live in Wisconsin Rapids with my husband Scott and my children Elizabeth and Scott. I have 2 fur babies, Boston Terriers, Jenna and Henry. I love to have fun with my family. We enjoy camping, bowling and just spending time together. I also enjoy my flower garden, I have several. I have several years experience working in Early Childhood Education. I have worked with children of all ages from infant up to school age. I enjoy working with young children. I love interacting with children while they play either with building with blocks, playing in dramatic play, dancing to music, or large motor play outdoors. What a rewarding job I have.



**Ashly Halbersma – Teacher (Classroom 4)**

My name is Ashly Halbersma. I have two brothers who are both younger. I graduated from Lincoln High School in Wisconsin Rapids and then went to school for Early Childhood Education at Mid-State Technical College. I have been working in child care for several years now and also do other things such as teaching Vacation Bible School and Sunday School at my church for almost eleven years. I enjoy walking my dog Ellie and bowling with my friend.



**Sue Schellin - Classroom Assistant (Classroom 4)**

Hi, I joined the Children's Discovery team on April 1st, 2010. Currently, I am working in Classroom 4 with the 1 to 2 year olds from 8:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. My husband and I have lived in Stevens Point since December of 1972 when we moved here from Wausau. We have three children, four grandchildren, and three grand dogs. Two of our children and three of our grandchildren live in Stevens Point. Our oldest daughter and grandson live in Idaho. I have always loved working with children. I did my own home child care when my children were little. My most recent experiences with children prior to the Children's Discovery Center was volunteering for Head Start and working at the Trinity Learning Center and Preschool in downtown Stevens Point. Outside of work I keep busy volunteering for the Christian Women's Connection, Hospice, and Special Olympics. I live on Mc Dill Pond and enjoy the view of the water.



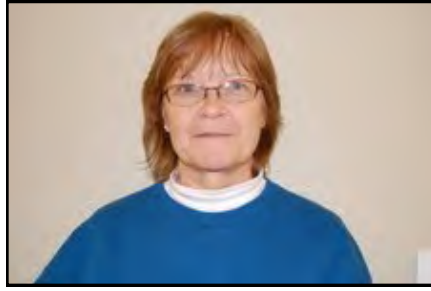
**Jenny Osowski — Teacher (Classroom 5)**

My name is Miss Jenny and I am the Teacher in Classroom 5. I am originally from Milwaukee and came to Stevens Point to attend the university where I majored in Elementary Education. During my time at the university I worked with young children at a child care facility and realized that was the type of environment where I wanted to teach children. I have worked with a variety of ages from infants through elementary school. In my free time, I enjoy reading books of any sort, especially historical fiction. I also love animals and have three cats, Lucky, Cleo and Camino and several fish tanks. In October of 2011, my husband and I became parents to a little girl named Isabella. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.



**Donna Bemowski – Classroom Assistant (Classroom 5)**

Hello, my name is Donna Bemowski. I'm excited to be the Classroom Assistant in Classroom 5. I have over 20 years experience working in the Early Childhood field. I have worked with a variety of ages from infants through pre-school. I enjoy fostering young children's development through planning and implementing a variety of age-appropriate activities. I enjoy interacting and talking with children about their likes and dislikes. I pursued furthering my education by going back to school in 2002 for my Associate Degree in Early Childhood. In my leisure time I enjoy creating crafts from plastic canvas and cross-stitching. I look forward to getting to know you and your child.



**Donna Magnussen - Teacher (Classroom 6)**

My name is Donna Magnussen and I am the Child Care Teacher in Classroom 6. I began my career in child care in 1994, working with babies at a “Mothers Day Out” program in San Antonio, Texas. I moved to Waupaca, Wisconsin in August of 2000, and started working for CAP Services, Inc. the following January. I received my Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education from Mid-State Technical in May 2004. I am still living in Waupaca with my daughter Katy.



**Andrea Dyb—Classroom Assistant (Classroom 6)**

Hello, my name is Andrea Dyb. I have over 15 years of experience in the child care field. I have an Associates Degree in Child Care and Development, and an Inclusion Credential. I also ran child care in my home for several years. My family and I relocated here in June of 2013, as a result of my husband taking the position of District Administrator of the Iola-Scandinavia School District. We have two children: Austin (16), and Ethan (12). We are currently living in Scandinavia and enjoying the lake views and quiet life that a small town has to offer. We enjoy camping and spending time together, and the area has a lot to offer.

As far as I can remember, I have always wanted to work with children. While it brings many challenges, the rewards are far greater. The hugs and smiles everyday make everything worth while.





**Katie Osowski - Teacher (Classroom 7)**

My name is Katie Osowski. I am currently the lead teacher in Classroom 7. I graduated from MSTC in 2010 with an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education. I have always had a love for children and I enjoy helping them learn and explore new things. I am a very family oriented person, so being able to get to work with children and their families makes Children's Discovery Center just like home. Some of my favorite things to do are: fishing, camping, walking, and being with my friends and family.



**Lori Kluck- Classroom Assistant (Classroom 7)**

Hello, my name is Lori Kluck and I have been in child care for 27 years. I've been married for 24 years to Scott and have three wonderful children, Johanna-age 16, Samantha age-14, and Trevor-age 21. After doing in-home child care, I earned my Child Development Associate Credential from MSTC in 2000. Being a child care teacher is very rewarding for me. I learn something new everyday from the children in my care. I hope I bring the same to them. I feel that being in child care makes me a good mom and makes it easy to be a great child care teacher. I enjoy it very much. I work in child care for all the rewards it brings me.



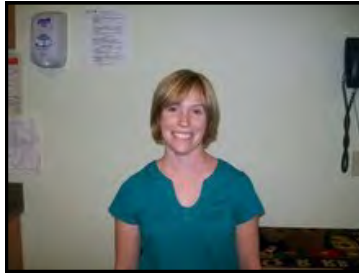
**Samantha Eckes - Head Start & 4K Teacher (Classroom 8)**

My name is Samantha Eckes and I am the Head Start and 4k Teacher. I am originally from Vesper, WI but now live in Wisconsin Rapids. I realized while I was in college that I was on the wrong career path in nursing, so I switched to Early Childhood/Elementary Education and have loved every minute of it since. I graduated with my Bachelor's degree in December of 2010 and am excited to be here at the Children's Discovery Center in the Head Start/4K program. In my free time, I enjoy playing a variety of sports, reading, watching movies, walking, shopping, and relaxing. I am excited to be here and am looking forward to getting to know the children and families!



**Desiree Robinson - Teacher Assistant (Classroom 8)**

My name is Desiree Robinson. I am currently enrolled at the University of Stevens Point for Elementary Education. I have an Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education from NTC. My two boys, Cameron and Dayton have been attending CDC since October of 2011. I am the Head Start and 4K Teacher Assistant and have been teaching with CAP for over a year. I enjoy working with all the families of CDC and look forward to everyday filled with new excitement and experiences!



**Jean Clark - Classroom Assistant / Floater (Classroom 8)**

My name is Jean Clark and I am working in Classroom 8 as a Classroom Assistant. I received a Bachelor's Degree in Communicative Disorders and a Masters Degree in Speech and Language Pathology at UW-Stevens Point. I worked in two Early Childhood Special Education classrooms for five years in Illinois before ending my career to raise my triplet daughters. I am excited to be back working in early childhood education. I currently live in Stevens Point with my husband and daughters.



**Cindy Mazuch - Teacher Assistant (Classroom 8)**

On Friday you will see Ms. Cindy filling in for Ms. Sam in Room 8. Monday through Thursday, I am at the FDC assisting in the 4K/Head Start classroom. For over twenty years I was an elementary teacher. During my career I taught all grades from first to sixth. I felt I needed a change and would like to work with preschoolers, so I went back to school for an Early Childhood Education add-on license. My favorite activities to do with young children are reading out loud, flannel board stories and art projects.

In my free time I like to read, Zumba dance, paint, travel with my family and bike the Green Circle Trail in summer.



**Susan Van Asten-Float Teacher**

Hi my name is Susan and I have a 15 year old son named Marvin. We love spending time together and enjoying biking, swimming and playing card or board games. I attended SPASH and graduated from USWP with a BS in Psychology. Throughout the years I have worked with both children and adults in a variety of settings. I have had the privilege to be a nanny, social worker, teacher, in-home care provider for the elderly and also supervised mentally handicapped adults. I am excited that I have now been given the opportunity to work in every classroom here at CDC. Thank you for letting me be a part of your child's life as they continue to grow and learn every day. What a wonderful experience this is.



**Ramneek Sidhu – Teacher (Substitute)**

My name is Ramneek Kaur Sidhu and I was born and brought up in India. I received my Bachelors and Masters of Science degrees from Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, India. In 1999, I migrated to the United States where I continued my education in the area of computers. I was a teacher for CAP services for 6 years and am currently a substitute teacher as I have returned to school to complete my degree in computers. I am a diligent, well-organized person, and a responsible professional. I love to work with young children and I am proud of my work. I believe that teachers have a profound effect on young children.

I am a mother of two; a girl named Simran and a boy named Jaskirat. I am married to Dr. Devinder Sandhu who is a Professor in the Biology Department at the University of Wis-



**Angie Griffin-Custodian**

My name is Angie and I have been the custodian for the Early Childhood Development program since November 2010. I live in Nekoosa and in my free time I like to hunt, fish, do jigsaw puzzles and read books. I have a niece and a nephew that I enjoy spending time with. I enjoy keeping the facilities clean and safe for the children.



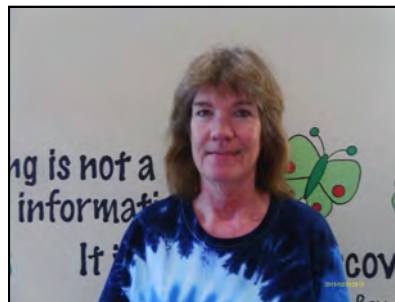
**Mike Koziczowski-Buildings and Grounds Coordinator**

Hi, my name is Mike Koziczowski and I am the Buildings and Grounds Coordinator for CAP Services Early Childhood Development. Most of my work experience has been in construction and repair. For CAP Services I work to maintain safe and properly functioning facilities for the children and staff. I live in Junction City with my wife Angela where we enjoy life in the country. In my free time I enjoy hiking, gardening fishing and many other outdoor activities.



**Joyce Karpinski – Center Cook**

My name is Joyce Karpinski. I am married and have three children and eight grandchildren. I worked as a preschool director at St. Bronislava Preschool for 12 years. I was hired by the Noel Learning Center as a teacher for four years and a cook for five months, which brings me to my current position as a Cook here at the Children's Discovery Center since the center opened in October 2009. I enjoy bicycling, reading, cooking, and having my family around me.



**Cathy Wievel – Center Cook**

My name is Cathy Wievel. I currently am assisting Joyce Karpinski in the kitchen. I enjoy working here with the staff, and the children. I am originally from Rockford, IL. I have lived in the area since 1978. I have two children, Emily and Jake. Emily resides in Eau Claire, working for the National Aids Foundation, and Jake is attending college in Madison. I enjoy going up north, sports, and spending time with family and friends..

**Denise Hale-Volunteer**

I am a volunteer here assisting in the main office. I help answer the phones and do various projects to assist the staff here. I have volunteered as an assistant to a Girl Scout leader and at my local church working with children. I live in Stevens Point with my daughter Haley, our dog Angel and cat Tucker.

Some of my hobbies are camping, beading jewelry, arts and crafts projects, reading and doing Suduko puzzles and taking classes to learn new things. I love spending time with friends and family and traveling.