

Meet our NCE Early Childcare Program Teachers:

Our dedicated teachers meet, and in most cases, exceed, the requirements for certification through the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC). Our staff has the formal education and relevant experience to care for children with professionalism and proficiency. They are committed to recognizing and providing for children's individual needs and differences. Please read on to get to know us a little better.

Christa Kelleher, Director.



Christa has over 25 years' experience in the childcare field. She holds a Director II certification from the MA Department of Early Education and Care and has worked in a variety of childcare settings ranging from large group centers to home daycare, including owning and operating a group center licensed for 20 infants-preschoolers, some years back. She and her husband are raising their three children, so as a result she is also a Hockey-Soccer-Baseball-Cross Country-Track-Band and Orchestra Mom. Christa likes to hike, bike and play outdoors with family and friends when not engaged in her other favorite pastimes of finger painting, reading picture books, filling that toothless grin with pureed carrots or playing tag with her Little Rocket friends. "Every day I get to play, and LAUGH, with the sweetest babies, toddlers and young kids a.k.a. our Little Rockets. I feel so lucky to have the best job in the world!"

Kasey Crouch, Infant Teacher



Kasey has over 15 years of childcare experience. She is a certified teacher for infants, toddlers and preschool. She started her childcare experience as a teacher's aid when she was a junior in high school. From there Kasey, graduated high school and got her hair stylist licenses. In 2007 Kasey graduated from Quincy College with her associates degree in Early Childhood. She then had her own class as a lead teacher for preschool and continued to do hair. For the last four years, before starting at the Little Rockets, she was a stay at home mom and during that time she started her own small craft business. Kasey is married to her husband John and they have two busy boys, Jackson and Jacob. Kasey and her family enjoy indoor/outside activities of all kinds and love taking family vacations! Life is always on the go, but she wouldn't want it any other way! "I'm happy to be a part of the Little Rockets' family!"



Marlyn Padilla, Infant-Toddler Teacher.

Marlyn has over 5 years of experience. She is a certified Lead Teacher and is working on her Associates on Early Childhood Education at MassBay Community College. Marlyn is a motivated young woman who likes to workout, hike, and watch live soccer games. At NCE ECP she likes to play with the kids, with one of her favorite times being Circle Time. She loves introducing the kids to new languages by speaking Spanish with them and practicing some words in sign language.

“It is always something new with all of the Little Rockets - a new tooth, a new word, a new skill... We are watching them grow into wonderful little kids and I feel so proud to be part of it”



Anchana McDannald, Teacher Assistant.

Anchana has over 10 years of experience in child care as an au pair and a mother. Her two children, 5 and 8, have been in the Needham school system since they were 3. The kids swimming, soccer, ballet, gymnastics and skating keep her and her husband busy. In her own time, Anchana enjoys cooking, exercise, and being with her family. She finds joy in the little moments each day with the Little Rockets: smiling, laughing, learning and eating (even when very messy!).

“Moving to Needham is one of the best choices I have made as a parent. My children are thriving in our public schools. I am lucky to work in the Early Childcare Program, caring for our Little Rockets.”



Kathy Padilla, Preschool - Toddler Teacher.

Kathy Padilla has been working with children for several years now. She is a certified Infant-Toddler and Preschool Teacher and teaches in our toddler/preschool mixed room. At her previous daycare center she worked with all ages but has a soft spot for toddlers and preschoolers. She loves seeing how children grow and learn new things every day. Kathy is currently working on getting her associates degree in Early Education in Elementary Schools at MassBay Community College. Some things that she likes to do in her free time is trying out new restaurants, going on scenic walks and spending time with family ...including her cousin Marlyn!

