

LITTLE EXPLORERS



Where we play, build, explore and have fun!

Meet the Little Explorers Staff!

Julien Simpson – Director



Julien came to Little Explorers as a classroom assistant in 2013 and upon her graduation in 2015, from Eastern University, she was hired as a Lead Teacher. At Eastern University, Julien studied Early Childhood and Special Education. She found her niche working with preschool-age children in 2009 after being involved in the Haverford Township Parks & Recreation as a Camp Counselor and program Site Leader. Working at a variety of summer camps, sports and craft programs throughout the years, Julien gained quality experience learning how to develop themed crafts, mini lessons, and provide instruction to engage different age groups. Starting in 2020, Julien was promoted to a Program Coordinator for Haverford Township Parks & Recreation and became the Director of Little Explores after gaining experience as the Assistant Director for 2 years. Outside of Little Explorers, Julien enjoys music, singing, baking, playing Ultimate Frisbee, fishing with her husband Tom and playing with her cats (Tigger and Roo) and dog (Ella). She became a mom in January of 2023 to her son, Ryan, who made his appearance 7 weeks early. It is her joy and passion to work in education and hopes to create a fun, first learning experience for all our Little Explorers.

Sarah McCafferty – Lead Teacher



Sarah has always known she wanted to be a teacher. She graduated from McGill University in 2004 with a Bachelors of Education. She started her teaching career at the Gladwyne Montessori School and has worked with students of all ages as a high school English teacher and museum educator. She is a passionate believer in the importance of nature and play-based education to foster creative, independent, life-long learners. As a teacher and a parent she believes that the pre-school classroom is more than a learning environment, it is a community where children put into practice the important skills of cooperation and appreciating differences. Sarah enjoys reading lots of books, growing sunflowers and tomatoes in her garden, and playing in creeks with her kids and husband Ryan. They have 3 children: Lena and Marion are both graduates of Little Explorers and Lawrence is a Little Explorer in the Polliwog classroom! Sarah has long admired the Little Explorers program as a parent, and is excited to be starting her sixth year as a lead teacher.

Valerie O'Hara – Co-Lead Teacher



Valerie joined Little Explorers in January of 2020 as a classroom assistant in the Polliwog Room. Val studied Elementary Education at Immaculata University and has 4 years of Early Childhood experience with Knowledge Learning Corporation in Exton. As a mother of 3 Little Explorers graduates, she has an appreciation for the program as both a parent and a teacher. Val is excited for the opportunity to take on a co-lead position this year and is looking forward to creating an environment for your children to build independence and confidence, make friends, where they can feel comfortable to take risks, make mistakes, learn and grow! Val spends her free time with her family, vacationing at the beach, camping, reading, cheering for the Eagles and Phillies and having dance parties in her kitchen with her kids.

Meaghan Geisheimer – Co-Lead Teacher



Meaghan joined Little Explorers in 2021 as a classroom assistant and is excited to bring her passion for encouraging creativity, curiosity, and kindness into the classroom as co-lead of the Polliwogs this year. Prior to joining our staff, she spent time in elementary classrooms as a substitute instructional assistant working with diverse learners and provided in-home care with a focus on play-based learning to children of teachers in our local school districts. A graduate of St. Joseph's University, Meaghan earned her B.S. in Sociology with a minor in Gender Studies. In her free time, you can find Meaghan reading, playing games and going on adventures with her three children, taking lots of walks with her three dogs, practicing yoga, and volunteering for an animal rescue.

Sherri Hulcher – Extended Day Lead Teacher



Sherri is excited to be a part of Little Explorers as the Lead Teacher for Extended Day. She will continue her passion for teaching and educating. As a long time educator, she looks forward to providing enriching activities for the children who stay for extended day. Art and science projects, reading aloud, exploring the trails and social interaction will be part of the extended day program. Sherri has 2 children, Will and Mei and a dog named Maggie. She enjoyed making connections with Little Explorers staff, students and families and looks forward to nurturing those connections again this year.

Keith Lipton – Classroom Assistant



Keith has been with Little Explorers since 2014. He is also part of the summer staff for Haverford Twp. Parks & Recreation where he has been a counselor at the Grange, a Site Leader for the Tot Lot program, and is “Head Professor” for the Harry Potter camp. Keith loves Star Wars, Super Heroes, and going on trail walks. At Little Explorers he’s taught Science and Gym lessons and loves to go outside and play in the gym. Keith’s favorite part about being with Little Explorers is getting to see how the kids develop and grow over the course of the year.

Emily Denny - Classroom Assistant



Emily is excited to work in the Polliwog classroom as a classroom assistant. She joined the Little Explorers team in the Spring of 2021 as a classroom floater and is looking forward to a fun start to the year. In 2013, she became part of the summer staff for Haverford Twp. Parks and Recreation and has enjoyed working as a camp counselor and site leader for Creek Jumpers, Tot Lot and Summer Tots. Seeing the creativity, curiosity, and imagination children bring to crafts, play, experiments, and nature is one of her favorite things about working with this age group. Emily has also assisted in other recreation programs, Rec at the CREC, Krafty Kids, Artastic and Lizzy’s Chocolates. Emily is a graduate of Villanova University and enjoys cheering on the Cats! She enjoys hanging out in the pool with family, reading, and listening to music.

Elizabeth Iannelli – Classroom Assistant



Liz couldn’t be happier to be join the Little Explorers team in 2023 as a classroom assistant. As a mom of four kids, Liz knows just how important a positive and welcoming classroom experience is for young learners. She will bring that understanding with her every day to help make the classroom a great place to learn and grow. When she is not working with children, you’ll often find Liz spending time with her family. They enjoy going to their beach house and traveling to Disney as much as they can! Liz is really looking forward to an exciting year ahead, filled with lots of learning and discovery. She can’t wait to get to know all of the Little Explorers!

Elaine Rinaldi – Classroom Floater



Mom/ Grandmother/ Cook/ Gardener

Elaine was thrilled to join Little Explorers in 2019 as a classroom floater. The program is not new to her since two of her grandchildren are Little Explorers graduates. She attended Haverford High School and then went on to earn an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education. She began her career as an assistant teacher at Haverford Junior High, working with the special education class. Elaine has more than 10 years of experience as a home care provider for infants and toddlers. The Little Explorers program gives each child many opportunities to grow, learn and have fun. Elaine is looking forward to a wonderful school year!

Jenna Willig – Classroom Floater



Jenna is a Havertown native and a 2012 graduate of Haverford High School. Jenna started at Little Explorers as a volunteer in 2013 before being hired in 2017. She assists with various office tasks and in the classrooms as needed. You'll find Jenna working throughout the year in programs with Haverford Twp. Parks & Recreation such as Krafty Kids, Artastic, Monster Bash, Pancakes with Santa, Summer Camps and more. Jenna enjoys working at the CREC and appreciates the opportunity to help children learn and progress. Her specialties include arts and crafts and helping the kids build their coping skills. She enjoys traveling to NYC and the Jersey Shore. An enthusiastic Philly sports fan, Jenna enjoys watching all the teams, especially the Eagles.