



Ms. Heather

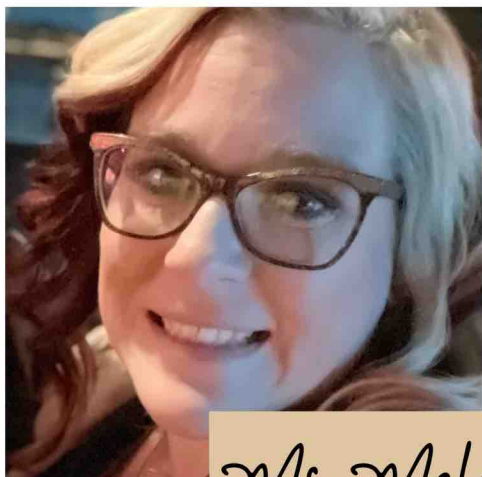


Heather Schuster  
Daycare & Preschool Director

Children have always been a passion of mine! At the age of 12, I started babysitting and volunteering with children throughout high school and college. I taught violin lessons, tutored and mentored dozens of children, and also was part of the Big Brother/Big Sister program and had my own "little sister" during high school. During College, I nannied for two families of 2, was a lifeguard, and volunteered in a local elementary school 2 times per week helping with reading groups. I graduated with psychology degree and then pursued a masters degree in clinical professional psychology. I now have a family of my own. My husband Mike works in marketing at Bulkmatic Transport in Griffith, IN. I have 5 children: Carter (20), Camden (19), Callie (17), Chyler (15), and Cora (13). We try to spend as much family time together as we can, although it doesn't happen too often with everyone's schedules. If we do, we enjoy to travel, try new restaurants, and spend time outdoors. We also have a black lab named Brutus. Having a large family has taught me to be very responsible, organized, detail oriented, reliable, and patient. I am very familiar with raising children in holistic, organic, natural, toxic free environment, since that is how I have and am currently raising my family. I definitely know how to make kid friendly healthy meals and am very passionate about teaching children to be strong, self sufficient individuals.

Back in 2019, I started an in home daycare. It was such a rewarding experience to be able to meet new families and provide quality care out of my home. Every family that came to us became a second family to all of us. As my daycare grew, we were able to expand throughout the years into different locations. In May of 2024, we found the Li'l Rascals property and fell in love with it! We did interior renovations, hired additional staff, and put a lot of time and attention into a top notch preschool program. I am so lucky to have found such an amazing groups of teachers and support staff. We have so many fun and exciting ideas for the future of this property and I cant wait to see where it takes us!





*Ms. Melanie*



*Melanie Scheidt  
Assistant Director*

Hello! My name is Melanie Scheidt and I am 33 years old. I grew up in Lowell and have lived there most of my life. My husband and I moved in together in his family home in Shelby for about 6 years before moving to our house in Hebron where we have resided for the past 3 years.

I've always had a passion working with children for as long as I can remember. I've been babysitting since I was 16 years old for family and friends of the family. My senior year of high school I did a school to work program and began working at the YMCA in crown point caring for children ages 3 months to 5 years old while their parents would work out. After I graduated high school I found a job at a local daycare in St. John. I worked there for 7 years while attending College to obtain my associates degree in early childhood education. I worked in various classrooms from ages six weeks to five years old being a lead teacher. Three of those years I worked as an assistant director working closely with families and co workers creating a safe and fun environment. I found myself an amazing family and became their nanny for their two kids which grew into three for close to 5 years. I have 2 children with my wonderful husband. A six year old boy, Axel and a three year old girl Bexley. I was a stay at home mom for a few years before going back to work at the local daycare being the lead teacher in the infant 2 classroom until I stumbled upon this amazing opportunity to be an assistant director here for Ms. Heather. I'm really excited to meet all of you and work closely with you and your families to create a fun, exciting, and healthy learning environment.

In my free time I enjoy spending time with my family. We love to go camping and fishing. We love to spend the nicer days outside playing, swimming in our pool when it's warm enough, going for walks, and having family movie/ game nights! I really enjoy reading books, cooking for/ with my family, and creating fun snack/ dinner boards. Although we don't get to do it often we love to travel and try new foods/ experiences. I am so excited to be here and I can't wait to see what the future will bring!



*Ms. Veronica*



*Veronica Blanco  
Part Time  
Daycare Cook & Teacher's assistant*

My name is Veronica. I've lived in Hammond, Indiana my whole life. I worked in Chicago for over 20 years until COVID hit and my Dad got really sick. After he was released from the hospital I was his primary caregiver so I took some time off work. In September 2020 I started working at a daycare and found my love of working with kids.

My parents are my world. This December they will be celebrating their 56th wedding anniversary. I have two nephews and one niece. My oldest nephew Jakob (29) is an LC graduate and now lives in Scottsdale. My nephew Duke (12) plays travel baseball. My niece Simone (15) plays travels softball and does theater. Going to their games and shows is one of my favorite things to do.

In my past time I dog-sit, volunteer at Whiting's Pierogi Fest, and help my friend with fundraisers for her daughter's softball team. Every Memorial Day my family puts flags on the tombstone of men and women who served at Chapel Lawn Cemetery. I'm looking forward to what the future has in store not only for myself, but for my coworkers who are now like family to me.





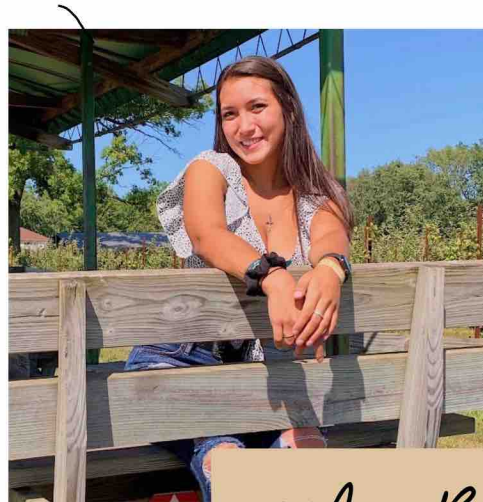
Ms. Emily

## Emily Pederson Full Time Administrator & Preschool (3-5) Teacher

My name is Emily Pederson. I am 23 years old and I live in Dyer, Indiana. I graduated from Lake Central High School in 2019 where I participated in the Best Buddies Program where I was paired with a peer with special needs. Along with that I took a child development class where I learned a lot about how children grow and how their environment can affect their growth. This is where I realized my love for working with children and being a positive influence on their growth. I also completed cosmetology school during high school where I earned my cosmetology license. Although I still love doing hair for fun and for all the daycare kids, I always knew I wanted to work with children. I started by nannying for several years, teaching preschool dance, and I continue to help with the kids program at church. I grew up in a large family of 8! I have 2 older sisters, 2 older brothers, and 1 younger brother. Being apart of a large family helped me mature at a young age and learn a lot of responsibility and social skills. I also have 3 nieces and 1 nephew who I love spending time with when I can. Being an Aunt is my favorite thing in the world! Before working at the daycare I helped raise my now 7 year old niece while my sister worked and got to experience child development first hand.



I currently have over 4 years in daycare experience. Some of my responsibilities at Li'l Rascals include creating all the curriculum and the lesson plans for all age groups in the Preschool classes. I also create the monthly calendars, and weekly peek at the weeks. I love doing design work and anything I can to help stay organized. Along with this I am the lead preschool Teacher. I love getting to work with the 3-5 age group and watch them grow into such independent, smart kids. I love challenging them to go above and beyond the typical age standards in a fun way. My favorite activity to do with the kids is our music rotation. I've always loved to sing and dance and love getting the opportunity to spread that love with the kids and build their confidence in the process. Outside of work I love to workout and spend time with my family and friends. I love to be outside as much as possible and always take advantage of the summer weather. I also love to travel and go to as many new places as I can. I've been to almost all 50 states, Alaska being my favorite! I am so excited to continue growing with the daycare and can't wait to see what the following years bring.



Ms. Bri

## Brianna Mota Full Time Administrator & Tiny Tot Teacher

My name is Brianna Mota. I am 22 years old and recently moved to Griffith, IN. I graduated a semester early from Lake Central High School, and walked the stage in 2019. I did cheerleading for 6 years: 2 years competitive and 5 years of school cheer. I was pretty active as a child, spending lots of time playing with my older brother Christian (26). My brother and I are 4 years apart and have that sibling relationship of fighting and arguing but caring about each other at the end of the day. I enjoy hanging out with my best friends Haley (of 9 years) and Marsela (of 22 years). I also enjoy spending time with my boyfriend Matt. We love to cook together, run errands, and we even have future plans of traveling together. I have a tradition of having a family game night with my mom's side of the family once a month. It's always a great time being able to see my family and bond with all my little cousins and watch them grow up.

Since I grew up with tons of younger cousins, I was always the one in charge of the kids when at family functions. When I was in middle school I viewed my neighbor as a little sister, so I would hang out with her all the time and teach her tons of things she would need to know when she got older. I even taught her how to swim, and helped her learn to ride a bike. I may have been younger than my brother but it always felt like I had younger siblings. During my time of cheering, we would hold cheer camps for younger kids to get feel of what cheerleading is about. I worked with kids grades K-8. We taught them cheer techniques, jumps, tumbling, and stunts. We even taught them a few chants and a dance to perform at the end of the camp in front of all the parents. Over the course of the day, I developed a big sister, little sister relation with a few of the girls. Knowing that these young ladies look up to us high schoolers, felt like an honor and I just wanted to teach them everything I knew. Throughout my teen years, I babysat for neighbors of mine, with ages ranging one to nine. I have been working with children for about six to seven years, 3 of those years being in a daycare setting. I prepare all the Tiny Tot curriculum and crafts here at Li'l Rascals! Working here at the daycare has taught me so much already and I can't wait to see what the future holds for me here.







Ms. Anna



Anna Kostelnik  
Full Time  
Assistant Teacher

Hi! My names Anna Kostelnik and I am 18 years old. I graduated in 2024 from Crown Point High School. I started working with children when I was 16 at the Southlake YMCA teaching gymnastics. Along with this I babysat for my cousins and family friends. This led me to look for a career in childcare and I ended up finding the best daycare ever! My favorite things to do with the kids is spending time outside and reading books with them. In my free time I love to spend time with my family and go outside with my brothers. I'm so excited to continue my journey here. I am so blessed to be able to form connections with all these kids and watch them grow!



Ms. Gabby



Karen Morgan  
Full Time  
Assistant Teacher

Hi, I'm Karen Morgan, Heather Schuster's mom. I am excited to start a new journey in Indiana and working for my daughter. I previously worked as an activity aide at a senior living facility in Huntley, Illinois. I ran the crafts, games, "cook & tastes", and much more. I was there for 3.5 years. Before that I worked with a boy who had special needs for 4 years until COVID hit. I enjoy working with people no matter the age and love staying busy. I know this will be a great fit for me!

I also dog-sit and have been loving that for almost five years! After my first dog passed, this was the path I took to get my dog fix and help others along the way.

My favorite thing to do in my spare time is spend time with my family. I especially love watching my grandkids in dance competitions, swim meets, track, and football. Now, I'll be able to do much more of it! Friends are very important to me also. I have stayed close to many of my high school and junior year friends and even have a few from elementary grades! I try and see them as often as possible even though they live all over the country now. This is such an exciting new chapter for me and I can't wait to meet all of the new families!

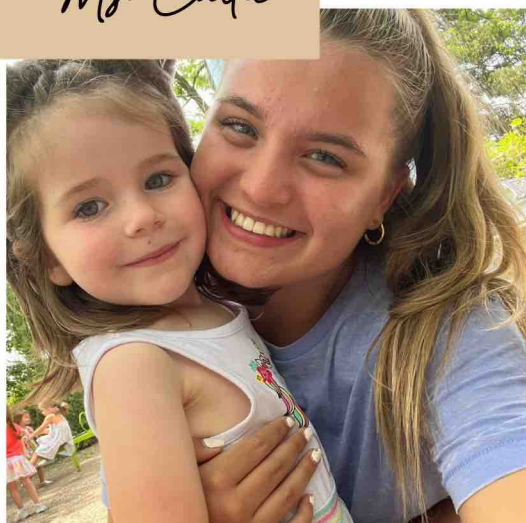




Ms. Callie

*Callie Schuster  
Part Time  
Assistant Teacher*

Hi, my name is Callie Schuster. I am 17 years old and currently a senior attending Lake Central High School. At school I am enrolled in multiple clubs including N-teens, Class Cabinet, Academic Letter winner, and National Honors Society. These clubs are where I can show my leadership, achievements, and also where I spend many hours volunteering. I started as a babysitter helper at age 10 and have been babysitting ever since. This past summer I nannied for a family of 5. I grew up in a big family with 3 brothers and a sister. This has allowed me to learn responsibility at a very young age. I have helped my younger siblings with homework, watched over them, and hope I am a role model for them too!



Something else I enjoy doing is dancing. I have been dancing since I was 3 years old. I now dance at LM Premier Dance in Cedar Lake. This is where I spend my time most nights as we prepare for our upcoming competitions. Working at Li'l Rascals is the perfect job for me because in college I want to study Early Childhood Education and Child Psychology, hoping to be a teacher one day! I love working here because I love the friendly, welcoming environment. I have become very close with all the staff and consider them my second family. I have known most of these kids for while now and I love each and everyone of them. They always brighten my day. I am so glad I am able to work for such an amazing place. I cannot wait to see what the future brings!



Ms. Demi

*Demi McDaniel  
Part Time  
Assistant Teacher*

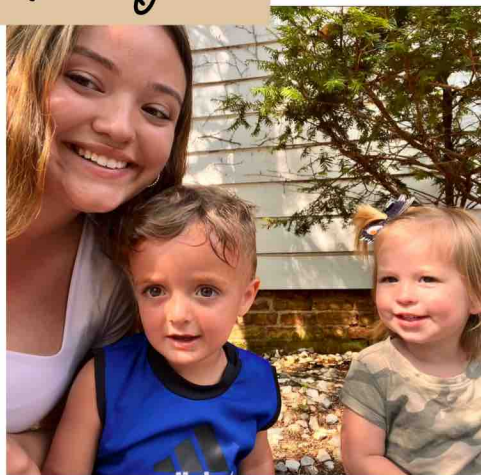
Hello! My name is Demi McDaniel. I am 27 years old and a mother of two daughters, 6 and 1. I will be graduating this spring from Ivy Tech's Honors college program with an associate's in Elementary Education. Then I am transferring to Purdue Northwest where I will complete my bachelor's degree. I am the oldest sibling, oldest cousin, and have always been the designated babysitter. When I was growing up I always thought about being a teacher, but as I got older I actually started school for general sonography. After spending a lot of time in my oldest daughter's kindergarten class last year, I knew I needed to switch my major immediately. The immense amount of joy that happens in a classroom is something that is absolutely unmatched. All I've ever wanted to do since I was a little girl was leave a little bit of kindness in the world. Teaching gives me the ability to leave so much kindness in the world in each student's heart. I recently left a daycare to join Miss Heather's team and it is such an honor to work with a great staff and some great kiddos each day!



In my free time, I love spending time with my family. My daughters are my entire world. A fun day to me is taking them to an arcade, movies, zoo, or anywhere we can make memories. In my alone free time I love to make art. I love painting, and I love making funny things with clay. I also really enjoy building Legos. You can also find me playing video games on my Nintendo switch or on my PC. Laughing and dance parties are definitely important in my life. I can't wait to leave a little bit of kindness with your children and share lots of laughs and dance parties.



Ms. Kylie



Kylie Bell  
Seasonal  
Assistant Teacher

Hi my name is Kylie Bell and I am from Griffith Indiana. I am 21 years old and currently a student at Indiana University, Bloomington. I am majoring in Early Childhood Education and Special Education with a minor of Children's Psychology. On my breaks I will be working at Li'l Rascals and I have loved getting to know and be with your kids! My whole life I've loved working with kids and have always wanted to become a teacher. In high-school I worked two years as a cadet teacher in a second grade classroom, and still currently love babysitting! I'm so lucky that I always get to come back and work in this amazing environment and be in each of your kids lives! I can't wait to see all the kids grow and have fun with us all!

In my free time I love hanging out with my family and friends. I am a big sports fan and I love watching soccer and basketball! I love to travel and explore new places. I also do some babysitting at school of kids of all ages. In the future I can't wait to work with kids and have a classroom of my own someday!