

Leading Learning Award



Amy Kerkstra

"Amy is an Early Childhood Specialist for the Great Start Readiness Program, which means she coaches teachers and also serves in a leadership capacity for our program "behind the scenes". Regardless of the hat Amy is wearing, she radiates positivity. Her attitude is contagious and her heart is always in the right place. We can count on Amy to be a strong advocate for children and families, and also for the teachers we serve. She speaks up and holds our team and others to a high standard in a respectful and appropriate way. She is an excellent listener and has a strong moral compass. Having worked her way through our program in various positions (from associate teacher to lead teacher to ECS) she has a valuable perspective. If you ask Amy how she's doing, you'll usually get the response of "grateful" or "blessed". Those responses are genuine and I know I speak for our team when I say that is how we feel to work alongside her!."



Nicole Burman

"Nicole was recently in a dangerous situation involving a family at home visit. Nicole remained calm, used excellent judgement under pressure, helped deescalate the situation and kept the children and herself safe. Nicole is a strong advocate for young children and parents in the community. Her home visits, playgroups, community events, school partnerships and contributions to the Bright Beginnings team are greatly appreciated. She is outstanding at building relationships with families and they love having her in their homes. And she does all of these amazing things with a smile on her face!"