

Welcome to Toddler Town!

Hello!

My name is Robert V. Nikolov and I have been the Center Director here at Toddler Town Daycare Too for well over a decade.

After achieving my Illinois Type 04 Teaching certification from Kendall College in 2002, I began teaching the 5-year-old classroom at our Evanston location. When my brother, Angelo, opened our Chicago location, I was given the opportunity to step in to a more administrative position as Center Director.

Those years spent in the classroom have provided me an invaluable education in the concerns of both parents and staff which I am mindful of each day.

When I'm not focused on improving our center, I enjoy playing softball, traveling and spending time with my niece and nephew.

If you ever have any questions, concerns or you just want to chat, please don't hesitate to stop by my office.

Warmest Welcome,

Robert



Robert V. Nikolov

Center Director

Illinois Director's Credential Level III

Type 04 Teaching Certificate



Elena Nikolov

Director of Media Relations

My name is Elie Nikolov and I am Angelo Nikolov's wife. We have been married for over 12 years and I have worked at both of our locations for that time.

After our children were born, I researched fun projects and healthy recipes for our family to share at home and on the weekends when the children are not at school. After compiling quite a list of what we enjoyed, we began incorporating what had brought joy to our home into Toddler Town's weekly activity schedule.

Through collaboration with our teaching staff and myself, we hope you enjoy the fun projects and healthy recipes we share as much as we have.

**"This is not a daycare;
it is an investment in
your child's education."**

Gabriela G.



Toucans Classroom - Age 2



Selena S. Suarez

Associate's Degree in ECE
Team Member since 2018

Hello, my name is Selena Suarez. I recently graduated with my associate's degree in Early Childhood Education from St. Augustine college. The children that I have worked with most are two years old and toddlers. I have been working with children for almost 8 years and it is truly my passion. I am so excited to work with Ms. Areli in the Toucan's room and learn from her.

I am a proud Chicagooan and I have lived in Chicago my entire life. I am the oldest of seven siblings. I have two sisters and four brothers that I have had the pleasure to raise. In my spare time my hobbies include arts and crafts as well as cooking. But I can't replace the fact I love being around children and helping them grow and develop so that they can move on to the next stage of development.



In the Toucans classroom, our children learn through play, songs and dance. Children exercise fine and gross motor skills through various activities such as painting/coloring and playground time. We also work on critical thinking by utilizing puzzles and various manipulatives.



Math and Science are incorporated as the children learn about different math skills and nature. We also exercise their imaginations through dramatic play and story time.

We use our daily schedule to teach time and routine as we work through prepared lesson plans based on the Toddler Town curriculum. Our lessons focus on monthly/weekly themes that take into consideration the children's interests to make the learning process fun. Materials taught consist of the alphabet, numbers, calendar, nature, shapes, and colors.



We also encourage parent participation through monthly take home projects, homework, and class participation.

My name is Areli Diaz and I have been teaching children between the ages of 3-6 for almost 5 years. I hold an Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education and plan to pursue a BA in Psychology to enhance my teaching abilities. It is an honor to work with my co-teacher, Ms. Merry. Her years of experience in ECE provide a wealth of knowledge.

I am originally from Guerrero, Mexico and have one older brother. In my free time, I love to work out and motivate others to do the same. One of my favorite activities to do with the students is arts and crafts.



Areli Diaz

AAS in ECE
Team Member Since 2017

Butterfly Classroom - Age 3

My name is Irene Lecaros. My native country is Peru and my first language is Spanish. Before teaching children, I worked as a secretary in my country's government office. Upon arrival to the United States, I started working with children as a volunteer in my son's school. Since then, I knew that's all I wanted to do. I know that if we work together as parents and teachers, we can do a lot for the children's future.

My favorite part of every day is hearing "I love you, Ms. Irene" as our children are picked up from class. It's my daily reminder of why I am so passionate about teaching children.



Irene Lecaros

Team Member since 2005

We call ourselves the Butterflies because, just like Butterflies, our children go through various stages of transformation and growth throughout the year. In the Butterfly room, our goal is to provide your child with a jumpstart to learning.

The Butterfly room focuses on teaching the whole child by varying monthly learning units to keep children interested, active and engaged. Each unit's theme is focused on specific letters, colors, shapes and numbers to help your child reach appropriate developmental milestones.

Daily fundamentals such as letter, number, shape and color recognition are combined with open-ended projects and thematic activities designed for young children. Children learn best by exploring and engaging in problem-solving activities, which is why we take a hands-on approach to learning in our classroom.

The Butterfly room is here to help foster your child in all areas of growth.



My name is Miss Paz. I graduated with an AAs in Early Childhood Education from Saint Augustine College.

I am originally from Mexico. I am married and have three children. One of my favorite hobbies is spending time with my family and attending church together. I believe children are special and at this point in their life, it is important to fill them with as much knowledge and further their development as much as possible.



Pastora Mendoza

AAS in ECE

Team Member since
2016

Bumblebee & Explorer Classrooms - Ages 3-4



In the both the Bumblebee and Explorer Classrooms, children learn new and exciting themes every week. Each month, we focus on three alphabet letters, one shape, one number and at least two colors. We encourage children to be independent and creative while behaving nicely towards their peers.

Having fun is a big part of learning in our classrooms. Books, art, science, music, writing, exercise and games are important tools we use daily to engage our children to enjoy the learning process.

Each day, a child is picked to be the daily “helper.” The children are encouraged to clean up after themselves and to take care of their belongings. Good hygiene is also encouraged through proper hand washing procedures.

There is always plenty of time for free play during our busy day and children are encouraged to try new activities throughout the week.

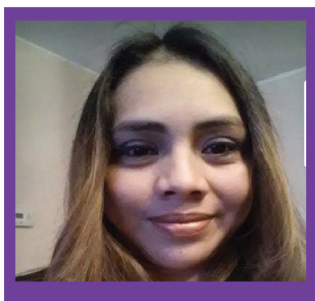
My name is Karla Corona and I am the 3 year old teacher at Toddler Town Daycare. I have been working in the Bumblebees for about year and I enjoy each and every day with my children. I am currently earning my Associates in Early Childhood Education at Truman College. In my personal time, I like to watch and play soccer, I love to go to the movies and I enjoy spending time with my family.

I believe that we can learn a lot from children by discovering who they are and how they view the world. I like to be involved in their daily lives both inside and outside the daycare. I also believe in connecting and building family partnerships by communicating often and exploring each other's backgrounds.



Karla Corona

Team Member since 2019



Cintya Calderon

AAS in ECE

Team Member since 2017

My name is Cintya Calderon and I am the teacher of the Explorer Classroom. I have my Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education from Saint Augustine College. I am from Guatemala, am married and have three children between the ages of 6-16.

With almost a decade in the ECE field, I've seen that children have an easier time learning while they are having fun. My philosophy is to keep my classroom filled with music and movement to help children learn and develop.

Bears Classroom - Ages 4-5

My name is Taga Gleveckas and I am the lead teacher of the Bears classroom. I began working with children in high school by taking care of other families' children. Throughout college, I worked in local schools teaching various age groups before graduating with a B.A. in Psychology.

While pursuing my Masters Degree in Counseling, I interned at a social service agency where I counseled abused and neglected children. I also had an opportunity to coordinate referrals between parents and teachers for a local elementary school.



Taga Gleveckas

MA in Human Services
Team Member Since 2005

In the Bears classroom, we review the alphabet, numbers, shapes and colors throughout the year. We also review positions, opposites sequencing and rhyming.

To learn the alphabet, children use their imaginations to create projects based on topics we discuss each week. They use story dictation to recreate the story in their own words and discuss the main characters. We review our numbers by practicing counting with games and projects, using a variety of collage materials as well as items from class for games. To identify positions, opposites, rhyming and sequencing, children use pictures, games and projects with items from within our class.

Children explore science through differences in temperature, length, width and properties. We also discuss the four seasons throughout the school year and the changes that are presented with each. The children use natural items to create artwork; which also involves sensory exploration, imagination and fine motor skills. Sand and water are used for sensory play. In the winter, snow is incorporated for a different experience. Also, leaves and dirt are used along with other materials from class to enhance sensory exploration.

Outside, children enjoy gross motor activities on a climber and by riding bikes. They can test their balance, throwing and jumping skills with hopscotch, basketball and soccer. Block building and art are also available for those who enjoy creating outdoors.



Koalas Classroom - Ages 5-6



The Koalas classroom welcomes new and exciting adventures every day. In our classroom, we do things a little differently than the other classes in our center. The Koalas class consists of the oldest children in the center and therefore prepares them for their next educational experience.

As part of our kindergarten-based curriculum, we start off the year by ensuring that all children are fluent in their knowledge of basic skills such as alphabet and number recognition, name writing, counting and some positive social skills. As the months pass by and the children are more fluent in their basic skills, we begin introducing more complex skills. The first set of Dolch Words are introduced to the children in sets of 5. Beginning math facts are also introduced around this time. In addition to math and reading, we also introduce lots of science and social studies to the children. We discuss and learn about Black History Month, holidays around the world, space, the oceans and the weather to name a few.

The interests of the children are taken into consideration when planning throughout the year. Therefore, if the children seem to be highly interested in a certain topic/theme we expand on it longer.

It is with great expectation that by the end of the year in the Koalas classroom, the children are ready and empowered to begin the next adventure of 1st grade.



Megan Elliott Schmitt

AAS in ECE

Team Member since 2009

My name is Megan Elliott Schmitt and I am the lead educator in the Koalas room here at Toddler Town Daycare Too.

After completing my AAS in Early Childhood Education from The College of Dupage, I obtained a certificate in American Sign-Language and am looking toward obtaining my Bachelors in the future. I incorporate signing in every class I am fortunate enough to work with at the center.

I love coming to work everyday and seeing all of my children. There is never a dull moment here, and I always leave with a huge smile on my face.

Toddler Town Support Staff



Carmen M. Rodriguez
Kitchen Supervisor

Hello, my name is Carmen M. Rodriguez and I have been an employee here at Toddler Town Daycare Too for over 12 years. I started off as one of the two-year old teachers and am now the Kitchen Supervisor.

I am a mother of two children, a son and a daughter, and a grandmother of four: 2 boys and 2 girls. In my free time I enjoy attending church and taking care of my garden.

What Our Families Say About Us

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“If you're looking for a day care/ pre-school with honest, lovable staff who look out for your children with care as if their own, then this is the place for you and your children!”

Jessica McClain

“...putting my son in Toddler Town day care was the best decision I've ever made.”

Jasmina R.

“How can you say thank you enough for all that you have done on a daily basis from 7am-6pm every day of the week. You all are considered family!”

Natasha Peric