

# Welcome to Toddler Town!

Hello!

My name is Angelo Nikolov. I have been the Center Director of Toddler Town Daycare in Evanston and owner of both of our wonderful locations for over 14 years.

After graduating from DePaul University with a BS in Communications and minor in Child Psychology, I began my career in early childhood as an assistant teacher and summer camp counselor before advancing to head teacher. In 2015, I received my MA in Early Childhood Education Business Administration. My 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. Through many years of helping shape little minds, I am now committed in guiding our funext generation of teachers.

I have been married for over 12 years to my wife, Elena, and we have two beautiful children. I hold my centers to the same high standards I have as a parent and strive to create the same educational environment I expect for my own children.

I am as committed to enhancing our centers as I am to developing the young minds that fill them. When improvements such as training courses for teachers, remodeling the classrooms or upgrading our playgrounds need to be done, I make it my priority to see each project through to completion.

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

Warmest Welcome,

Angelo



Angelo Nikolov, M. Ed.  
Owner & Center Director  
Adjunct Professor Truman College  
Illinois Director's Credential Level III



Elena Nikolov  
Director of Media Relations

*My name is Elie Nikolov and I am Angelo'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.*

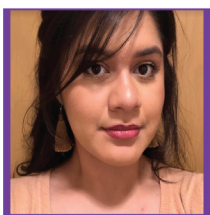
*Through collaboration with our teaching staff and myself, we hope you enjoy the fun projects and healthy recipes we share as much as we have.*

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

Gabriela G.



## Bumblebee Classroom - Age 2



Jasmin Santano

Associate's Degree in ECE  
Team Member since 2018

*My name is Jasmin Santano. I had been working at Toddler Town Daycare since 2018. I was able to gain experience in the butterflies classroom ages 3 to 5. I am very excited for this new journey as the head teacher at the two year olds. I love working with children and guiding them into completing their milestones. I love art and I cannot wait to create so much art with your children.*

*I am currently finishing my Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Development. I am seeking into completing my Bachelor's degree right after finishing my associates.*

*-Jasmin*



In the Bumblebee room, our motto is **Ready, Willing and Able to Explore!**

The Bumblebee classroom offers a nourishing and trustworthy environment. Toddlers are approaching many developmental milestones and we aim to enhance their development with a wide array of learning opportunities. We encourage exploration of our sand/water table, building in our block area and interaction with the expansive vocabulary in our dramatic play area.

We incorporate letter and name recognition by providing name cards with your child's picture attached to them and encourage dual language by counting in both English and Spanish. We also love singing songs and learning new rhymes! These are a few of the many things we do to stimulate children's learning and play.

We encourage both gross and fine motor skills every day in the classroom. For fine motor skills, we guide children to use child safety scissors to cut paper, play with play dough or color and paint to create their own unique art. For gross motor skills, we go outdoors where the children play with balls, ride on bicycles and climb on our climber.

In the Bumblebee room, your child will flourish and utilize all aspects of their developmental growth to prepare them for a brighter future.

*My name is Vanessa Kelly. I was born and raised in Chicago where I attended a special school after being born with hearing loss. There, I learned sign language and how to read lips.*

*Before joining the Toddler Town team in 1998, I worked for the Chicago Public School System on the South Side. I love working with children in cooperation with my fellow teachers and am excited to meet your family!*



Vanessa Kelly

CDA in ECE  
Team Member Since 1998



## Chipmunks Classroom - Age 3-4

*My name is Carina Moran. I have been working at Toddler Town since the year of 2016. I started my teaching career as an assistant in the butterflies room with Mrs. Maritza and now I am working with the chipmunks and Ms. Daulat. I am a native of Chicago. I speak Spanish and English. I enjoy attending child development workshops to keep updated with strategies used in early childhood classrooms.*

*I am considered caring and motivation and I bring these qualities to the classroom. Each day, I learn something new from our children and I can't wait to meet yours!*  
-Carina



Carina Morna

Associate's Degree in ECE

ECE Level 4

Team Member since 2016

In the Chipmunks classroom, ***we strive to keep your child engaged in learning throughout the year.*** When they enter the classroom, we begin to introduce the letters of the alphabet and their sounds. Children will then begin to learn how to not only recognize letters, but also write their names.

We work on our math skills by counting to 20, graphing and sorting. Shapes also play a big part in our 3-year-old curriculum and are included in the daily routine.

Each week we introduce a new theme, but in our class we will always reference what we learned the week prior. We teach children in English, Spanish and Urdu because their capacity to retain information is highest at this age.

Everyday we improve our art skills to explore and make learning fun. For 3-year-olds, the most important way to learn is through play! We keep the children engaged and eager to learn by having them actively participate in our classroom.

In the Chipmunks room, we foster our children's independence and encourage their self-esteem by providing a multitude of developmentally appropriate areas that are open throughout the day.



Daulat Waliani

ECE Level II

Team Member Since 2007

*My name is Daulat Waliani and I was born and raised in Pakistan before coming to America in 1994. My love of teaching began as a child after becoming fluent in English, Hindi, Urdu and Sinhi. My teachers made learning such a pleasure that I wanted to share that experience with others.*

*After teaching in Pakistan for 5 years, I accepted a teaching position with Joyce Kilmer Elementary School and remained there from 1995 until joining the Toddler Town team in 2007. In every teaching environment, I strive to incorporate my experiences as a mother of two wonderful children.*

# Butterfly Classroom - Age 3-5



**Maritza Santano**

Associate's Degree in ECE  
ECE Level 4  
Team Member since 2016

*My name is Maritza Santano and I am the lead teacher in the Butterfly room. I was born and raised in Chicago and speak both English and Spanish. I currently hold an Associate's degree in Applied Science for Early Childhood Education and plan to continue my education in Child Psychology.*

*I believe your child's classroom becomes a second home and I strive to create a close bond with each of my students. I love making my children feel secure and loved and promise to encourage and guide your child each day throughout the year.*



In the Butterfly classroom, ***your child will experience learning in a variety of ways.*** We use a hands on approach to learning through play and all of our classroom materials promote development in all domains (physical, emotional, social, and cognitive). We practice letter sounds and test their knowledge of letter identification and association on a daily basis. Through the use of music, visuals, educational videos, books and even dance, we highlight language and phonics. During large group activities, we count and learn to speak in different languages.

Our classroom has an area specifically for math and science where children can explore animals, shapes, nature, problem solving, classification and more. In the Butterfly classroom, we work daily on writing our first, middle and last names. Near our library, we have a library sign-in board which gives children an added opportunity to practice writing their names. Take-home activities are sent home in each child's individual folder to promote family involvement and enhance their education beyond the classroom.

In addition, our classroom discusses a new lesson related to current events each week. In each lesson, music, physical activity, language, socio-dramatic play, problem-solving, math and science are incorporated to challenge and reach children through various learning techniques.

*My name is Julissa Santano. I will be working with Mrs. Maritza in the butterflies classroom. I enjoyed working with children and helping them learn. I enjoy arts and crafts along with math activities. I am finishing my Associates Degree in*

*I was born and raised in Chicago. I am bilingual in Spanish and English. I am excited for this opportunity, cannot wait to see what the future has for me at Toddler Town.*

*-Julissa*



**Julissa Santano**

Associate's Degree in Arts  
Team Member since 2020



# Sharks Classroom - Ages 3-5

*My name is Jaya Banerjee and I was born in Calcutta, India where I remained until I completed college. I have the honor of speaking three languages: English, Bengali and Hindi. I moved to America in 1997 and began working at Toddler Town in October 1998.*

*During my years in higher education as well as continuing training seminars and classes, Child Psychology has always been my favorite course of study. I strongly believe that a positive early childhood atmosphere is crucial to the development of the human personality.*



Jaya Banerjee

ECE Level II

Team Member Since 1998

In the Sharks classroom, ***we aim to prepare our students for Kindergarten while continuing to provide them the flexibility and freedom to actively pursue their own interests through play.*** When kids first arrive, they spend a few minutes drawing in their journal or practicing writing their name, letters and/or numbers. At morning circle time, we engage the children in activities and games that exercise their language, memory, and math skills such as: talking about what we did over the weekend, counting in multiple languages, learning new songs and dances or exploring letter-sound connections. This kind of structured learning time is off-set with substantial periods of free-play both indoors and outside. During free-play time, we set up optional activities for them to choose and provide materials for art projects or science experiments.

Much of what we plan for the children is based around a weekly theme. This theme is a way for us to engage the children in coming to understand their own world more deeply and the larger world of which they are a part. Themes are often related to jobs people have, animals or holidays/celebrations. Depending on the theme, children may create books, hats, animals and other crafts or experiment with water, sand and various other materials. The afternoon story time is typically an opportunity to share stories with them that will either enhance their understanding of the people in their own lives or show them an example of someone or something that they may not be familiar with.

Both in the development of our weekly themes and in the way we engage children during their free-play experiences, we encourage them to pursue things of interest to them as well as things that will challenge them in new ways.



*My Name is Rebecca Dembe. I was born Democratic Republic of Congo in Central Africa. I moved to Chicago from Houston, Texas in 2018 when I came into Toddler Town. I have been working with Ms. Jaya for almost two years and it has been a great experience. I enjoy working with children, every day I learn something new from the children.*

*I am currently attending Malcom X College for my Associate's Degree.*

Rebecca Dembe

Team Member Since 2018

# Toddler Town Support Staff



Lenche Nikolov  
Kitchen Supervisor

*Hello, my name is Lenche Nikolov. I have been with Toddler Town Daycare for 12 years. I am in charge of the food prepared at the Evanston location. I'm also the food manager for both locations (Toddler Town and Toddler Town Too). I pride myself in bringing a sense of nurturing and comfort when it comes to food preparation. You can always find me in the school kitchen with a smile on my face!*

## What Our Families Say About Us

”

*“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