

## MEET THE PLAYWORKS TEAM



### HONEY YELLOW



**Edie Derosia (Lead Teacher):** Edie has been a teacher with the child care programs at the SAPCC for 10 years. Before coming to the SAPCC, Edie was the director of Falls Playschool for 19 years. Edie has an associate's degree in early childhood education. Edie has 2 grown daughters, and a beautiful granddaughter. Her hobbies include hiking, fit body bootcamp, and crafting. She hopes to touch the lives of children in a positive way and to help them to grow at their own pace.



**Brenda Martin (Teacher):** Brenda ran her own registered home child care program prior to coming to the Playworks. She has been a part of the Center for nearly 7 years, with a few year hiatus during which time she worked as a paraprofessional at Chester Andover Elementary School. Brenda has 2 children. Her hobbies are biking, walking, and being with her family. She does the work as she loves children!



### SUNSET ORANGE



**Melisa Beaulieu (Lead Teacher):** After a short stint as a teacher's assistant at Windsor County Headstart, her love for working with infants and toddlers brought Melisa to work at Playworks for the last 9 years. In December of 2013, Melisa successfully completed an apprenticeship program as a child care development specialist. She has 2 beautiful daughters. Melisa loves children and loves encouraging developmental curiosity and strengthening skills. Her hobbies include being a bookaholic, walking, fundraising and everything that her kids are involved in!



**Kendra Dana (Teacher):** Kendra has been working at the Center for 1.5 years. She first came to the Center as an intern, then a sub, and now we are excited to have her on staff as a full-time teacher. Kendra is working towards an associate's degree in early childhood education through the Community College of Vermont. She loves working with children and watching them grow and learn. Kendra loves playing hockey and tennis along with coaching.



## Marina Blue/Meadow Green



**Megan McCarthy (Lead Teacher):** Megan has dual degrees, a Bachelor of Arts in sociology and Bachelor of Science in early childhood education. Megan joined our staff in 2014, as a licensed teacher working with preschoolers at Playworks. She has 2 children. She does the work because she loves children. Her interests include: baseball, outdoor activities, photography, and spending time with family.



**Amanda LeWallen (Teacher):** Amanda has a Bachelor of Arts in English and psychology, and a Masters of Arts in English. She is currently working on her early childhood special education licensure with focus of autism through the Vermont higher education collaborative. Amanda has 4 children. She loves early childhood. Her hobbies are spending time with family, reading and gardening.



**Cassandra King (Assistant Teacher):** Cassandra graduated from the Learning Together Program at the SAPCC in June 2014, and immediately went to work in a registered child care program. Cassandra joined the Playworks team in February of 2015. She is in the process of applying to the apprenticeship program and will be taking a course in early childhood education this fall. Cassandra has 3 children. She loves working with kids. Her hobbies include hanging with her family and being outdoors.



## 4-SQUARE



**MJ Grennan (Lead Teacher):** MJ has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Norwich University, and a Masters degree in elementary education. She has obtained 15 college credits in special education. She is currently working on early education teacher licensure. MJ has 2 sons. She does the work because it's hands on learning and she enjoys starting children on the journey of lifelong learning. Her hobbies are paddle boarding, hiking, kayaking and gardening.



**Donna Battista-Young (Teacher):** Donna joined the Playworks team in 2012. Prior to coming the SAPCC, Donna was assisting her Mother with her preschool program, Wee Folk. Donna has a Bachelors of Arts in sociology. She has one son. She enjoys getting to know the children and families in a close and special way, as a part of our community. She loves sharing her interests (pottery, camping, dancing, biking, flute, singing, canoeing, tennis, and cross country) and learning with the children.



**Shel Emerson-Small (Assistant Teacher):** Shel has been associated with the SAPCC for the past few years, providing child care for parenting classes and as a substitute teacher in Playworks. She is working toward an associate's degree in early childhood education through River Valley Community College. Shel has 2 children (a 2.5 year old and 19 year old). She does the work because of her love of children. She enjoys teaching them and watching them grow through the years. Her interests include: yoga, nutrition, reading and creating new 'goop' concoctions.



#### SUPPORT STAFF



**Celeste Marquise (Playworks Behavior Team Coordinator):** Celeste joined the SAPCC as a developmental educator in 2007, and has provided support to the Playworks team ever since. Celeste has a Bachelor of Science in speech from Emerson College and a master's degree in elementary education from the University of Massachusetts. She has 2 children. Cece chose this work because children have always been an important part of her life. She loves to watch them grow and develop. Her hobbies and interests include swimming, hiking and traveling to Atlantic Canada each August with her husband and children.



**Erin Curtis Gallant (Floating Teacher):** Erin has been working in the field of early childhood education and community support for 5 years. She holds a child development associate credential. Erin has 2 children. Her interests include running, reading and spending time with her children and family. She chose this work because she knew from a young age she wanted to be around young kids: they're fun, curious and definitely make you think! No two days are the same.



## ADMINISTRATION



**Jenn "Jenny" Rousse (Playworks Program Director):** Jenny began working at the SAPCC in 2007, as a subsidy specialist, during which time she took every opportunity she could find to support the centers child care programs. In 2010, Jenn became the director of our former sister child care center Learning Partners, and then transitioned to co-director at Playworks when the programs merged in 2011. Jenn has a master's degree in early childhood education and is in the process of submitting paperwork to the Agency of Education for early childhood education licensure. She has 4 children. Jenny does the work, because she loves children. She loves to see them smile and laugh, and to help others guide and teach them. Her interests include swimming, walking, crocheting, and activities (snuggling, dancing, singing, and playing outside) with her kids.



**Kim Kiniry (Child Care Support Services Coordinator):** Kim has been with the SAPCC since 2004. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education from the University of Vermont and a master's in curriculum and instruction from Antioch University. Kim has 21 years experience in public education and 4 years in private education in the role of principal. Kim's hobbies include: golf, reading, cooking and spending time with her family.



**Jill Rapanotti (Executive Director):** Jill has been associated with the SAPCC since 2006 in the roles of developmental educator, Learning Partners Child Care Center director and as a member of the board of directors. Jill has a Bachelors' degree in communication sciences and a master's degree in educational leadership, both from the University of Vermont. Jill enjoys spending time with her family and friends, reading, ironing and practicing yoga.