

Shane Krafton
Program Director, Infant Toddler Site



Shane was hired as the Program Director for the Infant Toddler site in 2004, and has been in this position ever since. She was a teacher/director of a child care program in Massachusetts for eight years before joining Growing Places.

Shane has her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Lesley University.

Shane is a strong presence at Growing Places and views her position and work as nurturing and developing relationships: relationships with children, with co workers, with parents. She takes great satisfaction in working for an organization that is family oriented in all aspects.

Shane knows that a high quality teaching staff is essential to caring for young children and works hard to provide a high level of training and support to the infant and toddler teachers.

Shane enjoys spending time with her husband Matthew and daughter Samantha (who attends the Pinkham Rd. preschool), and their 100lb chocolate lab, Daisy. Their extended family is very close, full of adventure, and enjoy most things that involve the outdoors.

**Robin Van Gundy, Infant Teacher,
Infant Toddler Site**



Robin grew up in northern Indiana as the youngest of 4 children. Her family is spread throughout the country, which makes for some fun vacations. When Robin was 20 she moved to Georgia, where she lived for three years before moving to New Hampshire with her husband Paul in 2004. Since being in NH Robin returned to school to obtain her Early Childhood Lead Teacher certification.

In ten years of experience working in the early childhood field, Robin has been a nanny, worked in the public school system as a paraprofessional, and worked at other child care centers with children of all ages. She has worked for Growing Places as an infant teacher since July 2008. She enjoys her work

tremendously and loves being a part of the Growing Places family.

Robin feels that Growing Places is an ideal place for very young children, and is right at home caring for infants at Growing Places. She feels that each day is a new and exciting adventure where both she and the children in her care grow and learn from each other. She is always surprised by how much children can teach you when you think you are teaching them!

Becky Straub, Infant Teacher Infant Toddler Site



Becky Straub has always been passionate about working with children. Growing Places is an organization that matches her philosophy of starting with the creation of a healthy environment to foster the learning of children.

Becky started working at Growing Places as a Teacher's Aide in 2005, and began full-time as an infant teacher in July of 2008 after graduating with a BS in Family Studies. Alongside her job at

Growing Places Becky works evenings at Families First, a Family Support Agency in Portsmouth. Over the past 8 years she has worked with children of various ages as a nanny, in childcare settings, and in a Family Support Agency.

When Becky is not working she loves spending time outside. She loves the ocean, and when possible she spends any free time she has by the water. Becky enjoys running, reading, and traveling. Becky comes from a large family, spread throughout the country and travels to visit them every chance she can get.

Becky is thrilled to be a part of the Growing Places team and loves working with families and watching the children learn and grow!

Kari Hampton, Toddler Teacher, ITS



When Kari began working at Growing Places as a Teacher Aide in 2006, she saw that it was an organization with the same beliefs about early childhood education that she had. Kari was recently promoted from Teacher aide to Toddler Teacher. She loves working at Growing Places because of the friendly and welcoming atmosphere for both staff and families.

In 2008, Kari received a B.S. in Family Studies with a Specialization in the Young Child from UNH. In 2009, she went on to graduate with a Master's Degree in Elementary Education. Kari has experience working with children in Early Childhood Education settings at both Growing Places and at the Child Study and Development Center at UNH. During a year long Elementary internship at Woodman Park School in Dover, she gained experience working with first graders. Kari has experience working with children from infancy through thirteen years old.

Kari loves to spend time with her large family and travels often to Vermont to see them. In her spare time she enjoys reading, scrapbooking, watching movies and playing board games. Kari loves to travel and had the opportunity to visit several countries in Europe when she lived in France for six months in 2007.

Alicia June, Toddler Teacher, Infant Toddler Site



Alicia's love for children brought her to Growing Places in 2006, and she quickly grew attached. She always knew she would work with children, but never knew in what capacity. When she began working at Growing Places she knew that Early Childhood was her calling. Alicia went from a Teacher Aide, to a Part Time teacher, to a Full Time Teacher all the while obtaining her Bachelor's Degree in Sociology. Once she graduated, in 2007 from St. Anselm College, she was accepted into the Master's of Education in Early Childhood at UNH. Alicia attended evening classes while continuing Full-Time Employment with Growing Places and fulfilling a year long supervised internship. Alicia graduated with my Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education in May of 2009. She is devoted to educating herself and others in the early childhood education field.

In her free time Alicia loves to be outdoors. An avid and skilled photographer, Alicia also loves bike riding, hiking, swimming, camping and enjoying all the world has to offer. She grew up as one of five children and has never known life without the chaos and love that is provided by a large family. Her upbringing is has been a huge influence on her life, and without it she would not be where she is today ~ a place she finds she is very happy to be.