

The History of Bethany Busy Bee Preschool

In the late 1970s an outside preschool rented space from Bethany for a small preschool. Then in 1981 George Kenworthy, the pastor of Bethany, asked Sharon Eggert & Jan Schwarz to begin a preschool to reach out to this community. Sharon & Jan went through the neighborhoods near Bethany handing out fliers and Busy Bee Preschool began that fall with just two classes. Busy Bee moved upstairs in 2001 and has grown over the years to four classrooms serving over 100 children from 2 ½ to Kindergarten age with a balanced early childhood education in a Christian environment. Busy Bee Preschool received a rating of 3 of 4 Stars from Qualistar in 2009 and a full five year accreditation from ACSI, The Association of Christian Schools International.

A number of families from Bethany have their children enrolled at Busy Bee; however, the majority of our students are from the surrounding community. We welcome students from many different ethnic, socioeconomic and faith backgrounds. Busy Bee is excited to be serving the second generation of some of our families.

Our philosophy is that God has created each person special, with unique abilities and needs. It is our goal to help each child develop emotionally, socially, cognitively, physically and spiritually. It is also our goal to provide the best quality Christian education for all children, giving them a fun, positive first start for their school years. Our entire staff is dedicated to these goals.

All of the staff of Busy Bee Preschool have been fingerprinted; and, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation has completed a background investigation clearing each of them for employment in a childcare environment. The employees are registered with the Central Registry of the Department of Human Services.

Joyce Bertram writes...

I have been the director at Busy Bee since 2001, after several years as a substitute and teacher. I have a Masters degree in Education and was the coordinator for training for people in the field of disabilities at the University of Illinois for 13 years before we moved to Colorado in 1996 to be near family. I have been married to Dan since 1984 and we have 3 children, Liz in Seattle with a graduate degree from Mars Hill; Daniel here in the Denver area with a degree from the University of Colorado; and, Sam at Arapahoe High School. In addition, my family includes Dan's two older children who live in the Midwest with their families; and, Bev & Shannon who have lived with us since 1990. I am involved at Bethany with Women's Ministry, the Disability Ministry, and Early Childhood programs. Moms In Touch (praying for my children with other moms) is another commitment near and dear to my heart. It is a privilege and delight to be serving you and your children.

Marlene Fallt writes...

I have been a teacher at Busy Bee since 1983. I teach the 2 1/2 - 3 year old class. My husband is a car salesman with GO Park Meadows, and we have been married for 37 years. We have five children. Jeremy, 34, is an engineer with Frontier Communications in Seattle. Jennifer, 31, is married and teaches 2nd grade at Peabody Elementary in Littleton. Jonathan, 29, is an automotive technician at GO, Park Meadows. James, 23, just graduated with a degree in Chemical Engineering, and works for Rocky Mountain Scientific Laboratories. Jessica, 18, is starting college at Metro State this fall. Our family has welcomed over 30 foreign students into our home, who have come for three or four months or a year or more, so the house has been full of kids, challenges, excitement, food, fun & foreign languages. I have had the privilege to serve on many mission trips, here in the USA as well as in the Czech Republic, Thailand and Mexico. I enjoy skiing, sewing, scrap booking, doing crafts and hanging out with young people.

Meredith Haun writes...

I am a native of Colorado and enjoy working with children. My husband Ed and I have been married for almost 15 years and we have two children, Rachel age 14 and Eddie age 11. My son attended preschool here and this is my 6th year being a part of the Busy Bee family. I earned my Group Leader & Director Certificates and my Associates Degree from Arapahoe Community College in August 2008. I am excited to be working here at Busy Bee and look forward to getting to know the children and families better. I love reading, gardening, cooking and the outdoors.

Lea Ann Hayes writes...

What a privilege to work at a place where you can talk about Christ! Thank you for showing me the ropes last year and allowing me to serve you again this year. I've been married 24 years. My husband is a wonderful man and works as an HVAC tech. I have 3 children. Andrew, 22, is married and lives in NC with his wife Tasha. Joshua is 18 and a senior at Littleton High. He loves art. Then there is Ebony, who is a blessing from God. I was raised with 4 brothers and was feeling left out with my husband and 2 sons. I thank the Lord for all He has given me. I love to sew and quilt. I love the outdoors too. I am a Kansas girl.

Luanne Hildebrandt writes...

Let me introduce myself. I am Luanne Hildebrandt. I will be a substitute this year at Busy Bee. I have been teaching for 40 years. I completed my undergraduate work at Friends University in Wichita, Kansas. I taught elementary vocal music for 3 years before directing a center at my church in Union, Kentucky. After 12 years there, we moved to Colorado where I was the Assistant Director of 2 centers in Littleton as well as a Pre-K teacher. Teaching is my love and I am so excited to be here at Busy Bee for my 3rd year. My husband Jeff and I have 2 children and 3 grandchildren. I love taking care of my grandson, Logan, gardening, singing and getting together with family.

Kathleen Lintelmann writes...

I've been at Busy Bee for 5 years. I have a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Colorado and almost 20 years of teaching in schools. I love arts and crafts, painting, quilting and traveling to new places. I have two kids, my daughter Amy is married and lives in Castle Rock. My son, Eric, is a Captain in the Army and lives in Kansas. I look forward to this year at Busy Bee. It is such a pleasure to work with these fantastic women and your precious children.

Kay Mack writes...

I have taught for 12 years. I have an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood from Hesston College, KS and a B.S. in Elementary Education from Messiah College, PA. My husband, Rich, and I have been married 18 years. We have 3 children, Emily, 11 years, attends Euclid Middle School. Lydia is 8 years old and Andrew, 7 years old, attend Highland Elementary. I enjoy reading, watching a good movie and spending time with friends. I taught the 3-4 class last year. This year I will be substituting as needed.

JoEllen Nikkel writes...

Hi I am JoEllen Nikkel and I am excited to be back at Busy Bee Preschool. I have been married to my husband, Todd for 15 years and have 2 wonderful kids. Walker is 9 and Hannah is 7. They keep us on our toes. I have been in many classroom settings. I worked in a 5th grade class and taught middle school music at Cherry Hills Christian School. I helped with the music here at Busy Bee for a few years and then took a break when Hannah came. I teach private music lesson out of my house, sing with the Cherry Creek Chorale, and volunteer at The Children's Hospital.

Paula Petty writes...

I have been involved with Busy Bee since my children went to preschool here back in 2003-2004. I have 4 children, 10-18 years old. One of my children is at Peabody Elementary, one is at Newton Middle School, one is a freshman at Arapahoe High School and my oldest will attend ACC this fall. I will be working with Mrs. Fallt as an aide in the MW, TTh and MDO classes. I am looking forward to an awesome year!

Jennifer Sullivan writes...

I grew up in San Antonio, Texas. I earned my BBS in Elementary Education at Hardin Simmons University in Abilene, TX. I taught 3rd and 4th grade for 6 years in San Antonio. I have been married for 13 years and have two boys ages 9 and 12. They attend Platte River Academy. We have lived in Colorado for 7 years. My youngest attended Busy Bee when he was 4 years old, and I loved the program. During that time I had the opportunity to be a substitute teacher. This will be my 3rd year teaching preschool, but my first year at Busy Bee. I love teaching preschool and am so excited to be here!

Gini Trask writes...

I am very excited to begin teaching one of the 4 year old classes at Bethany Busy Bee Preschool. I have a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and I am director qualified through the state of Colorado. I have taught preschool, kindergarten and more recently first grade. My husband, Ron, and I have been married for 23 years. Our son, Andrew, age 21, serves in the U.S. Navy on the USS Ronald Reagan and our daughter, Ella, 17, is a junior at Front Range Christian High School. I love preparing healthy meals for my family, especially using foods from our garden. I also enjoy reading and hiking in the mountains of beautiful Colorado with my family. I feel very blessed to be a part of Bethany Busy Bee Preschool.

Jin Voelkelt writes...

This is my fourth year working for Busy Bee Preschool. I have been married to my husband, Mike, for 16 years. We have 3 children Rebekah, Sarah and Michael. All my children attended the preschool. This year Michael will be in Mrs. Trask's M/W/F class. Our family attends Highline Community Church. I graduated from Metro State College with a Bachelor's Degree in Speech Communications Disorders. I will be working Wednesdays and Fridays in the office working on bookkeeping, responsible for tuition and related administrative duties. This is the last year with a preschooler at the school.

Ann White writes...

My husband, Bob O'Dell, and I were married in 1989 and we have been members at Bethany since 2001. This is my 10th school year working at Busy Bee Preschool. I worked in the oil industry for 20 years and have no children of my own. I was kind of scared of all these little kids when I started but God has given me a special love for you and your children. I desire to serve where God places me and believe He has put me here for a time. Every year God surprises me with how He provides for Busy Bee Preschool and I am excited to see how He provides this school year! Bob & I have been on eight short term mission trips and lived in Siberia and Australia during the 1990s. I enjoy hiking and climbed all the 14ers many years ago. Now I walk and garden a good bit. I also snowshoe and play tennis when I get the chance.

Mary Wise writes...

My name is Mary Wise. I was born in Decatur, Illinois. My husband, Bob, and I have 1 child, a daughter and 2 grandchildren. I love volunteering at Busy Bee Preschool. I think learning something new is very important.