



Meet the Teachers

YMCA Early Learning Center at Sentara Martha Jefferson



Maria Arellano **Infant Classroom**

My name is Maria! I enjoy listening to music, reading, writing, and spending time with my friends and family. I love going on walks with some upbeat music and my favorite color is pink! I enjoy working with infants and seeing the world through their eyes. I love observing how they learn and how happy they get when they accomplish tasks big or small. I am honored to be a part of their learning experience.

Keisha Jackson **Infant Classroom**

Hello! My name is Mrs. Keisha! I have been working in childcare for over 25 years. Outside of work, I enjoy playing board games, cooking, listening to music, and spending time with friends and family. Each day I care for children as if they were my own. Creating a bond with an infant is very important to me because I know I play an important role in their development.



Zionn Poindexter **Infant Classroom**

Hello, my name is Zionn! I'm 18 years old and I'll be graduating from high school soon. I hope to attend college to pursue a nursing degree. I started working with kids my sophomore year of high school and fell in love with it so I started a career path in childcare. My favorite hobbies outside of work include traveling, trying new foods, and spending time with my friends and family.



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Karen Kohler **Toddlers Classroom**

Hi, I'm Ms. Karen! I am a toddler teacher going on my third year working in childcare. I have been working with children since high school though babysitting and volunteer work. I love working with the toddler age group because I get to observe children's personalities grow and develop. I enjoy connecting with the children through art exploration and reading with them. In my free time I enjoy reading, writing, going to concerts, and spending time with my loved ones. I am excited to get to know your children and help them learn and grow.

Kiana Richardson **Twos Classroom**

Hello, I'm Kiana! I have been working in childcare since 2017 and have been with the YMCA since 2020. My favorite hobbies include candle making, baking, painting/color by numbers, playing video games, and going on walks when the weather is nice. I have also taken up reading as a more recent hobby. My favorite activities to do with children are playing outside and arts and crafts. "Fox in Socks" is my absolute favorite children's book. I am eager to meet and care for your precious children!



Amaiya Miller **Twos Classroom**

Hi, my name is Amaiya! I have three years of experience in childcare and truly enjoy creating a safe, fun, and nurturing environment for children. The best part of my day is making crafts and watching children express their creativity! Outside of work I enjoy trying new things, traveling, and bringing fresh ideas into my work with kids.





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Mia Washington **Threes Classroom**

My name is Mia! I have been in childcare going on three years. I love working with the Preschool aged kids but also enjoy visiting the babies as well! My favorite children's book is "Froggy Gets Dressed". Outside of work I enjoy reading, watching movies and T.V. shows, snacking, and cooking. Fun facts about me are that I have 7 siblings and love everything girly and pink!



Muska Akmal **Threes Classroom**

Hello, my name is Muska! I am originally from Afghanistan and have been living in the USA for the past 7 years. I live with my husband and three children, and I have a bachelor's degree in biology. This is my first time working in a childcare facility; however, I gained experience and knowledge about children while raising my three kids! My favorite hobbies are enjoying the outdoors with my family, going on walks, and watching T.V. I enjoy reading religious books and my favorite food is Afghani food. I also love visiting Afghanistan to visit my mother and my brother.

Nev Harrell **Threes Classroom**

Hi! My name is Neveah, but I prefer to go by Nev. I am 19 years old and am excited to start my first year working in childcare here! I enjoy working with kids because I grew up with 5 siblings and strive to help other children grow and develop. In my free time, I love to bake, travel the world, and watch anime.





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Anne DeVault
PreK Classroom

Hello! My name is Anne! I have spent 15 years in PreK-3rd education, and love to witness the growth that can happen in just one school year! In my free time, I'm an avid reader, crossword puzzler, and coffee drinker. I have a grown son and daughter, and I'm happiest spending time with them and my three grandsons.

Tierra Newsome
PreK Classroom

My name is Tierra, and I am so excited to be a part of your child's learning journey. I am passionate about working with children and helping build a strong foundation for their future while making them feel safe, supported, and cared for each day. As a mom of three boys, I truly understand the trust families place in us and value the partnership we build together. In the classroom, I love encouraging active learning through outdoor play, music, and movement. A fun fact about me is that, despite working with kids, I actually don't like chocolate! On the other hand, I do love expressing my personality in fun ways, especially through unique sneakers you may spot me wearing in the classroom.



Tiffany Bradley
Kitchen Manager

Hi! I am Tiffany the Kitchen Manager! I am an experienced kitchen worker and am excited to help prepare and serve healthy, age-appropriate meals for your children! I take pride in contributing to a safe, nurturing environment that supports children's health and development. Outside of work, I enjoy playing cards, listening to music, dancing, and spending time with my friends and family.



Learn more at **PiedmontYMCA.org**

