

My name is Kristy Jensen, and your kiddos call me Ms. Kristy. I am one of the Assistant Directors, and also, I am an Extended Care Teacher. I have been with Good Shepherd for 14 years. I was born and raised right here in Fort Wayne, Indiana. I started back in 2008 as a sub but was soon asked to be an Extended Care teacher, and then this year, I was offered an Assistant Director position. I have subbed in every classroom and love what happens here at Good Shepherd.

I have four wonderful kids who went through Good Shepherd Preschool when they were little. I now have three that have graduated and one that will be a senior this year. Some of your kiddos might know 2 of my kids. Ms. Hayley is one of our PeeWee teachers, and Ms. Isabel is our dance teacher for the summer. Last summer, I returned to school and earned my Child Development Associate (CDA) credentials. My Extended Care classroom is named MINIONS because I love Minion movies. I think of all your little kiddos are our little Minions.

My teaching philosophy isn't like most you might see. Play is my main focus. Academics are pushed so hard at a young age, and I believe that play is what they need at this young age—learning how to play with others and how to use their words to express how they feel. We are helping kids learn how to self-regulate the big emotions that come with being a 3-5 years old. This self-regulation is a huge need for children this age. I love teaching kids. The understanding that lights up on their little faces when they have accomplished something makes my heart happy to see. This makes me want to keep doing this job for years to come.

Check out this article for more information about the importance of play:

<https://bingschool.stanford.edu/news/directors-column-play-based-learning-leads-school-readiness>

