#### PLAY & LEARN

## Curriculum Corner

A new year brings new learning experiences! Our students are busy learning and exploring. Check out some snapshots of what they've been up to!





Students at our Royersford center learned about creating different color patterns. Here, a student created a two color pattern!



January means colder temperatures, so our Ardmore students spent some time learning about what clothes to wear in winter weather, then made their own scarves using paper, glue, and pipe cleaners!

#### Familv



## Introducing the new addition to our newsletter...



Each month we will be featuring teachers from our centers that have been in the field and with Play & Learn the longest! We are so excited to share the wisdom and experiences that our wonderful teachers have to offer. After years of touching the minds and hearts of young children and families, these teachers are true educators and mentors. We can't wait to hear what they have to say. Read below for our first Teacher Feature!

## **Teacher Feature: Play & Learn,** Norristown

#### **Donna Nelson**

Meet Donna Nelson, one of our Norristown teachers. Out of those teaching at this center, she has been in the Early Childhood Education field the longest. Donna's love for early childhood started as a little girl, when she realized she wanted to be a teacher; she went from playing school with her sister to earning her degree in Elementary Education. Since then, she has taught in multiple schools throughout the Philadelphia and Montgomery County areas. Donna has been a kindergarten teacher, director, and now loves her role as a teacher for children ages 0-5 at Play & Learn, Norristown!



Norristown Teacher Donna Nelson

Donna says the most rewarding thing about her work is, "the love that I get to give to the children, and the love that they give back – it's the best part of it all." She is a warm and loving teacher, who considers each child she teaches "one of her kids." She aims to create relationships with her children rooted in empathy and kindness. When asked about her hopes and dreams for all of the children she serves, she stated, "I hope they all go to college and are happy and safe. I hope they take some of the love that I give them and give it to their children."

Donna has touched the lives of many children, families, and fellow teachers throughout her career. When talking about the advice she would give to aspiring teachers, she said, "You can be a good teacher if you focus only on curriculum, but you can be a great teacher if you focus on the whole student." Donna's teaching philosophy is one that really speaks to the core of what early childhood education is all about. By giving unconditional love and support to her students, she creates a safe environment that nurtures learning and connection.

# **Upcoming Events & Important Dates**

Monday, January 15th: CLOSED for holiday

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