MEET THE TEACHERS

Smart Start Preschool

In Hidden Springs

2024-2025

Erin Donahue-Director



Erin Donahue is the owner and director of Smart Start Preschool. She is the mother of three children ages 20, 22, & 24, and has lived in Boise for the past 18 years. She has a bachelor's degree from Utah State University in early childhood, and has over 30 years of teaching experience. Over the years, she has taught preschool in various early childhood centers, was the owner of the Elkhorn Learning Center, ran an interactive parent/toddler program, taught Kindermusik and Movement classes, and spent 19 summers as the owner of a summer day camp in Sun Valley, Idaho. Erin has been the owner of Smart Start Preschool in Hidden Springs since 2007, running the preschool with before and after school care, and Kid's Camp in the summer months. In 2014, she opened the Smart Start Preschool in Harris Ranch and currently divides her time between the two schools. She was honored in Idaho Business Revue's 2009 Women of the Year magazine, and loves instilling a love of learning and confidence as she teaches and engages the minds of young children.

Erica Ghiorso



Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays

Hi, my name is Erica Ghiorso. This will be my third year teaching at Smart Start. I have lived in Idaho for 5 years. My family loves the outdoors, especially camping. My son, Colton (10), is a 5th grader and my daughter, Kinsley (6), is a Kindergartener at Hidden Springs Elementary. I received my A.A. degree from Diablo Valley College and continued my studies at Cal State East Bay where I received by B.A. in Liberal Studies with an emphasis in Early Childhood Education. Before having children, I was a preschool teacher in California for two years. I loved watching the children learn and grow. I'm looking forward to a great year at Smart Start and meeting all of you and your children.

Shantel Tippetts



Monday-Friday

Hi! My name is Shantel Tippetts! I am 24 years old and I am Miss Erin's oldest daughter. I've been helping out at Smart Start for years! While I was in high school I worked with the after school care program and also the summer camp. After high school, I spent a year and a half in Mexico working in children's ministry and building homes. When I returned home, I joined the Smart Start team full time working with the preschoolers, after school care and Smart Start Kids Camp! There's nothing I love more than getting to know each one of these wonderful children and watching them grow and learn! And I can't wait to do the same this year as our new little friends begin the school year. I will be working everyday with both classes, as well as running After School care from 3-6pm with our elementary school age kiddos!

Laura Robinson



Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays

Hi! I am super excited to be back at Smart Start teaching in the pre-k class for the third year. Children have always been a huge part of my life. I have 4 older sisters who I have helped raise their children. I have two children of my own and three step children. I taught at a kindergarten co-op with my sister Miss Tammy for two years. I have worked a Nurse for several years. I have three dogs, two cats, fish, and an axolotl. I love being outdoors! I love to camp, hike, fish, kayak, ski, basically anything outdoors.

Michaela Boswell



Tuesdays and Thursdays

Hi everyone, my name's Michaela Boswell and I'm super excited to be working with the wonderful educators of Smart Start again this year! Originally from Southern California my family and I moved here about 10 years ago and absolutely love everything this great state has to offer. We moved up to Cartwright almost a two and a half ago years after having our beautiful daughter Brynn and decided there was no other place we would rather raise our daughter. Brynn attended Smart Start the last two years and I was able to see firsthand the exciting curriculum and learning taking place. I worked as a middle school math teacher for 14 years before having Brynn and then decided to follow my heart and was fortunate enough to be able to be a stay-at-home mom for these past four years. I absolutely loved teaching so when the opportunity presented itself to be back in the classroom I jumped on it, it will be a little adjustment from teenagers to toddlers, but I can't wait to work with these curious minds and big smiles. In my down time I enjoy hanging out with my dogs and family, playing dolls with my girl and being in the sun!

Bella Mora



Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays

Hi! My name is Bella Mora. This will be my First year at Smart start. I have experience working with children for over 6 years. I am so excited! I have lived in Idaho for 4 years and I am originally from San Diego. I have a step daughter, Miliana, who I am so thankful is able to join us here. I can't wait to meet everyone. Have a wonderful school year!