



As an early childhood educator

I experience new opportunities, new challenges and great joy in my work with young children.

It is my job to make sure our centre provides children aged 3-5 with an opportunity to explore, socialize and play. The children already have experience and knowledge and we help them build on this. What looks like simple play at the water table is a child exploring the concepts of volume and weight. "Dress-up" is a child making sense of their world, using their imagination, learning to share and take turns.

I see my job as igniting a lifelong love of learning, but I do so much more.

I teach English. I help children develop skills like bathrooming, eating and dressing as well as problem solving and conflict resolution. I do dishes, unplug toilets, mop floors. I wipe tears and noses. I rub backs at nap time and cuddle when wanted. I sing and dance. I read stories and I put on puppet shows. I support and encourage parents in their roles and relationships with their children. I laugh with the children and sometimes cry.

The years from 0-6 are the most important in the development of a child's emotional and intellectual growth. My education in child development helps me notice when a child is struggling to reach developmental milestones. It's my job to support the child and help the parents get the resources they need to help overcome these challenges.

I believe in what I do and I love my work.

Stephanie Seaman has worked at Shaughnessy Heights Day Care in Vancouver for 19 years, and is a member of the BCGEU.

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