

# Jessica Geilfuss, M.S., RYT (she/her)

4 Pumpkin Circle Tyngsboro, MA 01879

Jessica.Geilfuss@gmail.com

617.800.5817

www.jessicageilfuss.com

## Professional Summary

- Highly skilled early childhood adjunct with 5 years experience teaching in both face to face and online modalities.
- Established early childhood leader with 15 years experience in varied professional settings.
- Collaborative leader that utilizes innovative teaching modalities while creating a challenging but welcoming environment in the classroom.
- Fosters a mentoring environment in the classroom with adult learners, first generation students, and students of diverse backgrounds
- Proud to represent the LGBTQ+ community in the early childhood field

## Education

**Wheelock College**, Boston, MA

*Master of Science in Educational Studies, May 2015*

*Capstone: "The State of Babies in the Commonwealth: An Assessment of Programs, Policies, and Services for Infants, Toddlers, and Their Families"*

*Selected Coursework: The Meaning and Development of Play; Social Policy Practice; Perspectives on Parenting; The Human Side of ECE Administration; Racial and Cultural Identities; Practitioner As Researcher*

**Framingham State University**, Framingham, MA

*Bachelor of Arts in History with a concentration in American History, August 2006*

## Higher Education Teaching Experience

**Fisher College**, Boston, MA (2018 - Present)

**Division of Graduate and Professional Studies (GPS)**

**Adjunct Faculty, Early Childhood Education**

- Courses taught: Child Development (classroom, online, & hybrid); Infant and Toddler Curriculum (online & hybrid); Strategies for Children's Behavior (hybrid & online); Health, Safety, and Nutrition for Young Children (hybrid); Program Administration for Early Childhood (hybrid); Children with Special Needs (online)
- Provides instruction and support to students who are taking classes through regular matriculation and grant-funded classes through office hours and scheduled meetings
- Creates a comprehensive syllabus that includes interactive lectures, assignments that encourage students to apply their learning to real world situations, and online discussion board posts that combine class content and current events
- Develops course content that is inclusive of cultures and backgrounds that could be encountered in an early childhood setting and that directly relates to the objectives of the course
- Challenges students to broaden their views of early childhood education and create emergent, developmentally appropriate curriculums and classrooms

## **Early Childhood Education Experience**

**Bright Horizons, Watertown, MA** 2016 - 2018

**Bright Horizons on the Charles, Watertown, MA** (2016-2018)

### ***Assistant Director***

- Provided support and resources to staff on professional development opportunities
- Maintained records in regards to required professional development hours and monthly staff meetings according to state licensing requirements
- Sought out to create a region-wide pilot of a live New Employee Orientation Part 2 program including creating training materials and attendance tracking methods
- Facilitated monthly "Staff Meetings To-Go" trainings and biannual Professional Development Day trainings. Also requested by other Bright Horizons centers to create and deliver trainings
- Served as point-person and primary resource for center's successful National Association of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation process

**Knowledge Universe** 2006 - 2016

**Knowledge Beginnings, Brookline, MA** (2012 - 2016)

### ***Assistant Director***

- Supervised and mentored a team of teachers and assistant teachers, encouraged a culture of personal development and ownership of tasks, and worked collaboratively with faculty, parents, and center director
- Implemented and oversaw on-boarding of new teachers and families, facilitated mandatory quarterly faculty trainings both in the center and for district, and created complimentary training materials
- Served as point-person and primary resource for center's successful National Association of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation process
- Maintained excellent working relationships with licensors and regional center directors within and outside of company by attend regular meetings with Department of Public Health
- Fulfilled all record-keeping responsibilities including financial management, acquisition and retention, operational compliance and licensure, and child and staff records

**Knowledge Universe Massachusetts Region 10 District 9** (2012-2016)

### ***NAEYC Accreditation Specialist/Trainer***

- Familiarized administration and faculty members in various districts with the standards and criteria for accreditation for NAEYC
- Developed and implemented training sessions on different aspects of accreditation process in order to prepare schools for their accreditation visit
- Observed classrooms and teachers and created improvement plans to strengthen classrooms and schools in NAEYC accreditation standards

**Knowledge Beginnings, Framingham, MA & Needham, MA** (2006-2012)

### ***Preschool/Pre-K Teacher***

- Recognized by center leadership for skills in communication and family engagement
- Designed and implemented creative, developmentally appropriate lesson plans based on the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks while maintaining a fun, engaging, and personalized experience for children
- Observed and documented growth and development for each child and compiled a thorough assessment to present to families

## Complimentary Experience

**KidPowerment Yoga, Newton, MA** (2018-2021)

### **Manager**

- Assisted in creating trainings around areas of yoga and mindfulness that are jointly grounded in the criteria set forth by the Yoga Alliance and the science of child development for children's yoga teachers, parents, educators, and social workers
- Consulted in the development of learning benchmarks for yoga and mindfulness and ways to incorporate yoga and mindfulness into the curriculum for local childcare centers
- Developed KidPowerment's first parenting series supporting parents at the beginning of the pandemic
- Managed, monitored, and created a social media presence on Facebook and Instagram revolving around yoga and mindfulness for children, their families, and classrooms including specific activities that parents and teachers can use in their homes/classrooms

## Presentations

Geilfuss, J., & Schroeder, C. (2021). *Grounded Happy Family: Daily Practices for Connecting with Each Other and Within*, National Kids Yoga Conference

Geilfuss, J., & Oppedisano, M. (2017). *I Like Myself: Infant and Toddler Classrooms that Foster Positive Self-Identity and Inclusivity*, BAEYC Babies and Toddlers Conference

Geilfuss, J. (2017 & 2018). *Process vs. Product: Nurturing a Child's Creativity*, Bright Horizons on the Charles Staff Meeting & Bright Horizons Waltham Guest Training

Geilfuss, J. (2013). *Creating a Classroom Portfolio for NAEYC Accreditation*, KinderCare Marlborough

Geilfuss, J. (2012, 2015 & 2017). *An Introduction to NAEYC Accreditation*, Knowledge Universe Massachusetts Region 10 District 9 Director Professional Development, Brookline Knowledge Beginnings Professional Development Day, Bright Horizons on the Charles Staff Meeting

## Publications & Writing

Geilfuss, J. (April 2020). *Managing Disappointment and Nurturing Resilience*. Guest blog post for KidPowerment Yoga.

Geilfuss, J. (November 2015). [Review of the book *Changing play: Play, media and commercial culture from the 1950s to the present day*]. *The Journal of Playwork Practice*.

## Certifications

### **MA Department of Early Education and Care**

Director II Certification (2016 - Present)

Infant/Toddler/Preschool Lead Teacher Certification (2012 - Present)

### **Yoga Alliance**

Registered Yoga Teacher (2021 - Present)

Registered Children's Yoga Teacher (in progress)

### **Lamaze International**

Lamaze Certified Childbirth Educator (in progress, training completed January 2023)

## Recognition

### **National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)**

"Building A Lasting Legacy" Scholarship Recipient (2014)

## **Professional Associations**

### **Massachusetts Association for the Education of Young Children (MAEYC)**

Member (2012-Present)

Governing Board, Member-at-Large (2019 - 2021)

### **National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)**

Member (2012 - Present)

### **Teachers Resisting Unhealthy Children's Entertainment (TRUCE)**

Steering Committee Member (2014 - 2016)

## **Professional Development**

### **Birthing Babies, VA**

*Lamaze Childbirth Educator Training*, January 2023

### **Birthing Advocacy Doula Trainings (BADT)**

*Full Spectrum Doula Training*, Fall 2022

### **BU Wheelock College of Education and Human Development**

*Creating Outdoor Spaces that Connect Children to the Natural World*, May 2019

### **KidPowerment Yoga**

*Teaching Yoga to Children: Foundations*, April 2018

*Meditation and Mindfulness for Children and Teens*, May 2018

*Inclusive Yoga: An Introduction to Making Yoga Class Accessible for Children with Special Needs*, March 2019

*Magic of Music*, March 2019

### **Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care**

Early Ed Con, October 2016

- *How to Be an Effective Advocate*
- *Creating Early Childhood Environments That Welcome and Support Children with Gender Expansive Behavior and Children and Families with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Parents/Guardians*

### **National Association of Social Workers, Massachusetts State House**

Legislative Education and Advocacy Day (LEAD), March 2015

### **National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)**

Annual Conference, November 2014

Annual Conference, November 2012

Accreditation 101 Training, May 2012

### **Early Education For All; Strategies For Children**

Early Childhood and Education: Closing the Achievement and Opportunity Gaps, 2014 Gubernatorial Candidates Forum, June 2014

### **Wellesley College Child Study Center; Joan Almon, Co-founder of the Alliance for Childhood**

Encouraging Adventure: Redefining Success to Include Risk, Lecture, May 2014

### **Lesley University; Professor Emerita Nancy Carlsson-Paige & Director of Early Childhood Programs Ben Mardell**

Children As Citizens, Lecture, April 2013