

The Twig – January 2025
Official Newsletter of Infant Toddler Family Day Care

MEET OUR STAFF!

Jinky Recerone (Child Care Specialist)

I am currently serving as the Infant Toddler Childcare Specialist and Locality Lead Observer for VQB5 (Virginia Quality Birth to Five). My educational journey began at NVCC, where I started as a Nursing student and ultimately graduated with two associate degrees—one in General Studies in Science and the other in Psychology. My direction in Early childhood education began in 2008, the same year I graduated from George Mason University with a bachelor's degree in health science, concentrating in System Management, and a minor in Nutrition. It was also the year I got married and welcomed my baby girl into the world.

In my search for quality childcare for my infant, I discovered my true calling: to be a stay-at-home mom. Choosing to dedicate my time, love, and care to my daughter led me to a broader vision — one where I could support other mothers by nurturing and caring for their children as well. This inspiration came to life when I saw a flyer at my local library about ITFDC (Infant Toddler Family Day Care). Without hesitation, I enrolled in the Provider's training and soon became a home daycare provider. I ran my daycare for nearly 10 years, a role that brought me immense joy. There was nothing more rewarding than watching children grow, develop, and thrive under my care, while also teaching them life skills and helping them reach their full potential.

In 2018, I decided to close my daycare and join ITFDC as a Virginia Quality Technical Assistance and USDA Monitor. This role was a perfect fit for me, as I remained committed to ensuring children receive the same high-quality care I had always provided. For five years, I worked closely with providers in my caseload, offering guidance and support as their Technical Assistant and USDA Monitor. As Virginia Quality evolved into VQB5, I transitioned into my current role as an Infant Toddler Childcare Specialist and Locality Lead Observer.

Outside of work, I am a proud mom to my now 16-year-old daughter, who is passionate about sports. We enjoy traveling, cooking, and shopping together, and we love exploring



new places and restaurants in Northern Virginia and beyond. For nearly 20 years, I've also volunteered as a Sunday school teacher, another way I continue to share my passion for teaching and community service.

I have found a fulfilling balance between my work and family life, and I am excited to continue supporting ITFDC providers and families in my role.



Maria Sardea (Child Care Specialist)

Hello, my name is Maria Sardea, and I am a Child Care Specialist at Infant Toddler Family Day Care. I hold a bachelor's degree in accounting and have earned the trust and confidence of leadership teams from various countries through my strong work ethics. In addition to my accounting background, I obtained my Infant and Toddler Care Career Studies Certificate in 2021 from NVCC and have worked as a lead teacher for infants and toddlers at a children's center. In this role, I learned to respect diverse backgrounds, actively listen to and communicate with parents, and resolve conflicts independently.

I also have experience as a Certified Nurse Assistant and was honored with the "Caught in the Act" award for demonstrating exceptional acts of kindness, creativity, and service that positively impacted others in the workplace.

Outside of my professional life, I am a proud mother to my 26-year-old son, who is passionate about music production. He works full-time while also assisting children with behavioral challenges in the community. In our free time, we enjoy cooking, gardening, listening to music, and exploring the beautiful sights of Virginia.

Having spent several years in the service industry, I've developed a deep appreciation for the value of selfless service and the importance of making a positive impact on others.



Upcoming Closings:

Martin Luther King, JR. Day
Monday, January 20, 2025

President's Day
Monday, February 17, 2025

Our 2025 calendar is available!
2025 Holiday Calendar



On November 19, 2024, our Executive Director, Lisa Farinholt-O'Brien, was appointed as the Springfield District Representative to the Child Care Advisory Council. Lisa was appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Thank you to Board of Supervisors member Pat Herrity for nominating Lisa to serve in this role!



Thank you to another wonderful year at Infant Toddler Family Day Care! Our staff wrapped up 2024 with an in person meeting and lunch.

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