

Diana Zhakova

I have been working with children of different ages since 2006. I had worked as an elementary school teacher in Russia where I taught English language Russian speaking students. I was fortunate to participate in international program and travel to USA to work in the camp for children with special needs, where I learned that working in partnership with children and their families are the foundation from which the educators plan a rich and meaningful curriculum that meet individual children's interests, strengths and capabilities. After moving to Canada in 2010, I started to work for YMCA as a child care provider in before and after school program and was promoted to a supervisor position. Last year I was hired by the Catholic District School Board as a teacher of Russian language for English speaking students, and once again, I have proven to myself that bilingualism plays an important part in development of the brain in early years. Recently, I graduated from Niagara College with Early Childhood Education Diploma and is eager to provide excellent care for the little ones and their families.

Besides holding a diploma in ECE, I have a Bachelor's Degree in Education from IMSIT University, Russia, and Certificate in Office Administration from Niagara College.

I am a sensitive, thoughtful, patient, and dedicated educator who is striving to create a vibrant and inspiring learning environment in the classroom where enthusiastic participation among children is always encouraged.

"It must not be forgotten that the basic law of children's creativity is that its value lies not in its results, not in the product of creation, but in the process itself. It is not important what children create, but that they do create, that they exercise and implement their creative imagination." Lev Vygotsky

Concepts of teaching philosophy:

- Vygotsky's scaffolding, zone of proximate development, and the importance of play in the early years
- Montessori practice
- Acceptance of diversity