



Crystal Sherwood

FLAEYC – Early Childhood Teacher
of the Year

About me

Originally from New York
Mom to Ariel

Education

- Queens College (Psychology)
- Hunter College (Early Childhood/
Special Education)

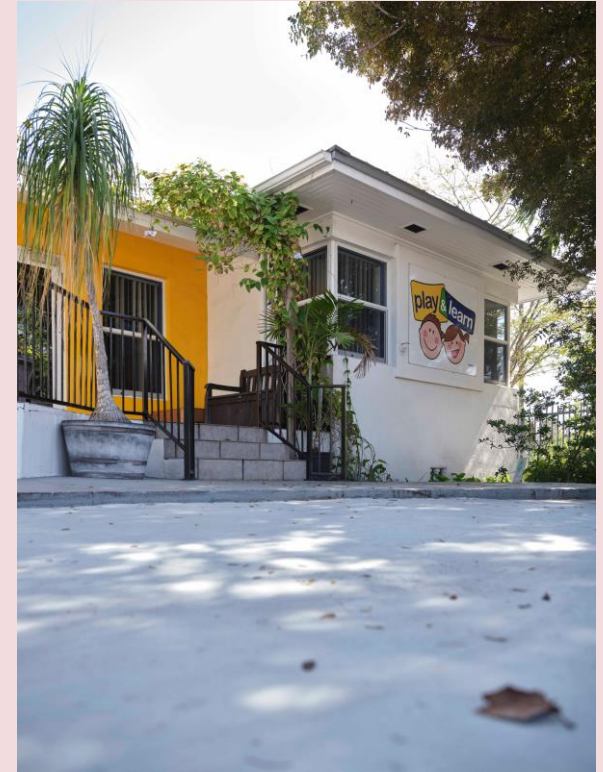
Experience

- 18 years teaching in preschool
- Head Start program
 - working in low-income neighborhoods in New York.



Present

- Moved to Miami, FL. in 2022
- Currently working as VPK Teacher at Play and Learn Prek
 - small preschool in the Silver Bluff area



Newsletters

Weekly newsletters that detail the exciting learning activities our children engage in are sent every Friday

Examples of Crystal's weekly Newsletters

Newsletter May 5, 2023

It is hard to believe that the year is almost over. We only have two more fun Fridays left! This week we jumped right into fun and activities. We learned all about the farm and the animals that live there. For our farm themed activity, we learned where milk came from and how some farmers get their milk. We began our lesson by going on a virtual field trip to the farm. During the virtual trip, children learned all about the animals and their babies on the farm. They all have special names. Once the virtual lesson ended, the children had lots of questions to ask about the various bird eggs and milking an animal. These questions always inspire extra fun! Children learn so much about themselves and the world around them through pretend play.

What better to way to learn about where milk comes from than setting up a little farm. Children so much about themselves and the world around them through pretend play. On Friday we made a cow. The activity allowed the children to experience milking a cow, but they also worked on fine motor skills through all the squeezing they had to do. The children had fun grasping and squeezing their fingers downward to simulate milking a cow. They did an amazing job getting all the "milk" out!

STEM, this week the children participated in two fun simple science activities. We experimented with items we can find on the farm (plants/seeds/nuts and eggs). We investigate whether fresh water or saltwater causes things to float. We use two eggs to conduct our hands-on density experiment. We used fresh water for one egg, and we added salt to another container of water. We placed one egg in fresh water and the other in saltwater. We wanted to change the density of the water so an egg would float. I explained to the children that one egg decided to go swimming in the ocean and one egg decided to swim in the pool. This explanation made them laugh! I explained that it is easier to float in salt water/ocean compared to floating in fresh water/swimming pool. Salt water is more dense than fresh water. For the next experiment we spoke about where various cooking



Examples of Crystal's weekly Newsletters

our names pointing to each letter, reinforcing one-to-one correspondence. Here is the results Alba, Luna, Zeke (4), Lucia, Tyler (5), Alesso, Daniel (6), Nicolas (7), Gabriela, Leonardo (8). Next week we will continue to work on mathematical concepts which includes counting 1:1 correspondence by using different materials within the classroom.

Expressive Art, after discussing the story, we incorporated a variety of name activities and crafts inspired by Chrysanthemum/name recognition. These hands-on activities fostered important skills such as fine motor development and critical thinking. Children had to follow directions and utilize their small muscles. The activities involved a lot of cutting with scissors, painting with brushes, or other materials, and drawing with markers/pencils. Art pieces included designing a flower with our name, Sticker name craft, initial resist painting, watercolor name painting, and rainbow name craft. We will continue to explore the art studio to give children opportunities to express themselves creatively while having fun!



Next week we will continue establishing our center rotations, and classroom rules. Our upcoming theme will focus on "School Safety" and "Classroom Routines". We had a great week learning about ourselves and our friends. I am excited to spend the year growing and learning with your child!

Have a wonderful weekend.

Ms. Crystal

Parent- Involvement

Parents are invited regularly to participate in classroom activities



Early Childhood Educators



- Positive Impact on Young Minds:
 - Witnessed firsthand the significant influence early childhood educators have on shaping young minds.
 - Lay the groundwork for lifelong learning.
- Role Extends Beyond Care-taking:
 - Educators play a fundamental role in nurturing lifelong development.
 - Impact areas include social-emotional, cognitive, language, and physical growth.
- Play-Based Learning:
 - Use of play-based learning experiences to foster critical thinking skills.
 - Essential for future academic success.

FLAEYC Recognition

Immensely Grateful:

- Honored to receive the 2023 Early Childhood Teacher of the Year award from FLAEYC and The Children's Movement of Florida.
- Deep admiration and respect for the awarding organizations.
- Special moment shared with my mom.



Fulfilling My Dream:

- Making a positive difference in the lives of young children across states.
- Recognition is incredibly humbling and reaffirms my dedication, hard work, love, and passion.

Part of FLAEEYC's Mission:

- Proud to support and promote quality early learning experiences for young children in Florida.
- Award reflects a shared commitment to positively impact children and families in our community.

