

## Tracy Cunningham

**Years at Our School:** 8 years

**Title:** Preschool 4's Teacher

**Education:** BS in Early Childhood Education from Keene State College

**Experience:** 2002 – Present – The World Schools – Preschool 4's Teacher & Assistant

2007–2008 – Keene State College Child Development Center – Student Teaching

2007–2008 – Keene, NH – Student Teaching Kindergarten & Grade 1

**Committees:** Week of the Young Child  
Fellowship

**Personal:** Tracy lives in Londonderry with her family. She spends her free time with friends and family. She loves the beach, traveling and the Red Sox!

**Educational Philosophy:** Those that we teach today are the leaders of tomorrow's world. Teaching is one of the most important jobs in our society. Without teachers there would be no one to educate younger generations and teach them important life skills. My philosophy of education is based on the importance and truth of these statements. Personally I have always thought that my education was important, and as a professional I understand how important it is for others as well.

Who are we without an education? In the world today, it is difficult to find a job without having a college degree. Those without degrees are often less respected. We consider a well-rounded person to have a high level of education. Everyone has the right to an education, and as a teacher I hope they would want one as well. When you compare the lives of two people, one with a degree and one without, you can see how different they are and how beneficial it is to have an education. It is a natural instinct of children to be curious about their surroundings and discover all they can. I believe it is important to encourage children to learn all they can. The process by which we learn changes over life and extends past formal schooling.

There are a variety of methods by which we learn and no one method works for everyone, we are all different. I do believe that hands on, personal experiences create the strongest connections for which to build upon, especially for young children. Teachers often refer to students when talking about learning, but I find that learning also occurs for teachers in school. I strongly believe that it is important to stay updated about education and teaching so that teachers can reach their full potential and offer the same opportunity to their students. It is also my opinion that both teachers and students should be challenged. Challenges force us to become the best we can be and many times gets us thinking outside the box. Success feels that much better with challenges. As a future teacher I hop that children want to learn and look forward to going to school. It is also a strong belief of mine that teachers dig down inside themselves and realize why it is they like teaching, and to evaluate it on an annual basis. If you do not look forward to coming in to school every morning and seeing your students, you should seriously consider if this is still the right path for you. Children are not blind and are better at sensing emotions that adults realize, they know when you do not want to be in the classroom and you can see your attitude reflected in their behavior. Mixing things up is a great way to keep school and learning interesting, which is key to students staying goal oriented.

We couldn't have a classroom without a school and I think that it is important to always remember the two are connected. It is important for children in a school to remember that they are a whole, together even though they have different teachers and are in different grades. The school should create a positive environment for children. This encourages children to look forward to school and to want to talk about their school with others. It is also extremely important for a school to work with parents and the community build strong relationships, this way everyone works together for the benefit of the children. Parents are a crucial part of a child's life and the community can be a valuable resource to staff members and families. The children can also give back to the community by doing community service. It is a two way street where support is key. We want children to become a positive part of society, now and in the future.

Everything teachers do in the classroom, children see, in school, and, in the community is reflected upon. It is important for teachers to provide children with the best experience possible. We want children to learn and retain the information, and to understand why we want them to learn. The children we are teaching today will be the decision makers of our country when we are old and our time has passed. To ensure that we have a bright future we need to ensure that children have a proper and pleasurable learning experience in school.