



# meet the TEACHER



## About Me

My name is Teonja. I was born in Illinois but grew up in Wisconsin. I love the quietness and beauty of smaller towns. I am the eldest of 4, with 2 younger sisters and a brother. I grew up with a lot of family around me and so since I was young, I have always wanted a big family. Working in childcare, I have that big family in the children that I care for. I was always the quiet caretaker and not much has changed into adulthood. But working in childcare has helped me evolve in my communication skills and to use my voice a little bit more.

I have two children of my own, ages 19 and 16, and it has been an amazing experience to watch them grow and discover who they are as they get older and forge their own path. Watching children grow and taking care of them is one of the best experiences. I went to college for social work to work with children, but quickly turned to childcare so that I could be closer to my oldest child when he was 6 months old. I have, since, been in childcare for almost 20 years and have enjoyed my time getting to know each child that I get to have the honor to care for. I am the lead teacher in the three- year old room and have been at OCC for almost 11 years. My experience with my own children helps me on a daily basis with the children in the classroom. I can't wait to get to know all of you and your children.

## Educational Experience

- Social Work Degree with Social Science Minor
- Behavior as Communication
- Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards
- Child Care Programming (WMELS)
- Introduction to Child Care
- Best Practices Early Child & Family
- Happy Hearts & Open Arms
- Skills and Strategies for the Child Care Teacher
- Introduction to the Child Care Profession
- Fundamentals of Infant and Toddler Care
- Sign Language I
- Life Span Development



## First Day at OCC

## September 24, 2014