

HEROES BEHIND THE MASKS



We understand how difficult it can be to not be able to interact directly with the staff, so we put this together in hopes it helps you get to know everyone a little better!



MS. ANGLIQUE

Director

I have been the Director of Edgar ELC for nearly seven years, but I have worked in this field for the past 17. I graduated with a B.A. from Rutgers in 2010 followed by an M.Ed. in Educational Psychology while also completing a professional development program in Applied Behavior Analysis.

In my spare time (but what even is that anymore?) I enjoy catching up on TV and movies (most recently *Succession* on HBO Max and any action/thriller or documentary on Netflix) and spending time with my friends and family. Although I truly consider each of our students as my own, I do have one son, Lucas (3), who keeps my husband and me thoroughly entertained and exhausted; we love our impromptu dance parties to Biggie and Blink-182! My favorite animal is an owl, and I would love to explore more of Europe if given the chance.



MS. HOLLY

Administrative Assistant

In my minimal spare time, you can find me either re-watching a Marvel movie (most likely *Endgame*), or *The Jersey Shore*. Whenever I'm not inside, you'll most likely find me at the beach, or hanging out with some friends (or my younger sister, Ms. Haley). I hope to one day own a pet monkey, as they are my favorite animal! If I could pick one place in the world to visit, it would definitely be Portugal. I would love to get the chance to explore the culture of my family.

I can't say I have one favorite memory from being here, because it's hard to pick just one! I do have to say though, family events and the Parents' Night Out activities are some memories I'll never forget. I am a recent and proud graduate of Kean University; I earned my B.A. in Psychology and I minored in Communications. I plan to return to school at some point for a Master's in Counseling. My past five years at Edgar has truly been an amazing experience that I will carry with me on my adventure to Tampa!

MS. NICKI

Infant/Toddler Lead Teacher

When I'm not out hiking or camping, you can typically find me knitting or playing with my two cats! You can also find me watching comedies, specifically *The Office* or *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*. Although I'm a lover of all animals, I'd have to say cats and giraffes are my favorites. One thing that really gets to me is the sound of utensils scraping on plates so I'm glad we use paper plates here!

Before working at Edgar, I picked up a lot of experience with young children. I have been babysitting since middle school, worked in daycares throughout high school and college, and worked with younger Girl Scout troops. I am also proud to say that I am a 2020 graduate of Eckerd College!



MS. CITLALLI

Infant/Toddler Assistant Teacher

Even though my favorite animals are dogs, I have a pet guinea pig named Peaches. In my free time, I like to skate, swim, and go out with friends. When I'm hanging out indoors, I like to watch rom-coms or sitcoms. If I fall asleep watching them though, I have to make sure all limbs stay on the bed; I don't like when I'm sleeping and my foot dangles off the side!

In addition to the care I give at Edgar, I also teach kids how to swim! I currently go to Seton Hall, where I study Education and Speech Pathology. One of my favorite things to do with the kids is hang out on the playground and have more one-on-one time with them.

MS. GABRIELLA

Infant/Toddler and Preschool Assistant Teacher

I love to stay active by playing recreational volleyball and going to the gym. After my physical activity, you can find me watching a good rom-com or spending time with friends and family. If I could go anywhere in the world, I would definitely travel to Italy. I just finished my sophomore year at Kean University! I major in elementary education with a TSD (Teacher of Students with Disabilities) endorsement, and minor in English writing.

I have worked at Edgar for three years, but came here with prior experience. Before (and during) my time at Edgar, I host birthday parties and am a camp counselor for my town's community center, I babysit, and volunteer at my church as a religious education teacher. One of my favorite memories being here is working Parents' Night Out. It was always fun to watch a movie with all the kids as they cuddled up in their favorite pajamas.





MS. HALEY

Infant/Toddler Assistant Teacher

Whenever I have some free time, you can find me floating away in the ocean; the beach is one of my favorite places to be. I also really like to bother Holly since I'm her younger sister (but she really is the BEST big sister EVER). I love going on adventures to new places; all you have to do is throw a dart at a map and I'll go there! My favorite animals are dogs, especially my fur baby, Rosie.

Even though it feels like I just started, I recently reached my two year point here at Edgar! Outside of the YMCA, I have a lot of experience from babysitting younger cousins and family friends. My favorite thing here are Fridays because the end of the week is always the most fun and exciting!

Check out our Infant/Toddler classroom! The theme for the room this school year was Hawaiian/Luau. The children love playing in the kitchen and block areas, and resting in the back corner with a good book. Our infants have their own section where they love to explore what their toys can do, but can also keep a close eye on their bigger friends to see what they will be able to do one day!



MS. JEANMARIE

Infant/Toddler Assistant Teacher

I am a mother of two children, and love to spend my spare time with my friends and family. Some of my favorite things to do with the people I love most include going to the beach (it's one of my happy places where I relax) and going out to eat dinner at restaurants. You'll never catch me on a rollercoaster though; I am NOT a fan of heights! My family can typically tell when I'm home because you can hear the TV on the HGTV channel. Some places I would travel to one day if I had the chance would be either Dubai, Egypt, Italy, or Hawaii.

Prior to working at Edgar, I was a stay at home mom for 17 years; this gave me a lot of hands on experience and tips that come in handy in the classroom. Some of my favorite things to do with the kids is to go on walks and read to them; those activities remind me of my time home with my kids when they were young!

MS. JORDAN

Infant/Toddler Assistant Teacher

I am a nursing student with a Psychology minor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania; I will finally be done in December 2022! Whenever I have some free time, you can find me outdoors on a hike. I would love to travel to the Scottish Highlands one day. When I'm inside though, you can find me watching a good comedy.

I have been working for the YMCA since 2016 doing all sorts of things. I've taught swim lessons, worked with school aged children, and have worked in many of our child care sites. Outside of the Y, I worked as a camp counselor at an overnight camp for two summers. Although I only started working here at Edgar this past year, one of my favorite memories is the Halloween parade! It was great seeing all the families together and watching the kids' faces light up seeing each other in their costumes.



MS. LUISA

Infant/Toddler Assistant Teacher

In my free time, I enjoy hanging out with my friends as well as learning new languages (I already know three)! I'm an animal lover and like to watch shows about animals. Some of my favorite movies include *Good Burger* and *Ghostbusters*, but I regularly enjoy documentaries (especially about animals, but that's no surprise). If there is one place in the world I could travel to, it would be Fiji. If I ever get the chance to go, I hope I would get to see dolphins: they are my favorite animal!

I recently graduated from my German language school, and will soon be graduating from high school! In the fall, I plan to major in Social Work and minor in Animal Behavior. One of my favorite things about this job is walking in and seeing the kids get excited to see me. I love seeing smiles on their faces!

MS. MAYA

Infant/Toddler Assistant Teacher

Don't be surprised if you see me around town with headphones in; I'm always listening to music! I don't necessarily have a preference as I like to listen to all types. When I'm not listening to music, you can find me watching fantasy movies or TV shows. One place that I would travel to if I could would be Hawaii!

Teaching is my passion. I am currently pursuing a degree in Education, and have a lot of experience prior to working at Edgar. I was a babysitter, camp counselor, volunteer at a nursery school and elementary school program, and an assistant teacher for a religious school. One of my favorite activities to do with the toddlers is making houses out of the blocks for the toy animals.





MS. YOUMNA

Preschool Lead Teacher

Whenever I have a day off, I always try to plan something fun to do with my kids. My family enjoys visiting new places and learning about different things; hopefully one day we can visit Europe.

Besides raising my own kids, I used to be a substitute preschool teacher at another school. I attended William Paterson University and received my Bachelor's in Women Gender Studies. During my time at Edgar, I received my Child Development Associate certification for Infants and Toddlers, and am currently working on my second Bachelor's in Child Development at Concordia University. Although I am currently the preschool lead teacher, I used to take care of the infants. One of my favorite memories being here is doing art with them. It was fun to find ways to help infants be creative!

MS. CHERYL

Preschool Assistant Teacher

I have a very loving and understanding husband, and am a proud mom of a smart and incredibly sweet 8-year-old girl. In my free time, I love playing and doing crafts with my daughter, as well as having family movie nights! When I have some time for myself, I like to read books, as well as the news online. If I could travel anywhere in the world, I would go back to my home country, the Philippines. I haven't been there in 10 years and I miss everything!

Back in my country, I worked as a teacher for children with special needs for 15 years. This is my first job since I moved here, and during my time at Edgar, I earned my Child Development Associate certification for Infants and Toddlers. I can't believe I've only been here for two years, I feel like it's been so much longer; I have enjoyed every minute of every day spent here!



MS. JESS

Preschool Assistant Teacher

I am the proud mom of a handsome little boy. Before he came along, I would like to spend my spare time meeting up with friends for coffee and listening to *The Twilight Zone* radio dramas. I also love watching Science Fiction movies and TV shows. If I could travel anywhere, I would love to go to Mendoza, Argentina where my family on my mother's side lives.

During my time here at Edgar, I proudly earned my Infant/Toddler Child Development Associate (CDA) certification. In addition to my work at Edgar, I have taken care of my youngest siblings for over 10 years. One of my favorite memories of my time here is when the staff got together and threw me a surprise baby shower.

MS. PRITI

Preschool Assistant Teacher

In my spare time, I love to be outside and go on walks. While on my walks, I always take a look around to see what birds I can find. I also enjoy listening to Indian Classical music.

Although I do not have much experience working with kids outside of Edgar, I am currently working toward my Child Development Associate certification, and I have been here for almost two years now! I am able to take everything I am learning into the classroom with me each time I am here. One of my favorite things to do is talking with the kids. The stories and scenarios they come up with is always interesting to listen to.



Here's a sneak peek at our Preschool classroom! The children enjoy spending time acting out every day scenarios in our dramatic play area, as well as racing cars on tracks they build in our block area. Our group also loves expressing their creativity through art projects and playing music with each other. One of their favorite activities is show-and-tell because they love sharing information about some of their favorite objects from home.

MS. RHIANNON

Preschool Assistant Teacher

I currently attend Stockton University for Psychology and Dance. Whenever I have some free time, I enjoy spending it at the beach or the gym. If there was any place I could travel to in the world, it would definitely be Italy! I love scary movies, but I can't watch them in complete darkness; I'm scared of being left alone in a dark room!

Besides being here at Edgar, I have spent time babysitting and teaching/choreographing dances for 5-8 year olds. Even though I haven't spent much time here, I really enjoyed getting to meet all the kids and teachers so far and creating wonderful bonds with everyone!





MS. MARCY

Pre-K Lead Teacher

I am a mother of three (four if you count my fur baby). I have a 20-year-old son, a 16-year-old daughter, a 13-year-old daughter, and my puppy Bailey. My husband always yells at me for shopping at Target because it's all I love to do when I'm not watching my Colombian shows!

Before working at Edgar, I used to work at our sister site Our Savior's Learning Center in Edison. During my time there, I earned my Child Development Associate certification. I can't pick just one favorite memory because I love every moment here! What I truly love though, is watching the kids take what I've taught them and apply it outside of school. Nothing is better than knowing I was able to connect with my students.

Take a look beyond the windows into our Pre-K Classroom! When the children are not busy creating projects out of items they find, they are busy creating memories with one another. They love to build with the legos, blocks, magnet tiles, and really anything that they can stack! The children also love to assign each other roles when playing in the dramatic play center. When they need time to themselves, they will cozy up on the couch with a good book, or spend time at the writing center.



MR. MARCUS

Pre-K Assistant Teacher

Along with my fellow coworker Citlalli, I also enjoy skateboarding in my free time. Most of the time, you can catch me listening to 2000's alternative rock. I'm happy that I'm finally graduating from high school this year, and will be continuing my studies at Middlesex College in the field of Psychology!

Outside of Edgar, I work as a camp counselor in Edison. Even though I haven't been here for very long, one of my favorite things I remember doing with the kids is teaching them about magnets. It was easy to talk about with them since they were naturally fascinated with the topic.

MS. MCKENZIE

Pre-K Assistant Teacher

I currently go to school for Communications and I graduate in April of next year! Whenever I have some spare time, I love to hangout with friends, take road trips, and listen to music: specifically Oldies or Funk. I also enjoy watching comedy, romance, or documentary TV shows and movies. If I could travel anywhere, I would go to Thailand.

Even though I just recently started here at Edgar, I used to be a camp counselor for five years, but I have been babysitting for about 10. One of my favorite things to do here with the kids, is dancing to "Wake Me Up Before You Go Go" after they wake up from nap.



MS. NICOLE

Pre-K Assistant Teacher

When I'm not crafting with the kids, you can find me drawing and painting on my own time! I have a passion for art, which may be the reason I would love to visit Italy or Greece; the scenery and art is astounding.

Before Edgar, I used to do volunteer work. I've worked here for about two years and recently graduated from Middlesex County College with an Associate's in Liberal Arts. One of my favorite memories would be the Halloween parade! It was so nice to see all of the families together and being able to watch the kids walk in the parade with their friends.



Our kids really love getting some fresh air and working on their gross motor skills by running, climbing, and doing all sorts of physical activities on our playgrounds. The enclosed rubber mat area is for our littlest friends in the Infant/Toddler room, and the bigger area is where our Preschool, Pre-K, and Kindergarten friends spend most of their outdoor time when they aren't on a walk or visiting Tommy's Pond behind the school!





MS. JANIS

Kindergarten Lead Teacher

In my spare time, I mostly love to read and watch British mysteries. My husband and I like to see what good things we can find at garage sales and craft fairs. A little fun fact, we just celebrated our 27th wedding anniversary! My favorite animals are cats, especially the furry friend in my photo.

Even though I taught for some years before working here at Edgar, this year will make 15 years of being a Lead Teacher here! One of my favorite memories of being here includes my good friend and old coworker, Rita. The day I accepted the position, she told me to call her if I had any questions; soon after we became really good friends.

Take a look at our Kindergarten classroom! The children do not even realize how much they learn because of how fun all of their lessons are. When they are not being taught directly, they spend a lot of time in our music and art areas. They also let their creativity flow in our dramatic play and block area by discovering what they can cook next for their friends, or what structures they can build for their next adventure!



MS. REEM

Kindergarten Assistant Teacher

In my free time, you can catch me curled up with a good book. If I could travel anywhere in the world, I would go to Paris. My favorite animal is a lion, but I'm very afraid of spiders! I also enjoy listening to Country music.

I currently go to school for Biology. Besides working at Edgar, I have been babysitting since I was 14 years old. One of my favorite things about working here is when I come in for my afternoon shift, and the kids get excited to see me and chant my name.