

DEPARTMENT OF CHILD AND FAMILY STUDIES



Sharing a common direction and sense of community.

A degree in

Child and Family Studies

*prepares you for exciting
professional possibilities.*



DEPARTMENT OF CHILD AND FAMILY STUDIES

Welcome to the Department of Child and Family Studies in the Jerry and Vickie Moyes College of Education at Weber State University, Ogden, Utah.

The Department of Child and Family Studies prepares Early Childhood and Family Life Educators, who respect diversity. These graduates work in a variety of community and state settings, as Early Childhood teachers in the public school system and Family Advocates and Human Service Workers in social service settings. Those career paths are in addition to obtaining knowledge and skills for use in one's personal and professional life. Many of our graduates go on to various clinical masters and doctoral programs around the country.

The department also has an active community advisory board that provides guidance to help the department achieve its vision and objectives. The advisory board also shares expertise in differing areas that help keep the department up-to-date on current community needs and issues that concern children and families. This board helps the Child and Family Studies Department continue to share a common direction and sense of community.

Our very involved Child and Family Studies Student Association (CFSSA)* provides students with service learning opportunities on campus and in the community.

We encourage you to get to know us and we welcome you to check out our website or please come to campus to meet with us. We have an excellent department advisor who is available to assist you in setting up a program of study, and introduce you to your faculty advisor.

If you are interested in improving your relationships and having a career in working with children and families we are here for you.

*An affiliate of the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR)





"It is at Weber State where I learned and developed my sound philosophy that has carried me to this time and to my future endeavors. I will forever be grateful for my experiences at Weber State!"

- Amy Cox LeFevre, 1990

My Job:

I have been teaching Kindergarten for 5 years now in the Weber County public school district. Wow, was it different than the children's school!!!! I created my own program, using all of the resources I had. So much that "I had" came from my years at Weber. I have been able to talk to several student teachers that I knew when I worked in the children's school and who are now teaching in the public schools. They all seem to be struggling, as I did, with how to create that wonderful, developmentally appropriate classroom like at the Children's school.

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

My Experience at Weber State:

Weber State's Early Childhood Program has built the foundation of my teaching philosophy. In the Children's School, I developed a passion for teaching children with developmentally appropriate methods and for using respectful, accountable guidance techniques. The philosophy I built there, effects my decisions in planning, guidance and building relationships of trust with my Kindergarten students every day. It is what motivated me to create and write three published books with Sherrie West, and the reason why I take the time to speak at different conferences around the country. It is at Weber State where I learned and developed my sound philosophy that has carried me to this time and to my future endeavors. I will forever be grateful for my experiences at Weber State!

Weber County School District





"I was taught that work is a learning opportunity and can create happiness. My goal in life is to wake up everyday excited for a new day of work."
- Amy Terry, 2010

My Job:

Everyday I wake up excited for a new day of work. I am currently working as a long-term substitute in a kindergarten classroom for Granite School District. I love teaching and working with children and their parents. Although I love working in my hometown, Fall 2010 I am going to Alaska for a new adventure. I am moving to the North Slope to teach preschool and kindergarten in the small village of Kaktovik on Barter Island. I will be teaching twelve students of mixed ages from three to six years old. All of my students are Inupiat (Native Alaskan) and speak English as a second language. I am looking forward to the many opportunities I will have to teach and learn.

PRE-K/KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

My Experience at Weber State:

As a student of the Early Childhood program, working with a group of mixed aged, young children appealed to me. I have always had a strong desire to teach kindergarten, but my experience student teaching in the Melba S. Lehner Children's School created a love of working with preschool age children as well. I have learned that I can be an Intentional Teacher, where I create meaningful experiences that foster all domains of development. The wonderful teachers at Weber State University also taught me, through example, that my love of learning and enthusiasm will encourage those same attitudes in my students.

Alaska





"Change takes place one step at a time and it is step by step that individuals improve themselves."
- Ana Carlin , 2006

My Job:

I am a marriage educator and teach courses to couples and individuals as part of the Healthy Marriage Initiative project, which is a partnership between the Department of Child and Family Studies at Weber State University and the Ogden Head Start. I teach classes to couples attempting to improve their marriages and relationships. I also teach classes to single individuals to better prepare them for a successful future relationship. As a Family Literacy Facilitator, I work individually with parents and their children in trying to promote healthier parenting skills and to increase family literacy activities. This job is part of the WSU Family Literacy Project which serves lower income families in the Ogden area. My job requires me to teach in a planned and organized manner and to be professional in my interactions with class participants and coworkers. I love my job and enjoy working with families and couples as they try to improve and strengthen their families.

FAMILY LIFE EDUCATOR

My Experience at Weber State:

My education in Family Studies has helped me and continues to help me strengthen my current family. We are building a happy and functional family by having commitment, appreciation, frequent communication, time together, spiritual wellness, and good coping skills. My education in Family Studies helps me to understand that each individual is different and unique and not all methods work for every individual. So, I am patient and empathetic to the individuals with whom I work. I believe that I make a difference. I love to help others to improve their lives. I think that effective interventions are needed to reduce risks. I believe that we need cultural competence to explore about diversity and know and understand individuals.

Healthy Marriage Initiative and WSU Family Literacy Project





"Take advantage of various opportunities to work with the faculty at Weber State, specifically in the department."

- Daniel Hubler, 2006

My Job:

My current activities include graduate courses and working ten hours per week as a Graduate Teaching Associate. As a university graduate teacher, I instruct undergraduate students both online as well as in face to face classes such as management of human services, family risk and resiliency, and application of family theory. I also work as a Graduate Research Assistant and I get the opportunity to conduct observational coding, statistical analyses, literature searches, write research proposals, and present research findings. I also work part-time as a blogger on twoofus.org, a website provided by the National Healthy Marriage Research Center.

DOCTORAL STUDENT

My Experience at Weber State:

I set a goal to get an advanced degree in family sciences. With the support of the Child and Family Studies faculty at Weber State University, I was able to pursue graduate studies. Faculty members at Weber State offered advice, a willingness to mentor me in research experiences, and the means to get accepted to the graduate program of which I am now a part. As a beginning graduate student, one relief was realizing how much my degree in Family Studies from Weber State prepared me for courses on systems theory, family dynamics, and human development. As a provisional Certified Family Life Educator, I have been offered various work positions as a graduate student. Finally, I should also mention the training in writing that has been so beneficial. At Weber, professors provide support and feedback for becoming a better writer and this skill is priceless as a graduate student.

Oklahoma State University





*"It is a job with great rewards; a blend of joys and sorrows as you help others to heal themselves."
- Debbie Rogers, 2005*

My Job:

When the safety of child is in jeopardy and requires removal from his/her parents, it is my job to assist and educate extended family members in the placement of child(ren) in custody. This process requires communication and coordination with parents, extended family, DCFS workers, and various community partners to assess the parents' and child(ren)'s needs and then link them to appropriate services designed to improve their family functioning. Extended family is a vital part of this procedure as they provide safety, security and stability in familiar surroundings. Their immediate interaction helps to reduce the stress of separation and gives parents the time and opportunity to focus on their needs necessary for a positive reunification. Once the children are placed with their extended family member, I connect them with services needed to best provide for the child(ren) and help them understand their active role in the family's permanency goal.

KINSHIP SPECIALIST

My Experience at Weber State:

My education in Family Studies contributed to my ability to interact with families by increasing my knowledge of a family's internal dynamics, interpersonal relationships, and diversity in a professional setting. I am more aware of family's in crisis and developed a greater understanding of circumstances and decisions that led to an individual's poor choices.

Division of Child and Family Services





"We all live in families and we all work with people. No matter what career you choose, whether it is a stay at home parent or a corporate president, the Family Studies program will teach you skills you need to be successful."
-Amy Neilson, 2010

My Job:

In my current job, I assist families in identifying their strengths and challenges and help them to create and achieve goals they have for their family. Other things I do include assisting families to manage medical and dental care at home to keep current with dental and medical checkups for their children who are enrolled in Head Start.

As a family advocate, I also get to help families in an emergency situation by providing referrals to community services to help them meet their needs. I also work with families in planning and facilitating monthly parent meetings with their teachers and other parents at school.

FAMILY ADVOCATE

My Experience at Weber State:

In my last semester of school, I had the opportunity to do my practicum experience at Head Start, working with Family Advocates. I also had the chance to be involved in relationship enhancement workshop, in home parenting classes, and classroom observations. This experience opened my eyes to the goals of Head Start to not only teach children but to support the entire family.

The Family Studies program taught me that families are a system, and in order to help an individual reach their full potential, the entire family system needs to be understood and supported. Through my education, I gained a greater appreciation for various cultural beliefs of families and how to more effectively work with all families. I learned various models and theories that help me to educate families. The Family Studies program gave me a great desire to assist families because it is the family that has the greatest impact on children and ultimately our society.

Ogden/Weber Community Action Partnership (Headstart)





"If you have a love for children and are willing to learn and grow as you teach...You then will be able to have a job in which you love going to work each day."
- Elizabeth Brandenburg, 2009

My Job:

As the early childhood educator at Discovery Gateway children's museum, I lead the organization's daily programming, helping parents interact with their children and learn together. Our programming ranges from literacy and culturally-based activities, to science, to visual and performing arts. Every day, my lessons help children from young toddlers to 10-year olds to understand their world around them through hands-on activities and role-playing. Watching our young visitors' creativity and self-esteem grow through the Museum's exhibits and programming is really rewarding. Looking forward to the future, I will be implementing curriculum that focuses on healthy living for children, safety in both the home and in public spaces, and continued emphasis on imagination and personal expression. My position at Discovery Gateway is a unique opportunity to share my expertise in early childhood education with the Museum's large visitor base, which is approximately 300,000 per year.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR

My Experience at Weber State:

The education that I received at Weber State University through the Child and Family Studies program help me to see the many different areas that I could use my knowledge. They helped me to be able to be more open and ready to use my skills toward a variety of occupations.

Discovery Gateway Children's Museum

Book of Confessions

A Concise Exposition of the Westminster Shorter Catechism

by James H. Anderson



"Whether your goal is to be an educator, a researcher, a clinician, or all three, I can't imagine a program better equipped to train people to work with children and families."

- Jacob Priest, 2007

My Job:

As a therapist at the Success Center, I provide individual, couple and family therapy for families living on the Southside of Chicago. I also run anger management classes and conduct mental health evaluations. At the Institute for Social and Policy Research, I work with Prevent Child Abuse America and the National Indian Child Welfare Association. Together, we are conducting a nationwide, online survey of American Indian and Alaskan Native youth. As a Graduate Instructor at Purdue Calumet, I have taught courses in Human Development, Child Development, Family Relations and Statistics. Currently, I teach an online Statistic in Psychology course for students pursuing master's degrees in nursing. At the Geminus Corporation, I am researching the interplay of cocaine use and mental health. This research is part of a state wide program to reduce drug use among teens and young adults. I recently started Doctoral studies at Florida State University.

DOCTORAL STUDENT

My Experience at Weber State:

The education I received at Weber State was great preparation for teaching, research, and therapy. I have been given opportunities to teach classes that are not normally taught by graduate instructors due to the teaching experience I received as a student, and the department's emphasis on the CFLE requirements. The research experience I received at WSU has proven to be one of the greatest assets to my graduate education. The research opportunities I have now would not have been available if I had not participated in designing and conducting original research. The expertise of the faculty has also helped in the therapy room. In my practice, I find myself using the ideas and activities that were taught by the faculty.

Florida State University





"It is so amazing to see that because of you, these children are learning skills and behaviors that will influence their entire lives. The future belongs to the children."

- Jileen Boydston, 1991

My Job:

My job has many facets to it. I coach all of the teachers in the school in best practices in all subject areas. I conduct learning walks and observations to help with this. I am also in charge of all of the professional learning communities. We have 7 of these at our school, and I conduct weekly meetings for data evaluation, training, goal setting, etc. I facilitate all of the professional development for teachers and staff both in school and after school. My job is under the direction of the school district, and I have weekly meetings and trainings with them as well.

INSTRUCTIONAL COACH

My Experience at Weber State:

After completing my schooling at Weber State, I worked for a time at the Melba S. Lehner Children's School as a supervising teacher. I also worked on my master's degree in education at this time. When I was nearly finished with my master's degree, I decided to go to public school. I chose a school that had a challenging population so that I could really make a difference. I taught 2nd grade for 6 years, then was selected for the job as instructional coach. I know that my solid foundation in theory, guidance, and planning that I received in my early childhood classes has been a tremendous help to me. This knowledge has allowed me to better assess and understand students and to meet their individual needs. Now I get to teach other teachers how to do this!

James Madison Elementary School





"If you have the desire and dedication to help others... pursue your education in the lives of young children and their families, it is very rewarding and with the knowledge you receive... you WILL be successful."
- Joan Schroeder, 1993

My Job:

I am currently the President of College View Inc. and Layton Children's Center, and a member of The Utah Private Child Care Association. As the President I oversee the duties and responsibilities of the director, daily bookkeeping, payroll processing, monthly staff meetings, weekly meal purchasing, grant writing, classroom assistant, and maintenance manager.

PRESIDENT

My Experience at Weber State:

I have worked with children and their families for 25 years now. I am very pleased with the education I have received through the department of Child and Family Studies. They have truly helped me better understand the process of learning and becoming a competent individual that has made a difference in the lives of those that I have been so touched by. Through the years I have had the opportunity working closely with the Department of Child & Family as a member of the advisory board. They have continued to share their knowledge with me and I with them as we have determined the needs for a better environment and education for all children and their families. If you have the desire and dedication to help others I would say to pursue your education in the lives of young children and their families, it is very rewarding and with the knowledge you receive through The Child & Family Studies you WILL be successful.

College View Inc. and Layton Children's Center





"There's no handbook on being a mother, but I feel that I'm very qualified for the job by graduating from Child and Family Studies."

– Kari Moulding, 2002

My Job:

Right now, I stay at home to love and support my children as they grow and learn. I create mini lessons to supplement my child's preschool education, I shop using coupons and other recourses to save money and budget wisely, and I use organizational skills to keep my home in order and plan meals/freezer meals. I am also a presenter. I teach workshops at the WSU West Center and the USU Extension. I teach classes on marriage, communication, relationships, finances, organization, and parenting. I decided to stay at home because my husband is currently working in Iraq as a contractor. I feel that I need to be home to love and support my children. There's no handbook on being a mother, but I feel that I'm very qualified for the job by graduating from Family Studies. I know skills and techniques that other moms may not.

STAY AT HOME MOTHER/CONSULTANT

My Experience at Weber State:

I have lots of careers I want to do: social worker, youth corrections, MFT, workshop presenter, elementary school counselor, and so forth. Because I couldn't decide (and still can't), I chose Family Studies because this program gave me the skill to do everything I wanted to do. As I went on to receive my Masters in social work, my family studies degree became even more valuable. It piggybacked what I had already learned and gave me an advantage over other students and in the field. If you are even considering a career with families or children, it is vital to get a degree in Family Studies! It is such a well-rounded education and can easily be applicable in many career fields, as well as in your personal life. Get as much education and experience as you can. Make your education work for you and find ways to apply what you learn in all aspects of your life (it'll stay with you longer if you do). Be happy. Enjoy what you do and do what you enjoy.

Utah





"If you choose to get you Early Childhood/Early Childhood Education degree from WSU, you will be getting the best education available."

- Letitia Teneau-Sword, 2000

My Job:

My classroom is a full day kindergarten that fluctuates with between 28-30 children. My main focus is to get the children reading by the time they walk out the door in May. Fit in around the language arts program is art, music, social studies, math, science and social skills. At my school, 75% of the children come in with no prior group learning experience and 2 years behind. So, my duties are to teach the missing information plus the required kindergarten curriculum. In my classroom, 17 children are English Language Learners, so I provide English Language instruction to those children. I am responsible for making sure that I am presenting the entire Kindergarten Utah Core to the students in my class in a way that they can best receive it.

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

My Experience at Weber State:

I was happily working as a supervising teacher in the Melba S. Lehner Children's School at WSU when a friend called and said there was a kindergarten position open at her school. Since my degree doesn't carry a teaching license with it, I applied for the Alternate Routes to Licensure program. As soon as I was accepted into the ARL program, Ogden School District hired me. My time spent as a student and employee at the MLCS made it possible for me to make an almost seamless transition into the realm of public school. Already an experienced and confident teacher when I enrolled at WSU, the professors in the Child and Family Studies Department helped me to fine tune my skills. I had not thought that I would ever be happy in the public school system, but with the help of my solid foundation from WSU, I realized that I have much to offer my students, school, district and community.

Ogden School District





"You can start making a difference right now in yourself, in your relationships, and in the lives of the people you work with."

- Megan Hyde Morrison, 2008

My Job:

Some might say that I am a stay-at-home mom, but I am a mother- everywhere, all of the time- and couldn't ask for anything better. Raising three children to be healthy, contributing members of her family and of society is an often daunting task, but it is worth every moment. In my home, there is a lot of laughter, and a few tears. There are days when it all goes right, and days where it just doesn't. Between managing family resources, striving for family closeness and flexibility, being emotionally involved and disciplining my children, strengthening my marriage, enjoying my kids, and monitoring those fillers and drains. I use my degree in Family Studies every day.

MOTHER

My Experience at Weber State:

When I got the chance to go back to school, I wanted to study an area that mattered in my everyday life. Seeing that family systems are dynamic and that people within them are ever changing, I wanted to learn more about how to promote the well-being of families in all its stages and varieties. While I may not always be able to implement everything I learned, I have a greater knowledge base for making decisions that affect my relationships and impact the lives of the people I works with- people that I love. ..The Family Studies program at Weber State is very application oriented so I didn't have to wait to use new skills and information... I could use what I had learned immediately to better my own life and the lives of those around me.

Utah





"As most individuals going into this field know, while this generally isn't a career field where you will become financially wealthy, helping others have a better quality of life is priceless."

– Naomi Weeks Brower, 2000

My Job:

My current job assignment is a Family and Consumer Science and 4-H Extension agent in Weber County. The main focus of my job is to plan and implement healthy relationship activities for youth and adults in the community. I plan, organize, advertise, facilitate, teach, and evaluate events. I also write for grants to support my activities and share my efforts with my colleagues in the state and nationally through presentations and journal articles. My goal is to create opportunities for all couples and single individuals to improve their quality of life by helping them create and sustain healthy relationships. Because my job also includes a 4-H assignment, I also recruit and support youth in participating in family and consumer science activities in the county.

My Experience at Weber State:

Because teaching and prevention education is my passion, the CHF Department was exactly what I was looking for. After receiving my degree, I wanted to secure a job where I could use my education to teach, but ended up being a case manager and teaching classes at night for a few years. Although I wasn't teaching as much as I would have liked, because of my education I was still able to find employment where I could make a difference in peoples' lives. Five years after I graduated from CHF I decided to go back to school to get my Masters of Family and Human Development from Utah State University in hopes of finding more opportunities to teach. The CHF department prepared me for this program and the additional education provided me new avenues to help others and to find a job that fit my passion for teaching and prevention education.





"Working with children and families influences our society as a whole. Sharing of yourself while serving families is such a rewarding opportunity."

- Nicole McGarry, 2002

My Job:

I spend my days at home, which to me is a blessing that has no price tag. We spend our days doing whatever we want: playing trains, rolling the ball down the hill in the back yard, going out for a walk, running errands or meeting Daddy at the office for lunch. Cleaning the house takes so much longer with my son's sweet desire to help vacuum the floor and swish the toilets, but its fun to have my little helper by my side. I am grateful to be home always here with loving arms through my sons successes and failures and helping him realize that true character is built by the effort in each try, and always encouraging and supporting him to go after his dreams.

WIFE/MOTHER

My Experience at Weber State:

Prior to graduation I began working for the Head Start Program. I was confident in my knowledge and ability and ready to apply the skills and information learned during my course of study. Work brought its own set of challenges and rewards which also helped me grow professionally. Following my three years at Head Start, I was thrilled at the opportunity to return to WSU as Supervising Teacher in the Children's School. Being part of the program that helped me build my early childhood education foundation and was an opportunity I was very grateful to be part of. Taking part in a child's growth and development is a fascinating experience. Encouraging the love of learning and seeing the daily growth and development is an opportunity that truly enriched my life. I am currently enjoying my long awaited dream of motherhood and I absolutely love it!

Utah





"Remember the child is at the center of everything you do. In order to meet their needs and help them learn, it is vital that you never stop learning and growing as a teacher."

- Rebecca Okey, 1988

My Job:

I help oversee and coordinate professional development and curriculum that pertains to language arts in our elementary schools. The professional development that I oversee is provided to teachers, principals, and reading coaches. As part of the curriculum department team, I help develop and support the implementation of material, guidelines and directives in the area of language arts. I work directly with the twenty-eight reading coaches that are located in the elementary schools. I help coordinate, train, and support the coaches in their roles as they work with teachers, provide intervention in early reading development, assess students on reading skills, and provide support to their schools in the area of literacy. I serve on several district, local, and state committees.

DISTRICT READING SPECIALIST

My Experience at Weber State:

Weber State gave me a well-balanced foundation to launch my career in teaching. I had many opportunities to collaborate with my professors and colleagues as well as practice what I was learning. I have had the opportunity to teach at the preschool, elementary and college level. I began my teaching career as a preschool teacher for the Melba S. Lehner Children's School and then with a family literacy project overseen by Weber State. It was through these positions, that I developed my interest in literacy development. I have used that knowledge and those experiences as I have worked with students, parents, administrators, staff, and community organizations. It has been my great privilege to learn from and work with some of the most caring, dedicated people in the field of education.

Weber County School District





"This is a great opportunity to make a difference in the lives of families from all over the world!"

- Whitney Arnett Easley, 2007

My Job:

Hill Air Force Base has many opportunities for graduates in the Child and Family Studies major. The Child and Family Studies degree has helped me attain the GS-9 Training and Curriculum Specialist position at Youth Program on Hill Air Force Base. With the starting wage over \$40K, I'll be making about \$50K just after my two year mark (to include cost of living benefits). My major duties are to train new employees of the policies and procedures of working with children and youth, assist staff to create age-appropriate lesson plans and clubs that enhance plans and clubs that enhance children/youth's development in social skills, physical abilities, higher cognitive learning, and foster personal interests. I train staff on a semi-annual basis on topics such as child abuse reporting and prevention, positive guidance, youth fitness, family relations, how to related with children of different ages and stages, and much more. In addition, I conduct observations and debrief staff on my assessments.

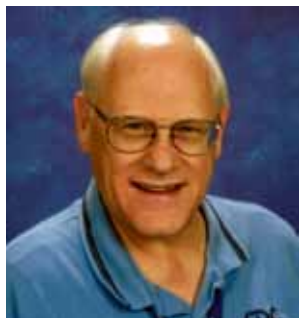
TRAINING AND CURRICULUM SPECIALIST

My Experience at Weber State:

I started working at Youth Programs as a room counselor when I was going to college. The Program was in the middle of filling the Trainer's and Coordinator's positions, but I didn't know at the time that there was a Training and Curriculum Specialist position. When one was hired, I inquired about the position duties and what degree was required. That's when I knew I wanted to be a Trainer after I graduated from WSU. A year and a half after I graduated, the position opened and I was hired. The major's courses have equipped me with the knowledge and skills to create training curriculum packets which I use during semi-annual trainings. I work with children ages 5-18 and train adults from emerging adulthood on up; therefore, the Life Span Approach impacts my daily interactions. The Diversity course prepared me to work, communicate, and appreciate the vast backgrounds, ethnicities, and cultures of the Military community as well as the civilians that work on Hill.

Hill AFB Youth Programs





"Cultivate a genuine love and concern for children and their families; and become aware of the challenges children face both through the educational process and involvement in the community."

-Mike Erickson, 1989

My Job:

My assignment is to conduct all the training deemed necessary by the Air Force for a child development staff. With two trainers in our center we are responsible for CPR/ First Aid training, all annual Air Force training i.e. child abuse, medication, USDA etc. At this time I am assigned to the infant and pre-toddler rooms in which I do a monthly observation and training for the staff in each room. I do the new hire orientations and work with non-experienced staff on the Air Force training modules. I am responsible for our CDA program for staff who are not in a college program. I verify each rooms weekly lesson plan to assure age appropriateness of their learning activities. I work with room staff, parents, administration and third party representatives on IDP's and ISFP's for children who need them.

My Experience at Weber State:

I spent my 20 years at IRS on the child development startup committee and subsequently the board of directors. One of my child care board colleagues gave me a job announcement from usajobs.com, I applied and was hired. My education in Child and Family Studies gave me the desire to remain active in the child care arena so that I was prepared and qualified to accept my current position.

TRAINING AND CURRICULUM SPECIALIST

Hill AFB Child Development Center





"I would highly recommend becoming involved with the CFSSA program within the Child and Family Studies Department. This program presents opportunities to gain knowledge and relationships beyond the classroom setting."

—Bradi Peterson Nichols, 2009

My Job:

I am currently attending East Carolina University where I am working on obtaining my Master's Degree in Child Development and Family Relations. Right now I am studying the research and literature on many different aspects within the family field. While reviewing the literature, I am able to see what areas of the family field have been studied thoroughly and which aspects need more attention. This allows me the opportunity to assess which aspects I can research in my own career to make an impact in the family field.

GRADUATE STUDENT

My Experience at Weber State:

After completing my degree in Family Studies at Weber State University, I really wanted to learn more about children and families and expand on the knowledge I had gained while working on my Bachelor's Degree. I decided that I wanted to go on to graduate school and further my education on child development and family relations. I knew that by going on to graduate school, I would not only acquire more knowledge but, more career opportunities would also become available to me. The Family Studies program at Weber State University provided a great foundation to build upon. My education in Family Studies successfully taught me how to apply the concepts taught in the classroom within a real life context. My goal throughout my life is to help others succeed and my education gave me the confidence to believe that I was capable of making a difference in the lives of others.

East Carolina University





"What I have come to realize about working with children and their families is you need to show commitment. This commitment can be demonstrated in different ways, but it needs to be there. Remember to do what you love. I love working with children, so that is what I do."

- Spencer Cobabe, 2007

My Job:

I ensure preschool groups visiting The Treehouse Museum have an enjoyable, fresh, educational experience through staff led activities in visual and theater arts, and literature. I also train staff to meet these needs. I ensure the Treehouse has programming options for all ages and development.

I measure success and excellence of the Treehouse early childhood programs through surveys, school attendance and family literacy programs to demonstrate relevance of our tours and programs.

My Experience at Weber State:

After returning home to Utah, I received a very good reference to apply at Treehouse. I soon realized how well I enjoyed working with children and noticed they liked me too, so I changed my major from Engineering to Psychology and minor of Family Studies. Still working at Treehouse part-time, I was reaching graduation, but I knew I needed something more. I then switched to a double major in Psychology and Early Childhood. With one more year left of my double major, I married while working for another company. A month before graduation I made an appointment to visit with the Director of Treehouse about coming back. The day after graduation I started full-time at Treehouse and have been here more than three years in my position.



**WEBER STATE
UNIVERSITY**

BACHELOR DEGREES

Early Childhood (Pre-Kindergarten)
Early Childhood Education (Pre-K - grade 3)
Family Studies (Certified Family Life Educator)
Child & Family Studies Department Honors
Bachelor of Integrated Studies



MINORS

Child Development Minor
Family Studies Minor

ASSOCIATE DEGREES

Early Childhood

Department of Child and Family Studies

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<http://www.weber.edu/COE/chfam.html>

<http://www.weber.edu/COE/cfssa.html>

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