

## **Nicole Droppa**

I was raised in the Bay Area of California and then moved to Pittsburgh in my teen years. I highly value the many rich and diverse cultures, traditions, lifestyles, and value systems I have been able to experience and been exposed to through living in both regions of the country.

I am a proud Woman of Spirit and graduate of Carlow University, from which I graduated, first with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, and then with a master's in Education in Early Childhood. I have had the honor of teaching students with behavioral, learning, emotional, and physical challenges in both for-profit and nonprofit arenas. I have had the pleasure of teaching pre-k, first and sixth grade and supporting students in grades kindergarten through twelve. I have also had the privilege of developing and instructing STEAM, literacy and healthy living curriculum to primary and middle school aged students. I have worked in higher education as an admissions representative and in alternative education setting as a mentoring coordinator and teacher. I have led teams of program instructors, facilitating organization trainings and creating sustainable community collaborations and partnerships, while developing volunteer relationships on a regional and national level.

What I am most passionate about in early childhood learning is social emotional learning, trauma informed teaching, the importance of STEM learning in education, and incorporating leadership opportunities into programming.

What I admire most about kids is the amazing questions that naturally come from inquisitive and creative young minds and their resilient spirits to be continuous problem solvers.

What I believe most about forming relationships with children is that you must develop meaningful relationships before you can expect them to have meaningful learning experiences.