



**Name:** Mary Lynn Gottler

**Position:** Head Teacher, Vento Room

**Degrees:**

- M.A. Elementary Education, Marygrove College
- B.A. Elementary Education, Oakland University

**About Me:** This is my sixth year with the ECDC and my 25<sup>th</sup> year of teaching. I love teaching at the ECDC and the Reggio-inspired philosophy appeals to me very much. I always tell people that when I came to the ECDC I found my life's work. This is truly where I feel I am meant to be and I am so privileged to do what I love every single day. My husband Leonard and I live in Clio with our children Elijah (9) who is in fourth grader this year and Gracie (19) who is a Music Education and Vocal Performance major here at U of M Flint. We have a Jack Russell Terrier named Lily, who is our "third child." When I'm not teaching, music and gardening are big passions of mine. I spend a lot of time at my church and family life is so very important to me. My kids are my life, both here and at the ECDC. They are my joy.

**Professional Interests:**

- Reggio Emilia Approach to Education
- Environment as the Third Teacher
- Social Emotional Environment and Behavioral Development
- Image of the Child, Image of the Teacher, and Image of the Parent
- Documentation of the Thinking Processes of Children

**Presentations & Professional Accomplishments:**

- Presenter at GFAEYC and local events
- Presenter at MiAEYC state conferences
- 4C's Child Care trainer
- Recipient of the Leslie Gleim "Giving Back" contest award of a Xacti Camera and mentoring in Documentation

**Areas of Expertise:**

- Creating curriculum to fit individual learners, learning styles, and learner interests
- Creating environments that inspire and comfort and challenge children of all abilities
- Image of the Child
- Image of the Teacher

**Research Interest:**

- Co-Inquiry (Collaborative Research)
- Documentation of Children's Thinking
- Learning Stories

**Research Questions that guides my current work at the Early Childhood Development Center:**

- Am I listening to the voices of the children? What are they saying?
- Where do I need to make some changes so that my practice matches what I believe?
- How does the Environment, both physical and social/emotional impact the development of the children and my relationships with families? How do I need to adapt the environment to help the children in my classroom take the next developmental step?