



**Name:** Rhonda K. Sevick

**Position:** Assistant Teacher, Vento Room

**Degrees:**

- CDA completed 2007
- Graduated in 1975 from Fenton High School

**About Me:** I've been married for 31 years. My husband is an Associate Professor in the Communication and Visual Art Department here at UMF. I have three daughters, ages 30, 27, 22. My oldest received her BFA in Graphic Design from UMF, 2006. My middle daughter is a 2010 graduate with a degree in Fine Arts program from UMF. My youngest is a 2011 graduate with a Fine Arts degree in Musical Theater, also obtained at UMF. I love art. My husband and I have painted several murals on campus. The two most recent murals are on the 1st floor of the Library in the new Piper Lab. I love to sing with children, dance, explore nature, plants, bugs, and I am an animated storey teller. I have a natural ability with children.

**Professional Interests:**

- Continuing my education in special needs
- Children's curiosity and interest in the natural environment
- Gardening experiences with Children

**Presentations & Professional Accomplishments:** I presented at the ECDC Teacher in-service training in clay. I recently renewed my CDA, and I have been able to maintain a 4.0 in my classes. I will begin work on a second setting CDA in Preschool in the fall. My art has been exhibited at a gallery in New York, South Dakota, and Buckham Gallery in Flint.

**Areas of Expertise:**

- Art
- Music
- Exploring Nature with Children
- Growing Up Green Project (GUG)
- Environmental Summer Program
- Home School Education
- Certified Project Learning Tree (PLT) & Project WET Facilitator

**Research Interests:** I am interested incorporating sign language in every day curriculum along with art, and music. I am an advocate for families of children with special needs and will continue my education in that area. I am working toward developing a curriculum, based on teaching respect for nature and the environment.

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

- Will sign language help children that don't have verbal skills communicate better?
- How can I help each child reach their full potential of Social, Emotional, and Cognitive Development?
- How can I best help families that have children with special needs?
- How can I teach children more about respect for the natural environment?