



**Name:** Susan Ford

**Position:** Head Teacher, Giardino Room

**Degree:**

- Working towards a Master in Early Childhood Education, University of Michigan-Flint
- Bachelor in Family Life Education, Spring Arbor University, 2008
- Associate in Early Childhood Education, Mott Community College, 2001

**About Me:** Currently I am taking an early childhood graduate course at the University of Michigan-Flint. I have a son who is thirteen-years-old and a daughter who is nine-years-old. They keep me busy with all of their sports. I have one older sister who lives in Jackson, Michigan. We try to see each other every chance we get. I started at the ECDC in October of 2005.

**Professional Interests:**

- Reggio Emilia approach to Education
- Continuing Training as a Life-Long Learner
- Presenting at Conferences
- Exposing Children to Different Languages
- Working with Special Needs Children

**Presentations & Professional Accomplishments:**

- CPR and First Aid Certified
- Love and Logic Seminar
- MiAEYC Conferences
- Reggio Emilia Conferences
- Greater Flint Conference
- Special Needs Conference
- Michigan Collaborative Conference

**Areas of Expertise:**

- 20 years of experience working with children of all ages
- Creative Songs
- Adapting to Diverse Environments
- Child Interactions

**Research Interests:**

- The effects of television and video games on children's ability to learn
- How family life affects behavior in the classroom
- Effective documentation strategies to measure children's learning

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

- How do I help children develop their fine motor skills so they are prepared for kindergarten?
- How do I provide the optimal environment for children to work out their differences?
- How do I provide successful and inspirational educational experiences for college students and interns?