



**Name:** Tammi Couture

**Position:** Nutrition and Environmental Steward

**Degree:**

- Childhood Development Credential (CDA) focusing on preschool aged children
- Genesee Master Gardener
- Serve-Safe Certified by the Health Department of Michigan

**About Me:** I'm married to my childhood sweetheart and have one wonderful son that is very involved in sports and school. I love to garden (member of the American Horticultural Society and the National Gardening Association) and cook (member of the American Restaurant Association). In my spare time I enjoy the outdoors, reading, listening to all kinds of music. I was born in Michigan, but my family moved all around the United States until my high school years when we settled in the small town of Ortonville, Michigan, where I finished high school.

**Professional Interests:**

- Children's Curiosity and Interest in the natural environment
- Gardening Experiences with Children
- Obtaining Funding for Environmental and Gardening Projects

**Presentations & Professional Accomplishments:**

- Participant in the 2011 Nature Preschool Institute
- Developed and implemented school-aged summer program at UM-Flint Early Childhood Development Center
- Facilitated the construction of an outdoor classroom at UM-Flint Early Childhood Development Center
- Presented "Introducing Children to Nature" at Rainbow Childcare Center, Fenton, Michigan
- Presented "Connecting Children with Nature" for GFAEYC Training Sessions, March 2011
- Participates and promotes at Annual Earth Day Celebration, Flint, Michigan

**Professional Memberships:**

- Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Experiences
- World Forum Foundation: Nature Action Collaborative for Children
- Nature Teachers Network

**Areas of Expertise:**

- Growing Up Green Project (G.U.G)
- Environmental Summer Program
- Home School Education
- Genesee Master Gardener
- Certified Project Learning Tree (PLT) & Project WET Facilitator

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

- What can I introduce to the children to promote environmental stewardship, personal growth, social skills, nutrition and health, and skills that can be used later on in life?
- By exposing children to educational opportunities outdoors, will it have an impact on their behavior?

***A Quote that means a lot to me...***

Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you.

**-Frank Lloyd Wright**