

Teacher Feature

Bobbi Chapman

Fiddlesticks Cooperative Preschool

Bobbi Chapman (known as Teacher Bobbi) was voted this year's Southwest Washington Family's Favorite Teacher!

"Teacher Bobbi is amazing. My daughter has been in her class for 2 years. She has taught her a lot."
~Local mom — and one of many who voted for Teacher Bobbi in the SWW Family Favorites contest.

How long have you been teaching?

I have been teaching for 34 years. I started out teaching for Head Start when my children were preschool age. Since then I have taught for the Olympia School District in the developmental preschools, for ECEAP and for Parent Cooperative Preschool. Fiddlesticks Cooperative Preschool is where I currently teach and is just a wonderful place to be.

What inspires you the most/what is your favorite part of teaching?

I love teaching at a Parent Cooperative Preschool because I get to work with the whole family. The parents (or other family members) are required to participate in the classroom two times a month. I get a lot of dads who help, as well as grandparents. It is inspiring because I see children flourish because the family is so invested in their child's education.

My favorite part of teaching is planning curriculum that is hands-on and developmentally appropriate. I can tell when I got it right because the kids are so engaged in their exploration and learning. There is an active buzz in the classroom, and I love it.



Teacher Bobbi
with Joey C.

What hobbies/interests do you enjoy outside of the classroom?

I have so many interests but very little time as I also work at Centralia College doing a couple of jobs. When I have time, I love to sew, quilt, and craft. I am a voracious reader. We are currently moving into a new home so I am spending way too much time on Pinterest looking up decorating ideas.

When you were little, what did you want to be when you grew up?

I always wanted to be a mommy. I still think that is the best and most important job I will ever do.

What made you decide to become a teacher?

I was asked to be a teacher's assistant to help a child with special needs. I loved it so much that I decided I wanted to become a teacher.

Do you have a mantra or quote you are always telling your students?

"You can do hard things."

What is a favorite teaching memory?

After 34 years, I have so many. I cherish the memory of each child. Many of them still visit me and that warms my heart. Perhaps one of the things that tickles me the most is when the parents state, "I learn so much at preschool."

Is there anything else you would like to add?

I want to give praise to the work that families do with their children. They are their child's most important teacher. After that, I advocate that you find a preschool teacher who allows them to learn in playful ways. Not only will they excel as they continue their education, they will find joy along the way.

Send in nominations for your favorite teacher, student, or coach.

Mail to 321 N. Pearl, Centralia, WA 98531 or email jjiall@swwfamily.com. If you email us and we don't reply we haven't received your message. Please give us a call at 807-8217.

Name of teacher/school or coach/team & sport: _____

Name of child nominating: _____

Name of parent & phone #: _____

Email: _____

Please include a few sentences on why you think your teacher, student, class, or coach should be featured.

If you have a picture of your teacher, student, class, or coach, please send it in too! We may contact you to learn more.



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