



TINY RAMS TIMES

MAY 2024

Welcome May! Our friends have been enjoying the warm weather and all the extra time outside! Last month we enjoyed learning about our bodies and our different families. We also enjoyed celebrating Week of the Young Child and having different dress up days and fun snacks throughout the week! This month we will be celebrating our mom's! Our friends will also learn about gardening as we work to get our playground garden started. We will also be learning about the different types of community helpers.

Did you know that May 8th is National No Socks Day? No Socks Day is a chance to take off those pesky socks and feel the world around you, whether it's running through the grass or sticking your feet in the sand! One of the fun ways you can enjoy this day is you could take those socks you aren't wearing on your feet and make a sock puppet show! Another funny fact is that May 9th is National Lost Sock Memorial Day!

- Your Tiny Rams Team

THEMES:

"Mother's Day, Community Helpers, Garden"

SAVE THE DATE:

May 10th – Childcare Provider Day!

May 17th – Preschool Graduation

May 24th – Last day of '23-'24

School Year Program

May 27th – **CLOSED!**

Memorial Day

May 28th – 1st day of Summer Program

BIRTHDAYS:

May 15th - Madden

May 20th – Addie

May 27th – Payne

HEALTH POLICY:

A child who has any illness associated with a fever or any communicable condition (temperature of 100°F or above, diarrhea/vomiting, unexplained skin rash) must be kept home. A child cannot return until they are fever free for 24 hours without medication and the communicable condition has been treated and has ceased for 24 hours.

REMINDERS:

Please be sure your child has weather appropriate "extra" clothing for spills & accidents as well as a clean water bottle every day.

Ralston
Schools Foundation

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

Infants

Teachers: Eris, Danna & Brooklyn

Welcome Magnolia!

April showers bring May flowers! Happy May everyone! We are excited to show you some colorful crafts we have planned! With all the rain we got last month, we are starting to see the plants grow! We have some fun nature walks planned out around the school and we will be taking walks around the football field, the tennis courts, and near the baseball field as well. This month, we have a special gift in mind for our mom's! Parents, starting this month we are going to be going outside more, we ask that you send your child with sunscreen and sun hats!

This month, our infant friends will be using their fine motor skills by exploring our nature themed sensory bins! Our younger infant friends will be working on tummy time. While that is happening, our older infant friends will be working on walking down to the playground!



*"Enjoying the sunshine on the playground!"
please note, infants did not participate in the Solar Eclipse



"Infant/Toddler friends learning to use the slide with Mrs. Heather"

Infant/Toddlers

Teachers: Amber

This month our friends are going to be learning about the garden and will be doing some light gardening! We will get creative and make special crafts for Mother's Day. Our friends will also learn all about important community helpers' jobs like teachers, police officers, nurses/doctors, cashiers, and sanitation workers and what we can do to thank them for the different things they do for us!

What we are working on: This month we are working on language development through books, songs, and flashcards. ELG S.LL.01 demonstrates continual growth in understanding increasingly complex and varied vocabulary.

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

Toddlers

Teachers: Elizabeth, Michelle, Sarah & Jennifer

April showers sure did bring May flowers, as the weather continues to get warmer, we are so excited to start spending more time outside and exploring! Our themes for the month of May are, of course Mother's Day, gardening, and community helpers! For Mother's Day, we're going to be focusing on our moms and do some crafts for them to take home as gifts! For gardening during our outside time, we are going to be watching our garden bloom and plant our own seeds to watch them grow. We will also be painting rocks to help make our garden look extra beautiful! For our community helpers, we are going to focus on the firefighters, the vets, and the lifeguards in our communities! May 4th is national firefighters' day, and our class is going to make a special poster to thank our firefighters for all their hard work and bravery! As the weather gets all nice and warm, we're going to be putting sunscreen on every afternoon and only in the morning if the UV is high enough. Some new independent skills were going to be learned along with potty training and hand washing is we're going to try filling up our water bottles when they are empty! With all these new and exciting things, we are going to be doing this month, we can't wait to shower your children with love and learning!



"Toddlers exploring OCEAN themed water play!"

Preschool

Teachers: Shannon & Heather



"Preschool friends examining the eggs that we will be hatching!"

We are excited to get started on Spring activities! Our friends will be helping get our garden ready on our playground and we will vote on what we would like to see and grow in our garden this year. We will also explore seeds and talk about what plants need to grow. For community helpers we will explore who we see in our neighborhood and community, and we will talk about what roles they play in helping others. To celebrate Mother's Day, we will talk about our families and who takes care of us and we will also be working on special projects as well!

What we are working on: For our younger preschoolers, we are working on putting materials away in the right spots, we are also practicing the skills we need to be successful during our summer program. These include self-help skills (dressing by themselves and handwashing), staying in a group while walking with staff throughout the building, and listening skills. Our older preschoolers who will be graduating will be practicing for our ceremony and preparing for summer as well.

ELG Learning Objectives: (S.01) Demonstrates a basic awareness and use of science concepts.

Younger preschoolers begin to show interest in active investigation by observing, describing, and discussing phenomena. Older preschoolers begin to ask more complex questions regarding science concepts.

MEET OUR DIRECTORS



SARA RYAN
DISTRICT DIRECTOR
OF LIL' & TINY RAMS

I have worked for the Ralston Schools Foundation for 16 years! I am married and have 4 boys: Mason, Maks, Mavrick & Madden. We love to spend our free time outside! I am excited for another fun filled summer!



LORI LENDERTS
ASST. DISTRICT
DIRECTOR OF LIL' &
TINY RAMS

I have worked for the Ralston Schools Foundation for nearly 16 years. I am a proud #BOY MOM! My husband and I have 3 boys: Jayden (14), Marshall (11) and Bennett (3). I LOVE being outdoors, traveling and watching my boy's sporting events!



**MEGAN
HAZELWOOD**
SITE DIRECTOR

I have been working at Tiny Rams for many years! I was also a preschool teacher for a year at a Head Start program in Southern Missouri and I even nannied for a summer. I have my CDA and many years of training. In my free time I like to spend time with my husband and my daughter playing games!



SHANNON ELKINS
ASST. DIRECTOR &
PRESCHOOL TEACHER

I've worked in childcare for 25 yrs in centers, in home, respite care, and the school system. I have an associate degree and am currently finishing my CDA this fall. I've worked at tiny rams for 4 years. I have four children, 2 in elementary and 2 in college. I Can't wait to get to know all my new class this fall and their families.

MEET OUR TEACHERS



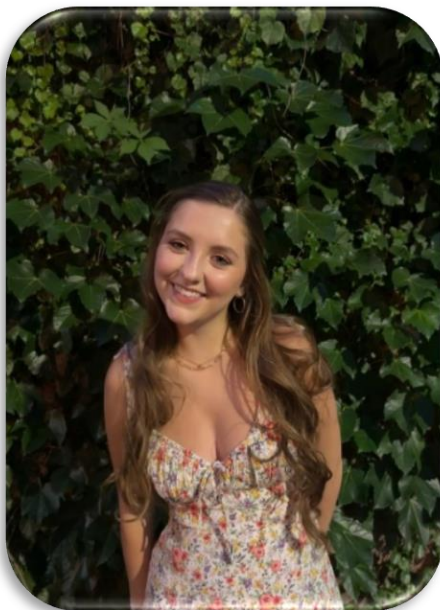
ERIS CALABRETTO
LEAD INFANT TEACHER

I have experience working at both Lil' & Tiny Rams. My boyfriend and I have a son, Mason and recently welcomed our daughter, Octavia, in February!



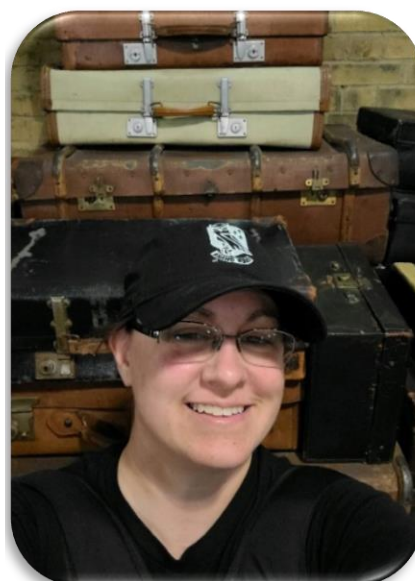
AMBER TULL
LEAD INFANT/TODDLER TEACHER

I have 7 years of experience working in childcare and I have mostly worked with toddlers. In my spare time I love to paint!



ELIZABETH HUGGINS
LEAD TODDLER
TEACHER

I just started working at Tiny Rams but have 2 years of previous childcare experience. So far, I've enjoyed getting to know all the kids and watching grow & learn. My hobbies include playing with my cat, cooking & traveling!



HEATHER KREIN
PRESCHOOL TEACHER

I have worked in a childcare setting for almost 11 yrs. I also have worked as a Paraprofessional for 5 yrs in the special education program. I love to read and play sand volleyball. I also enjoy going to sporting events with my husband!

MEET OUR TEACHERS



MICHELLE BARRAGAN-LOPEZ
TODDLER TEACHER

My name is Michelle. I have worked several years at both Lil' & Tiny Rams. I like spending my free time with friends, going to concerts & traveling. I can't wait to see what fun adventures we will have this year :)



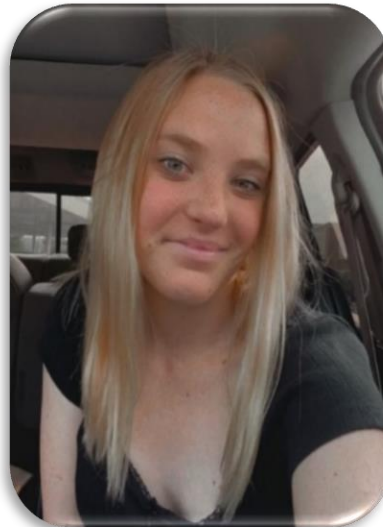
DANNA AYALA
INFANT TEACHER

My name is Danna. I just started working at Tiny Rams in October. I previously worked in an Infant Montessori. My fiancé and I have a 2-year-old son. I love the quality time I get to spend with each child at Tiny Rams.



SARAH WENTZLER
INFANT/TODDLER TEACHER

Hi I'm Sarah! I have 2 kids, Payne and Juniper. I worked at Tiny Rams last year and left to be a stay-at-home mom. I'm so happy to be back! I enjoy working part time at a Golf Country Club and I'm super excited for summer! I can't wait to share lots of pictures and update through the ProCare app with family!



JENNIFER MASS
FLOATER

Hello, I'm Jennifer. I am a Senior at Ralston High School! I have been playing softball since 1st grade!



BROOKLYN YARBROUGH
FLOATER

Hi, my name is Brooklyn. I am a student at RHS. I have worked in childcare for about 2 years. I enjoy babysitting, I have danced my entire life and I love to travel!

WAYS TO CONNECT

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OUR WEBSITE

Check it out for important information



ralstonschoolsfoundation.org

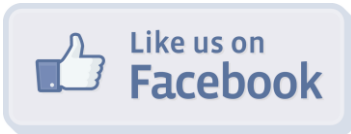
PROCARE

Download the free parent communication app to view live updates of your child's daily activities



FACEBOOK

Like us on Facebook for important updates and pictures



facebook.com/lilandtinyrams/

STEP UP TO QUALITY

Tiny Rams is Step 4 Rated, learn more here



education.ne.gov/stepuptoquality/

HEART OF LEARNING

CONGRATULATIONS, Mrs. Shannon, for being this year's **"Heart of Learning"** winner! Shannon has been a part of the Tiny Rams team for 5 years. She serves as both Tiny Rams Assistant Director and Preschool Teacher. Shannon recently obtained her CDA (Child Development Associate Credential) and is constantly expanding her knowledge by attending early childhood training courses throughout the year. Her calm and patient demeanor creates a positive environment with a variety of unique learning opportunities for her students.

Ralston
Schools Foundation
at the heart of learning

Congratulations

2024 HEART OF LEARNING AWARD RECIPIENTS



**Dr. Whitley
Hettenbaugh**
Elementary Educator
Mockingbird Elementary



Andrea Hartman
Secondary Educator
Ralston High School



Beth Familetti
Support Staff
Mockingbird Elementary



Shannon Elkins
Foundation Staff
Tiny Rams