

Stepping Stones Staff 2023-2024

Machelle VanReenen, Director- Machelle is a Tullahoma native and graduate of Tullahoma High School. She received her bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Harding University. She has 8 years of public school experience and 5 years of preschool experience. Machelle is active in the local schools, community organizations, and Highland Hills. She and her husband Adam have 3 precious children.

Joy Perkins Johnson, Pre-K teacher- Joy has a BS in elementary education and M. Ed from MTSU. She taught in Woodbury, Murfreesboro, and Lynchburg. She taught special education, third grade, and then kindergarten for 30 years. Joy has taught PreK at Stepping Stones for 6 years. She is a member of Highland Hills Church of Christ. She is married and has two daughters by my late husband Joey Perkins. She has five grandchildren.

Martha Cooper, Middles teacher- Martha is originally from Nashville. She attended Tennessee Tech University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Multidisciplinary Studies. She has been living in Tullahoma for the past couple of years. Martha enjoys going for walks, reading, and spending time with family and friends. She and her family attend First United Methodist Church. She has a son in middle school and a daughter in elementary school. They stay busy with sports, band, church, and gymnastics. For the last 12 years, she has been working with preschool children.

Jamie Wulf, Middles teacher- Jamie has been part of the Stepping Stones family for 15 years. She started volunteering here as a parent and fell in love with teaching about Jesus to the littlest of friends. Jamie and her husband, Jake, were led to the amazing people at Highland Hills because of this school and two of my three daughters graduated from Stepping Stones. She has worn many "hats" over the years including being an aide for the four-year-old class, teaching the baby class, two- and three-year-old teacher and aide, Music Program Director, and Bible Class Teacher. God has led her to work with children of all ages. Jamie serves as the Children's Ministry Leader for Activities at Highland Hills and has served the youth group as a mentor, chaperone, and teacher.

Tricia Quick, Littles teacher- Tricia has been at Stepping Stones for 5 years. She has a degree in Pediatric Nursing and absolutely loves the days spent with the littles. She grew up in the panhandle of Florida where she met her husband while stationed at Eglin AFB. She has 3 children who keep her busy with sports and activities.

Fawn Hilton, Littles teacher aide- Fawn has a bachelor's degree in social work from MTSU. She is married and has 1 son. This is her first year with Stepping Stones.

Tara Edall, Littles teacher- Tara is an army wife of 19 years. She is a mom of 2 boys. Tara is a travel agent and loves to travel. This is her first year at Stepping Stones.

Shawn Daniel, Babies teacher- Shawn has been a caregiver for over 10 years. She loves music, gardening, the elderly, and babies. She has a lot of patience, empathy, and compassion for people. Shawn is a member of Highland Hills church of Christ. She is married, has 2 sons and 7 grandchildren. This is her first year at Stepping Stones.