

## Early Childhood Education



Jessica Salen, Ph.D.

Jessica Salen is a developmental psychologist with over 30 years experience working with children from birth to age 5. She has been with TRS ECC for more than 10 years. Jessica trains and supports our teachers in creating and implementing developmentally appropriate practices in their classrooms. She meets with teachers on a regular basis and is a resource in every classroom. She has taught our parent-child classes, and currently facilitates our *First Friends* parent group, designed for new moms to connect and support one another as their newborns grow from infancy to toddlerhood.

## Child Development

Claire Lerner is a licensed clinical social worker and child development specialist. She has over 30 years experience in child mental health, parent guidance and family support. She served as the Director of Parenting Resources for ZERO TO THREE and has created a large library of parenting resources about early childhood development.



Claire Lerner,  
LSCW

Claire has been the child development specialist at TRS ECC since 2011. In this role, she educates and collaborates with teachers and parents. Claire conducts staff trainings on child development and positive behavior management. She also collaborates with teachers to develop class-wide and individualized strategies so that every child can participate and succeed in our program.

Claire hosts parent discussion groups on topics such as sleep, positive discipline, and sibling rivalry. She also presents a potty training workshop in the fall. Claire is available to work with families privately to address concerns beyond the classroom.

## Occupational Therapy

Jane Rutt, a licensed occupational therapist with over 18 years experience working with early childhood children and their families, serves as a private partner to our preschool program. Jane works within the natural environment to encourage a child to think, play, move, and become more independent while they participate in preschool activities and navigate social interactions. Improving fine motor skills, play skills, a child's strength, coordination, balance and encouraging resiliency and social intelligence are some of the targeted areas that Jane addresses within our preschool community.



Jane Rutt,  
MS, OTR/L

Jane collaborates with teachers to promote a child's role and function and recommends classroom strategies and modifications that will facilitate attention, participation, and success for all children.

## Speech & Language



Anne Niez,  
M.S., CCC-SLP

Anne Niez, our speech therapist, is a licensed and certified speech-language pathologist with over 10 years experience. She has expertise in evaluating and treating young children with a variety of speech and language needs. Anne enjoys working as a team with parents and teachers to collaboratively support speech and language development.

Tremendous communication growth occurs during the preschool years and early support can be transformative. At TRS ECC, speech/language therapy is provided within the natural school environment to support generalization of skills and create modeling opportunities for teachers. Anne provides feedback to teachers on how to facilitate communication throughout the day and is continuously in contact with parents. Therapy targets may include areas such as speech sounds, language, fluency, and social communication.