

THE Importance of Caring

OCTOBER 2021

my journey into health care



Jill Zaruba, OTR/L

WIGGLES & GIGGLES CLINIC SUPERVISOR

You could say Jill Zaruba enjoys the best of both worlds.

Zaruba is an occupational therapist and supervisor of Wiggles & Giggles Therapy for Kids™. Each day, she experiences both the patient care and management side of the health care industry.

In her current position, she manages 16 staff members, oversees the clinic's day-to-day operations and provides occupational therapy treatment to pediatric patients. In a typical day, Zaruba answers therapist questions, develops clinic processes as needed and interacts with patients and families.

“Wiggles & Giggles is very busy right now,” said Zaruba, **“so typically our days are very fast-paced and just a little unpredictable.”**

Zaruba became interested in health care after watching her mom, who was a receptionist for a physician, during her childhood.

“I loved being at their office and spending time in the medical setting,” she said. **“I just loved the energy and**

pace of the hospital setting, which led me to choose occupational therapy.”

She graduated from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, with a degree in occupational therapy, before beginning her career at the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Munroe-Meyer Institute, also in Omaha. While there, she treated children in school settings, outpatient care and the neonatal intensive care unit. After working there, she moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, with her family and worked at a private outpatient pediatric therapy clinic before moving to Columbus.

She started working at the hospital in 2002 — the same time the hospital was considering developing a pediatric therapy clinic.

“The hospital took a leap of faith opening a pediatric therapy clinic,” she said. **“Wiggles & Giggles has grown into a very busy clinic that serves many children and families.”**

Zaruba said she enjoys working at Wiggles & Giggles, mostly because of the fantastic team of medical professionals with whom she works.

“Wiggles & Giggles has always been about our great staff and their desire to help children and their families,” she said.

Zaruba said she has also always appreciated the support she has received from the hospital board, administration and foundation, as well as community pediatricians, primary care physicians and specialists.

When reflecting on her career choice, she said her current position is the perfect fit for her.

“I'm so glad this is where life took me,” she said. **“I have never left pediatrics and cannot imagine having a better job to go to every day.”**

For more information about Wiggles & Giggles Therapy for Kids or the career opportunities available at the hospital, visit www.columbushosp.org.