

THE Importance of Caring

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my journey into health care



Nikki Behle

PRE-K TEACHER

Pre-kindergarten teacher Nikki Behle's love for children shines brightly through her work at the Columbus Community Hospital Child Care Center.

Behle received her Bachelor of Arts in education with an endorsement in early childhood education from the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Before coming to CCH, she was the area manager and education coordinator at Early Head Start for 15 years. Behle said she enjoyed her previous role, but decided to pursue the pre-K teaching position at the Child Care Center to better fit her family's needs.

"To be honest, I never thought I would be working at a hospital," she said. **"However, I had to travel a lot for my previous job, and once I started a family, my priorities changed dramatically. I feel God opened this door to me, the timing was so right, and I had to jump at it."**

Behle worked closely with the team at the Child Care Center during her onboarding process and has never regretted making the switch.

"I can work part time, get great benefits and spend my morning teaching little ones, which is something I am very passionate about," she said.

Behle shares her love of teaching with her classroom each day.

"I feel so fortunate to have 14 kids who are so eager to learn every day," she said. **"I make sure we are utilizing our pre-K curriculum, but I also have some flexibility to change things as needed to make my classroom more individualized. I love that I have that flexibility."**

Behle has a daily routine in her classroom and utilizes the Frog Street pre-K curriculum.

"We have a circle time, literacy, choice time, math, science, music and movement, and reading time," she said. **"Our days are jam-packed with lots of learning."**

With an active classroom, Behle is thankful for the support she receives from the hospital to help meet the needs of her students.

"The hospital has been great about getting me everything I need for my classroom," she said. **"There are so many child care centers that don't have that luxury. I also am thankful for how the hospital is willing to support the costs for me to renew my teaching certificate."**

While she never imagined she would be working in health care, Behle is thankful for the opportunity to grow in her career.

"There are so many different employment opportunities available through the hospital," she said. **"It's not just medical. I would encourage everyone to check it out because it's a great place to work."**

To learn more about CCH's Child Care Center and available careers at Columbus Community Hospital, visit columbushosp.org.