

# Do What You Love, Love What You Do



“Working with young children is my love,” says Amanda Naldrett. The Family & Consumer Sciences program at Lake Braddock Secondary enabled Amanda to turn an affinity into an occupation with classes in early childhood careers and child development & parenting.

“Those courses provided me with a foundation that prepared me for further education in college...and inspired me to pursue my education at Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC).” Thanks to articulation agreements between NVCC and Fairfax County Public Schools, Amanda was able to apply some of her high school credits toward her associate degree in early childhood development.

Amanda is now back in the classroom, this time as a lead teacher at a children’s center in Northern Virginia—a job that enables her to do what she loves, every day.

## **AMANDA NALDRETT** Lead Teacher

**High School:** Lake Braddock Secondary

**CTE Programs Studied:** Child Development & Parenting, Early Childhood Careers I & II

**Additional Studies/Training:** A.S. in Early Childhood Development

## **Preschool Teacher**

Preschool teachers help to define a child’s earliest impressions of school and structured learning, and help to promote skills that will affect the child’s future success. To accomplish these goals, the teacher must skillfully blend creative play, instruction, encouragement and guidance.

## **Electives to take in high school**

- Child Development & Parenting
- Early Childhood Careers I & II
- Teacher Cadet

## **What to study after high school**

Public preschools require a bachelor’s degree, while private and parochial schools will generally accept a two-year degree. Teachers in Virginia’s public preschools must be licensed, but many parochial and private schools do not require a license. To get a license, teachers must not only have a bachelor’s degree—they must also pass the Praxis I&II exams, and log 300 classroom hours of student teaching.