

Sharing Jesus' Love with the Littles

Early childhood education (ECE) is a ministry to the littles, but it is far from a little ministry. WELS has more preschools than elementary schools! And when you're the first person to tell a little one about their Savior, that is something very, very big. Intrigued? Do you love the littles? Read on to see what two ECE majors tell us about the ECE major and ministry.

Natasha Cabeza (*LPS / Risen Savior-Milwaukee, pictured*)

Her favorite class: Child Development with Professor Melhberg. We learned about the different stages of children's lives, what they can do, and what things are appropriate for each age. The most impactful thing I took away was how their life experiences shape who they are. It's vital to provide children with a safe and loving environment to help them succeed in their future lives.

Student teaching is . . . busy but extremely fun and rewarding! I worked with children from five months to five years old in MLC's Early Childhood Learning Center. I was in a preschool classroom for nine weeks, then the toddler classroom, and now I'm in the infant classroom. I've learned so much.

Call Day: As Call Day gets closer, I feel both sad and excited. If I'm not close to my family and friends, it will be very hard. But at the same time, I'm excited to see where I'll be. I'm super excited to meet my new students and ministry and see how I am able to help.



Katie Tauscher (*Luther HS / St. John-Barre Mills WI, pictured*)



What she loves about the littles: They look at things differently and make me stop and cherish even the littlest of things. They also love life! Adults tend to dwell on things, but children move past their thoughts and find the next adventure. I love to hold their hand on that adventure!

ECE is . . . where children first learn about their Savior . . . and how to walk, how to hold a pencil . . . and all the abstract thinking that's easy for us adults (thinking in the past or future, using numbers, etc.). These are the building blocks that set children up for higher learning, and not only do we get to teach them, but we also get to celebrate with them as they learn!

Student teaching is incredible! As I practiced how to teach young children, manage a classroom, communicate with staff and parents, and manage my time, I've found strategies that work for me! The connections and relationships I've made with both the children and the staff have been such a blessing.

Call Day is coming! It's crazy to think about all the different places God could put me! When starting a new journey, of course there are some nerves, but then I think about the adventure and all the memories I will get to make!

Thinking about early childhood education? Come to MLC! Learning about ECE is fascinating, but learning ECE from MLC is so meaningful because you get to teach children about their Savior. When children sing "Jesus Loves Me"—and they're having fun singing it, and they know what they're saying—that feeling is unmatched!