**Meet Our Pre-School Teachers!**

**Meet Missy Burke, Pre-School Teacher in Braintree:** Hello all. I’m so excited to be teaching at Braintree this year! Teaching is a passion of mine and I’m so excited to be working with you and your children. It’s going to be a great year full of fun, lots of leaning, and great adventures! Let me tell you a little bit about myself.

I have been married to my best friend, Casey, for 10 years. We have a 16-month-old son, Lewis. I am also a fur momma to two cats, a dog, and a turtle. In what free time I may get I love to read, swim, and go camping. Some of my favorite things are Butterflies, the color green, summer, ice cream, cats, camping, and being a mom.

I’m a graduate of the University of Vermont and I have been teaching for seven years. For the last three years I was a pre-K teacher in Williamstown. My teaching philosophy focuses on play based learning and learning from the natural world.

**Meet Harriet Hart, Pre-School Teacher in Brookfield:** Hi everyone, I’m Harriet Hart, the new pre-school teacher at Brookfield. I'm British, but I have lived in the US for eight years, four of which I spent in the Montpelier area teaching at Moretown, Twinfield, and the North Branch Nature Center.

I studied elementary and early childhood education at Antioch University New England in Keene, NH. Their courses in nature-based education, combined with a childhood spent exploring outside, set me on the path to teaching with and within nature. I love to take preschoolers outside, and I believe there is nothing that we can contrive in the classroom that beats that which is found in nature. Over the coming year, you'll find us outdoors in all kinds of weather; jumping in puddles, playing in snow, running with the wind, marveling at treasures on the forest floor, cooking up some ice cream in the mud kitchen, using magnifying glasses, and exploring the natural world.

**Meet Kelly McDonald, Pre-School Teacher at Randolph Elementary:** Hi. My name is Kelly McDonald and I am the pre-school Teacher at Randolph Elementary School. This is my second year teaching pre-school at RES.

I was born and raised in Connecticut. and I previously taught pre-school for three years in Torrington, CT. I moved to Vermont in July of 2018. I am a 2007 graduate of Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, NY where I earned a Bachelor’s Degree in English and a Minor in
Psychology. I graduated from the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford, CT in 2015 with my Master’s in Early Childhood/Special Education.

When I am not teaching, I enjoy exploring Vermont, cheering on the New York Yankees, and spending time with my Fiancé, Matt and dog, Jackson. My goal as a teacher is to create a safe and nurturing environment where my students can explore, learn, and thrive through hands-on experiences.