



# Jessica Spada teacher of the month

## OF MAGICAL JOURNEY LEARNING CENTER

### *Teaching Children to Think for Themselves*

Jessica Spada, owner and director of Magical Journey Learning Center, has 25 years of teaching experience with children ages six-weeks through 12 years old. Even with the responsibilities that accompany an owner and director, Mrs. Spada continues to be involved in the classrooms, which she loves.

When asked what she likes most about teaching, she said, “Do I have to pick just one?” Then she went on to explain, “Children are simply amazing! Their energy, their excitement, their curiosity. It is pure joy to be able to shape young minds at this age. We get the opportunity to play a significant

and major role in how they develop and see the world. We can create strong, well-rounded individuals that care about the world around them.”

She also notes that teaching children is a big responsibility: “It is important to understand how fragile and



precious that is. Educators need to take this role very seriously! We must teach our children to be curious, ask questions, be creative, use common sense, and to think for themselves.”

In addition to shaping young minds, Mrs. Spada loves to create unique hands-on learning experiences for the children, special activities specifically geared towards the development of each child in the class, and family activities, such as Mad Science Workshops, Foam Parties, Santa on the Fire Truck, Fall Festivals, Family Day at the Park, and Dear Ones Day. She says, “The home/school connection is so important.”

Mrs. Spada says of her path, “I was very lucky in that I have always known what I wanted to do with my life. When I was seven and my 1st-grade teacher, Mrs. Hall, asked us to write down what we wanted to be when we grew up, my answer was ‘I want to be a teacher.’”

Mrs. Spada explains, “Before my mother passed away in 2015, she gave me all my childhood memories she had been saving ... It was so cool to see that note to Mrs. Hall! I have always had a special connection with children, even when I was very young. I always knew this is what I would be good at and excel at!”

She adds, “I am honored to be a part of all the families I have met throughout my career! As the years pass, it’s so cool when former parents and students find you on Facebook and reconnect with you. Some of them are married with children, graduating college and one student is currently playing centerfield on the St. Louis Cardinals. Why would I dream of doing anything else!”

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