

DELAWARE STARS PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT:



Fabiana's Place

Miss Erika Vidal – The Anatomy of an Early Child Care Educator *May 2019*

“Identify the Body Part,” is one of the many engaging activities Miss Erika of Fabiana’s Place, a family child care program in Bear, uses to engage her students. Children place a piece of purple tape wherever they want and Miss Erika uses a prompt to give them the words: “Your tape is on your nose. Ella’s tape is on her mouth. Can you put your tape on your eye?” It’s an effective way of building language skills while teaching body parts.

Her teaching strategies are a reflection of her 15 years in the field and her continual desire to become a more skilled early care and education professional.

Like a lot of family child care providers, Miss Erika started her business to provide quality care for her daughter, Fabiana, the source of the program’s name.



“I did a lot of things by instinct because I lacked knowledge of child development,” said Miss Erika. “After working with Delaware Stars and networking with other family child care professionals, I now know how to effectively teach children and recognize their needs.”

Now, her program is a Star Level 5, but she’s not stopping there. “Erika is always wanting to stay engaged,” said Kristy Smith, Stars Technical Assistant. “She does everything for the right reasons. She is intentional and consistent.”

If we engaged Miss Erika in the same activity with body parts, it would go something like this:

Her eyes – She is intentional about observing her children to identify special needs. Throughout the week, resources visit her program to provide support for children who have Individual Family Service Plans (IFSP).

Her Hands – They are constantly moving as she manages six children from ages infant to four-years old.

Her mind – It’s always engaged while she works with her children and continues with professional development and training in her off hours.

And finally, **her heart** – Her love for the children is what drives her. She’s passionate about the early care and education field and one of its biggest advocates.