

PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT

STACY MORGAN

Little Bit of Sunshine Nature
Learning Academy



**Winner, 2025 DIEEC Excellence in
Early Childhood Awards
(Family Child Care Educator Category)**

*"My work is not a job, it's a lifestyle, and
that's why it's so easy to connect with my little
learners and my families."*

Written by Stephanie Thompson/DIEEC
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The Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood (DIEEC) is thrilled to recognize Stacy Morgan, of **Little Bit of Sunshine Learning Academy**, as the winner of the 2025 **Excellence in Early Childhood Awards** in the family child care educator category. Stacy's journey into early childhood education began with a background in babysitting and church nursery care. She then worked in banking for many years before realizing she desired to be home with her oldest son. Reflecting on the transition, Stacy says, "I believe it was a higher calling. I believe I'm exactly where God wants me to be!"

Stacy's approach to early education is deeply rooted in fostering strong relationships and a rich, child-led learning environment. She cherishes the connections she forms with families and children, describing her work not as a job, but as an integral part of her life that brings her immense joy and purpose. Parents laud her as among the "most patient, understanding, and resourceful" professionals, noting the significant growth and development their children achieve under her guidance. For Stacy, excellence in early childhood means ensuring not only that the child receives what they need, but that the entire family feels supported. "When you have relationships in education, it all falls into place- and when you don't have the relationship part, there can be so many struggles," she says.

A hallmark of Stacy's program is her commitment to learning through play and nature-based experiences, deeply aligning with a curiosity-driven approach. Her daily activities inspire curiosity, critical thinking, and resilience through explorations in forests, gardens, and natural play areas.

Children are encouraged to draw shapes in the dirt, use tongs at the water table, and climb – activities that naturally build essential skills like hand strength and dexterity. Stacy thoughtfully structures her week with themes like "Math Monday," "Artsy Thursday," and "Fun Friday," balancing learning while allowing children the freedom to lead their own journeys and explore their interests.

Stacy's ability to navigate the dynamic nature of a family child care setting with calm and creativity is noteworthy. She sees her ability to multitask and "pull it all together" as a unique strength, essential for the diverse demands of her role. Whether it's managing an unexpected challenge or adapting a planned activity, Stacy brings knowledge of child development and practical experience to every moment, keeping children engaged and the program running smoothly.

Stacy has a profound impact on the children and families she works with.. She consistently seeks to ensure families receive the support they need, embodying a holistic approach to early childhood well-being. Stacy's unwavering dedication, compassion, and professional ingenuity make her an invaluable asset to the Delaware early childhood community.

Content for this article was compiled from the Excellence in Early Childhood Award application, letters of recommendation, and a phone interview.