

Amy Underwood RECE
Program Coordinator

St. Bartholomew's Children's Centre has been a part of my life for 25 years. The Children's Centre was my first summer job at 18 years old. I remember at the time having a wonderful summer, playing and painting and going on trips. I was shocked to find out that working all summer would be the time of my life.

After high School I went to George Brown College and then onto York University for a degree theater to become an actor. Unfortunately, I was uninspired by the unhealthy dynamics between my peers and mentors, so I left the stage. At the time the children's Centre was entering into a new chapter, transitioning into a Licensed Daycare under the Day Nurseries Act (DNA). This transition was a major game changer, previous to this the Centre operated as a drop-in program, this meant there were significantly fewer requirements and regulations. Even though this seemed a daunting task, when Marlone asked me to join the team as Program Coordinator I took it on! These first years were the most formative years of my adult life. From Blindly developing important policies to managing complex relationships; these years formed the trajectory of my professional future

I 2008 the Centre funded and supported my journey through the Early Childhood educator direct entry diploma program at George Brown College. Since then I have been working towards my degree at Ryerson for Early Childhood Studies and continuing my journey as Program Coordinator.

I have built lifelong ties with some of the children and families I've worked with through the years.

I consider myself a fortunate woman to have had the endless opportunities to learn from and work beside some of the most powerful female community leaders in this field today.

Thank you Marlone, for taking a chance 20 years ago by asking me to join this team!