



Spark Accountability Team Members

(Followed by alphabetical order)

<p>Bruna Pimentel</p>		<p>My Community: Togetherness. Our small town, Cave Junction, is diverse in all aspects: racial, cultural, economic, and political. When it comes to our children, we all come together to make our community a safe place for them. My community believes that by teaching and raising at least one generation to be kind and respectful, we can change the future of our valley while showing our children how to love and care for it and one another.</p> <p>My History: I am a dedicated learner and am passionate about keeping children safe. I am a Brazilian immigrant who moved to Cave Junction over 8 years ago. I am a mother of two, a preschool teacher, and the bookkeeper at Art and Science Kids - an outdoor program providing care to children in the Illinois Valley. Joining this team meant my voice and my community's voice would be finally heard and we could be hopeful to see change in providing more quality care programs to ALL children.</p>
<p>Claudia Morales</p>		<p>Program Owner/ Provider in Washington County</p> <p>Why I wanted to join the team: I was one of the pilot team providers in the quality evaluation of my program, there was very little help and guidance and some very complex standards to understand.</p> <p>What excites me when doing the outreach: By working as a team with different mindsets and experiences, we provide feedback on how best to create high-quality early childhood programs.</p>

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**Fernanda Lucas
de la Torre**



My community is all those people who identify as Hispanic, Latino, immigrant, parents, and educators. Fighting and dreaming people who want a more equitable world.

I was born and raised in the beautiful city of Quito (Ecuador) surrounded by mountains and volcanoes. I am the mother of a child of almost three years and I have ten years of experience in initial and primary education. I have worked in children's creativity centers as a teacher and academic coordinator in international schools in Argentina, Ecuador, and Poland. I am a specialist in artistic languages in early childhood. I am the principal and founder of Little Creek Bilingual School in rural Coos Bay. In my program, I seek to approach education from a perspective that respects childhood, with a multicultural and nature-based approach.

I wanted to be part of the listening team in Spanish because I wanted to bring a different perspective from my professional experience, be a generator of ideas that support and revalue the work of early education professionals, and be able to find solutions to improve educational quality, suggest more resources and training for early childhood programs in Oregon. It's very important for me to represent my community and be able to bring their voices and ideas to be included in the redesign of Spark.

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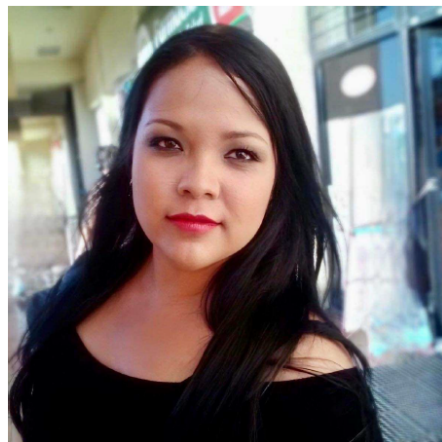
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Hadiatu Johnson



My name is Hadiatu L Johnson and I was born in Sierra Leone and I am an American citizen, I'm a mother and a devoted Christian and I live in Beaverton, Oregon. I am an enthusiastic preschool teacher at Education Explorer LLC, a diverse child care program that caters for all children. I am also a member of New Song Ministry, a close-knit church community which is situated in MLK in Portland, Oregon. I am passionate about child care and joined this team to contribute to the well-being and development of children. As part of this team, it has allowed me to connect with other child care professionals and share experiences and knowledge. It has been a rewarding journey to be part of this listening community that values the importance of early childhood education and supports one another in this important work. As an infant/toddler teacher and early education educator, this program has helped in identifying the importance of childcare programs, accessibility and inclusivity for all regardless of race, background, identity and economic status. The exchange of childcare knowledge between and among service providers, emphasizes common values and understanding.



Karen Macias



Proud Mexican, I was born in Guadalajara, Jalisco. I studied Business Administration and I must mention that I graduated with Academic Excellence. I like reading, traveling, walking, learning new things. I am currently a Social Activist, Volunteer, Child Care Provider and Mom of 3 amazing children. I live in a very small community in southern Oregon, where there are many needs since most people are farmworkers. This listening project has been an extraordinary experience. I really put myself in the role of listening and I tried to convey to people that their ideas, thoughts, and life experiences were important for this project. Thank you for the opportunity. You just have to know that anything is possible!



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<p>Maria Del Carmen Pérez Guzmán</p>	 A portrait of Maria Del Carmen Pérez Guzmán, a woman with long dark hair, wearing a red top and a dark jacket, smiling slightly.	<p>Teacher in Marion County</p> <p>Why I wanted to join the team: It is very important to me to have this opportunity, I want to contribute my ideas, but also learn from professional colleagues, helping families and my community is one of my priorities, I believe that education is very valuable, preparing myself and knowing more will help me continue offering a quality environment. Of course, Spark has taught in my salon and professionally.</p> <p>What excites me when doing the outreach: I am excited because I know that every job or change that is made is done with the purpose of improving and providing more quality. I know it will be successful. Thank you for all your work on education.</p>
<p>Maria Ines Pizza Espinoza</p>	 A portrait of Maria Ines Pizza Espinoza, a woman with dark curly hair, looking slightly to the side.	<p>I am Mexican from the state of Guerrero. I emigrated to the United States at the age of 16 looking for a better future and since that time, I live in Jefferson County. My community is farmworkers. When I immigrated to the United States, my first job was agricultural work, and thanks to this work, my son qualified for the program called OCDC where I was given the opportunity to attend as an apprentice parent and eventually, I was hired. It was there where I began my career in early education. I am currently working for Healthy Families America, my focus has always been on children and their families.</p>


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Massene Mboup	 A professional headshot of Dr. Massene Mboup, a Black man with a shaved head, smiling. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a patterned tie.	<p>Dr. Massene Mboup is a School Administrator, entrepreneur, a Lake Oswego city Councilor Mboup, an educational scholar, and community volunteer. He is an immigrant from Senegal, West Africa. Massene and his wife Patricia moved to Lake Oswego in 2011 to create a French Immersion School.</p> <p>Massene holds a Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics, a Master's Certificate in American Literature and Civilization from The University of Dakar, and a Doctoral Degree in Education from Portland State University.</p> <p>Before being elected to the Lake Oswego City Council, he was a member of the Lake Oswego School District Legal Budget Committee and the City of Lake Oswego Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion task force. Dr. Mboup is also a board member of the antiracist organization Respond to Racism.</p>
Rhonda Schock	 A photograph of Rhonda Schock, a woman with short blonde hair and glasses, wearing a red floral patterned jacket. She is smiling and holding a large straw hat with a green cloth draped over it. In the background, there are trees and a paved path.	<p>Program owner/provider in Jackson County.</p> <p>Why I wanted to join the team: I want to help others as they go through the quality process, share my experience & knowledge, and be a positive force in creating and maintaining quality care for all children in child care.</p> <p>What excites me when doing the outreach: I am passionate about working with providers and family's to help them go through the process of building strong ECE habitats for children.</p>

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Robert Kleng	 A photograph of Robert Kleng, a man with a beard, wearing a dark climbing jacket, a helmet with a headlamp, and a blue harness. He is standing outdoors with a mountain range and a sunset sky in the background.	<p>My Community: Eastern Oregon has breathtaking landscapes, from majestic mountains to fertile valleys and picturesque high deserts. My vibrant community embraces a rich cultural heritage celebrated through festivals and museums. Its tight-knit and welcoming spirit fosters a warm atmosphere, has a thriving agricultural industry, and many opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts.</p> <p>My History: I am a Head Start Director where I work to build connections, foster empowerment and enhance resiliency. I was born, and raised in La Grande then spent many years living and working worldwide, always knowing that I wanted to return to Eastern Oregon to raise my own family. My wife and I have two young children, and like all proud parents, have made them the center of our world. I believe that improving early childhood care and education is the best public investment that can be made and the key to bringing equity into every community.</p>
Sabrina Ersland		<p>Program administrative in Multnomah County</p> <p>Why I wanted to join the team: I have been a part of QRIS at the state local level and would like to stay involved.</p> <p>What excites me when doing the outreach: Hearing from other programs where they are and the support they need.</p>

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Sage Halvorson



I live in rural Oregon, and am the parent of one preschool age child. I have learned a lot about the issues, limitations, and successes facing Oregon families and childcare providers today by having the opportunity to be on the Spark Connection Listening Team.

Shawn Reynolds





My community and those surrounding Ontario, Oregon are diverse by virtue of its land and people. We are the Four Rivers region, which created a centralized location for us to gather and make a life sharing water in a desert area during the days of the Oregon Trail to present day. The Owyhee Dam and Reservoir, which served as the blueprint for the Hoover Dam, has allowed us to flourish agriculturally. The heritage within our community is rich in Basque, Hispanic, Indian, Japanese, and European ancestry. We brought water to the desert and it brought us together as well as our cultures that have beautifully blended thereafter. We are a diversely acclimated community that loves our children dearly, and despite limited funding in an economically poverdized rural frontier, we work together to ensure the future of our children for generations to come.

Aside from the history of my community, I am a blessed and proud husband and father of two children, one girl and one boy, in addition to being a community leader/voice for Early Childhood Education at the helm of Giggles & Grace. I am an advocate for children, disability services/supports, and a coach/mentor as the Assistant Track Coach for Treasure Valley Community College. I also manage/own my own

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		<p>personal business, SpeedGoat Cleanup & Removal, that assists in the beautification of our community and surrounding areas. In my community, I am connected with children all the way from infant to young adult. Once I tried on these pairs of shoes as an Executive Director of Giggles & Grace and advocate for children and local communities, I knew I had found my calling and business home. For that reason, I was ecstatic to join the Spark Redesign Listening Team as we seek to advance child care in Oregon and beyond!</p>
Tram Gonzales	 A portrait of Tram Gonzales, a woman with long dark hair, smiling. She is wearing a red patterned top.	<p>Tram Gonzales, my community are families who are underserved and are from the BIPOC community. I have worked in early childhood for over 10 years and have my Master in the Education field. I am a first generation immigrant. I wanted to be a part of the listening team to understand the needs and concerns from the community we serve. It was a privilege to be a part of a working change, to help parents and provider voices to be heard.</p>
Valentina Brichuk	 A group photo of Valentina Brichuk, a woman, and several young children sitting on the floor in a classroom or playroom setting.	<p>Program administrative in Marion County Why I wanted to join the team: Working with the Russian-speaking community for so many years, I learned how much these families need help in a new country with a new language and culture. Working with SPARK on this project, I could help to figure out some current needs of Russian-speaking early educators and would be happy to provide support to Slavic community</p>

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		<p>What excites me when doing the outreach: In general, communication and working with people inspires me. It makes me excited to understand them, get knowledge from them, share experience. I think that it is highly necessary to get known what is valuable for them, learn what needs they have. Any possibility to help people always motivates me.</p>
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