

CELEBRATING SUCCESS



BUSY FOOTPRINTS

April Love and Lisa Austin

Christian preschool

Started - September, 2007

Employees: 1

1724 SE N Street, Grants Pass, OR 97526
(541) 956-4985

Our Greatest Success - "Fulfilling my lifetime dream of opening my own preschool, using the positive approach to learning and discipline."

Busy Footprints Christian Preschool is a Christian preschool dedicated to getting children ready for school by teaching them to problem solve and build social skills. Teacher, April Love, has proven that even young children can learn the three "R"s of reading, writing, and arithmetic if they are not held back, but are allowed to learn at their own pace. A time to learn about God is included in the day's activities. April says she chose to open a preschool because she believes, *"God has given me the gift and talent to patiently work with children. It has been my long-term dream, which RCC SBDC helped me fulfill."*

When asked what makes her preschool unique, April, who has taught gymnastics for many years said *"Besides incorporating gymnastics, physical education and creative dance into the program, I approach discipline from the positive aspect. For example, rather than time out when a child misbehaves, I have a talking chair where the child and I discuss how we can better solve the issue. I always look at the positive side rather than the negative. Enrollment has almost doubled in the five short months since it opened, with more students promised in the fall."*

History

April is the preschool teacher, whose long-term dream was to open her own preschool. She has worked in preschools and helped in schools since 1984, when her first daughter was born. She has taught gymnastics for seventeen years and volunteered in church children's ministries for 11 years. In June of 2005, she graduated from Rogue Community College with an AAS in Early Childhood Education. Prior to opening her own preschool in September of 2007, she helped another gymnastics studio open their own preschool, where she worked for two years before combining talents with Lisa Austin, owner of Unlimited Sports Center, who previously owned a preschool.



Partnership with SBDC

April says, *RCC SBDC helped me understand how to get my preschool up and running and how to approach it from a business perspective. They reviewed and commented on my business plan and cash flow projections—and patiently stayed with me until I got it right. They were a great source of encouragement—I'm grateful they were there when I needed them.*



Small Business Development Center
Historic City Hall Building
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