

Leadership Team

Who are some of the people behind FunShine Express®? Many of our customers ask how we started our company, if we have childcare experience, or if we are parents.



Beth Ehlis is the President and Owner of FunShine Express®. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business, and a Master's Degree in Education. FunShine Express® began in 1995 from her search for curriculum materials to use in her licensed childcare home. While licensed in Minnesota, Iowa, and North Dakota, she was active in local early childhood associations and conducted training for ND Child Care Resource and Referral. Beth is the 2010 National Small Business Award Winner and a recipient of the Greater ND Chamber of Commerce Entrepreneurial Spirit Award. She is a member of the Dickinson and ND Chambers of Commerce; Stark Development Corporation; SWND Manufacturer's Roundtable; Job Service ND Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council; Vistage, Chapter 3133; Dickinson Catholic Schools Educational Foundation; and serves on various community and school committees. She has three daughters and spends free time with her children, horses, and garden.



Jerry Tuhy is the Production Manager. He has 39 years of production, manufacturing and supervisory experience. He has attended numerous seminars in management training, including the 12-week Dale Carnegie training course. Jerry has earned a Certificate in Management from Dickinson State University's Center for Management and Leadership. Jerry is a firm believer that the function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers. He is married and has three daughters and eight grandchildren. Jerry takes every opportunity to provide his grandchildren with FunShine Express® products.



Kelley Jilek is the Curriculum Manager and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Home Economics. She has teaching experience with preschool and school-age children in home and classroom environments. She has also spent many hours working with young children as a Boy/Girl Scout leader and is currently the president of the Parent Teacher Association at her children's school. She loves children and believes that they learn best by playing and hands-on activity. She tries to incorporate her creativity and fun-loving nature into the curriculum so both the children and the provider/teacher have fun each day. She has four children of her own, ranging from ages ten to twenty-two.



Judy Mullican is a Curriculum Coordinator with a Master's of Arts in Early Childhood Education. Growing up, Judy dreamed of teaching young children in the morning and writing in the afternoons. While her life didn't turn out exactly that way, her career as an educational writer combines those loves. After teaching in a variety of settings, including private preschool, Head Start, public school kindergarten, and more, Judy began writing full time in 1993, creating early childhood curriculum materials, teacher resources, children's storybooks, song lyrics, and rhymes. She has presented workshops and training at many state, regional, and national early childhood conferences. Judy believes children learn best through exploration and play under the guidance of warm, loving caregivers in a safe and stimulating environment. Judy is married and has two children and two grandchildren. She is active in her church and especially enjoys teaching toddler and preschool classes. In her free time, she enjoys reading, picnics and walks in the mountains, and cooking.



Katie Brazerol is an Early Childhood Curriculum Coordinator. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Child Development and Family Science, with a minor in Extension Education. Since childhood, she always knew that she desired a vocation involving young children. Katie began her career as a Parent Education Specialist for a non-profit organization, and discovered that she had a passion for creating and writing developmentally appropriate lesson plans, newsletter articles, and parent informational handouts. After having her own children, Katie operated her own in-home licensed childcare business for over 8 years. She became familiar with the Funshine Express preschool curriculum by utilizing it in her own setting, and both of her children were fortunate enough to experience a well-rounded preschool education through the program. Katie is married, has two young children, and a spoiled cavapoo dog named Oreo. She enjoys reading, stays active chauffeuring her kids to various activities, and especially loves to plan and coordinate her family vacations.



Debbie Keiser is the eCurriculum Project Coordinator at FunShine Express®. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education and a Master's in Educational Psychology. Debbie has over 20 years of experience in education, with the last 16 spent in publishing and eLearning. She owned a small publishing company for several years, during which time she earned the National Association for Gifted Children Curriculum Award in 2002 and 2003. She has worked as a teacher, instructional coach, and a trainer, and has presented at local, state, national, and international education conferences. She has been an active member of an international bible study for 13 years and has served as a Sunday school teacher and Director of Children's Ministries in her church. Debbie is married with one daughter and enjoys gardening, cooking, swimming, and camping with her family.