

The Love of Teaching

A love for teaching at KidsAbility School is the essence of Jennifer Ross — 25 years as a teacher and now, as a classroom volunteer in her retirement. This is why the one word that comes to mind when she thinks about KidsAbility is simply “children.”

“My favourite memory is from years ago when I was working at the North Waterloo Children’s Centre School at the Rotary Centre on King Street. I was hired by principal Grace Skanes. The entire staff at the Centre was gathered waiting for a meeting to begin. Unexpectedly, we could hear the faint sounds of a bagpipe in the corridor that became louder as the Rotary President was led into the meeting by a bagpiper to make an announcement...and what an announcement! A new centre had been approved, funding would be made available and we could begin the process of planning new facilities and services for the children of Waterloo Region. Incredible excitement!”

KidsAbility also took on a different meaning for Jennifer when one of her sons was referred to the organization for speech and occupational therapies. She describes the therapists as always being calm, reassuring and professional. Jennifer’s wish for the future of KidsAbility is that the organization continues to endeavour to remain current, incorporating advances in research and technology and supporting the professional development of its staff so that they can continue to provide the same top-notch services her family benefited from and Jennifer herself helped to provide. Bigger dreams for Jennifer also include the elimination of a wait for services as well as the expansion of KidsAbility School to other communities, such as Kitchener and Guelph.

She describes KidsAbility School as a highly specialized school for four-year-olds providing support to families and strategies to help every special student be as successful as possible. This happens through the teamwork of school and therapy staff devising the goals and individual plans. “There are only six treatment centre schools in the province; we are so fortunate to have one of them in Waterloo Region.”

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Teacher - KidsAbility School Authority
1988–2013