

Meant to Be

Opportunity — to achieve meaningful goals, experience childhood, develop new skills while feeling unconditional acceptance, support and encouragement — are all critical parts of what KidsAbility does in Kellie Bell's eyes.

In 1997, a close friend of Kellie's was a swim volunteer at the K-W Rotary Children's Centre and continuously relayed to Kellie, who at the time, was teaching in Rodney, Ontario, about how wonderful the organization was. When Kellie decided to move back to Waterloo Region, she applied for a position and was hired the day she moved back to Waterloo. "I always felt that this job was meant to be!" says Kellie.

Kellie began working at the school before she had her own children, but as it turned out, both of her children received services at KidsAbility. Her daughter (now a volunteer) and her son have developed attitudes of acceptance, empathy and inclusion for all, and both desire to find careers in this field. Kellie says, "The children at KidsAbility School are the greatest teachers."

Kellie has had many roles at KidsAbility School. She teaches an afternoon junior kindergarten class, she is a liaison teacher providing programming to children who are unable to attend school for a period of time due to medical reasons, and she is a consultant to teachers and educational assistants in the co-terminus school boards who require strategies for students who are KidsAbility School graduates. As well, Kellie works with KidsAbility's augmentative communication services (ACS) to assess and provide support and strategies to families.

"I enjoy every aspect of my job. It has become inextricably linked with my day-to-day life where some of my closest friends are families of former students," she says.

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Kellie Bell

Teacher -
KidsAbility School Authority