



Kathy Bense

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Kathy Bense

SCHOOL: Head Start/ECEAP

GRADE LEVEL: Birth to Five (Preschool special education coordinator/teacher)

Q. What are some of your job duties?

A. I'm responsible for assessing and serving 10 to 15 children, ages birth to three years, in their homes. I screen children, develop student education plans, organize staff development for preschool staff, and mentor teachers.

Q. How often do you make home visits?

A. My home visit days are Wednesday and Thursday. I see approximately 10 to 12 children a week, with a 45 minute home visit per child.

Q. Why are home visits an effective way to help children and families?

A. The parents are the child's first teachers. By going into the home, we can support the family and help them find other services or answers to questions.

Q. How many children in this program receive special education services?

A. At this time, we are serving 62 children, ages birth to five, through our special education services. By the end of the year, that number will grow to 80 or more students.

Q. Have you seen an increase in the need for these services?

A. I've seen an increase in the awareness that these services exist and help.

COMMENTS FROM BLUE RIDGE PRINCIPAL CONNIE TAYLOR-RANDALL:

"Kathy Bense has been instrumental in connecting with agencies and parents in the community to help provide services to students in need. She has also helped bring more awareness of this program to our community, and she and Nancy Kessler spent this summer working to create a brochure and parent handbook that explain the program. We are fortunate to have someone of her caliber on our team."

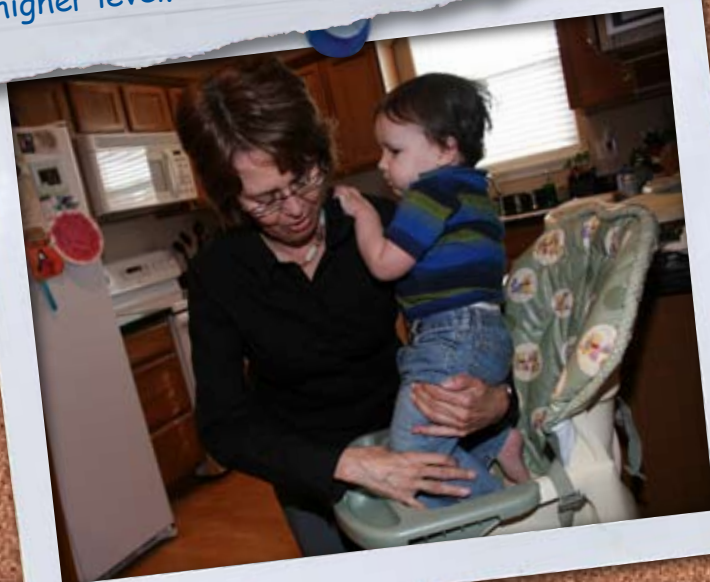
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**MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
KATHY BENSE'S CLASS:**



COMMENTS FROM KATHY...

"Research shows that if we work with children at a young age and we take a consistent approach to their program, then we can make a difference in their lives. Students are more prepared for school and perform at a higher level."



"My son is doing better. I notice him playing with his toys more and holding himself up better. I like having Kathy come to our house and work with us."

Liesl White, Parent

"I have lesson plans and handouts for parents to use when I'm not here. They all have notebooks to store the materials and stay organized."

I also help them come up with ideas for learning games to play."