

# Spotlight Support Staff: Tracie Branchaud, Early Childhood/School Readiness Paraprofessional

*“Children are apt to grow up to what you believe of them.”~ Lady Bird Johnson*



Tracie Branchaud is a paraprofessional in the ECFE/School Readiness classroom. She has been in this position for the last three and a half years. She is married to Brian, and together they have two children: Breana and Brandon

Tracie grew up in Fosston and graduated from Fosston High School in 1998. She then attended Northwest Technical College in Bemidji for Child Care Education.

**Why did you choose to be a para in Early Childhood?** I volunteered in the School-Readiness classroom when my son Brandon was in it. I really enjoyed it and was hired to work here when Brandon entered Kindergarten.

**What did you do before coming to Clearbrook-Gonvick?** Stay-at-home mom.

**What is the best part of your job at Clearbrook-Gonvick?** The smiles and hugs from all the children and working alongside my other early childhood coworkers - we make a great team!

**What is the biggest challenge of your job?** Having enough time to give each child the attention they need.

**If you could have any job in the world - what would it be? Why?** The job I have now. I love working with children. I also like having the same schedule as my own children

**What do you do when you are not at school teaching?** I love to spend time with my family, I love outdoors and nature, gardening, my chickens, and my little dog, “Maggie”.

**What are your favorite aspects of the Clearbrook-Gonvick community?** The Clearbrook-Gonvick community is a friendly and caring community. Everyone looks out for each other like family. I feel blessed to be apart of a wonderful community.

*And a now a word (or two) about Miss Tracie from some of her students...*

**What do you think Miss Tracie does when she is not here at school?**

“Someone comes over” “I don’t know” “Plays Checkers” “Drinks coffee and watches mommy TV” “Stays home” “Plays video games”

**What is the best thing about Miss Tracie?** “She’s nice” “She helps people” “She cleans up” “She’s my teacher”

**What do you think is Miss Tracie’s favorite thing to do?** “Play” “Teach kids” “Drink coffee” “Decorate trees” “Be at school”

**What do you think Miss Tracie will do over the holiday break?** “Put up her christmas tree.” “Take a picture with Santa.” “Sleep” “Play in the snow.”

**What is one thing Miss Tracie ALWAYS says?** “Boys...” “On the carpet” “How nice” “Come to the carpet”