

Dear Early Childhood Families:

My name is Cody Hunter and I will be the new Early Childhood Education Director at Kids Can. I am excited to join the team starting November 7th. I may be a familiar face to many as I have previously worked at Kids Can as a Preschool and PreK teacher. My vision for the program starts with the children and their families, so I look forward to the partnerships we will create.

I graduated with my Bachelor of Arts in Applied Linguistics/Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages along with a minor in Creative Writing from the University of Northern Iowa in 2011. My focus as a student was supporting diversity in the classroom by recognizing the importance of a child's culture and background. I participated in the Culture and Intensive English Program as a tutor for international students and I spent two summers working abroad in China as an English teacher. Outside of academics, I was the president of Green Project UNI where I worked with the local community and campus to promote awareness and activism around environmental justice.

Upon graduation, I moved to Seoul, South Korea where I worked as a Preschool and Kindergarten English Teacher. I went on to spend over three years teaching English in Korea at the elementary to middle school levels. I have worked as a Special Education Assistant in the Council Bluffs and Westside school districts for two years. Since 2017, I have been in the Early Childhood Education field, where most recently I was a Preschool Head Start Lead Teacher with Educare of Omaha, Inc. Throughout my time working with children, I have gained valuable skills from each of these environments that have helped me become not just a better teacher, but a better leader. I have had the greatest connection with those starting their journey in a school setting and am enthusiastic about my new role within an organization that further inspires me.

I believe the work we do to support the learning and development of infants through prekindergartners to be crucial in creating the caring, creative, and compassionate society of the future. With that, I recognize parents and guardians as a child's first teacher. I open the doors to this program to your insights and wisdom. I also open my heart to your struggles and concerns. I will do my best to ensure each child has the tools they need to thrive.

If you would like to meet in person or ever have any questions, please feel free to email me at chunter@kidsan.org.

Sincerely,
Cody Hunter

