

SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

Achieving Excellence in Child Development

Angela completed the Child Development Specialist USDOL Registered Apprenticeship Program on May 19, 2026, marking a significant milestone in her professional journey. This achievement is supported by the vital partnership between GST Michigan Works! and Sunny Patch Learning Center, which not only provided crucial apprenticeship funding but also ensured that the program adhered to the high standards set by USDOL.

GST Michigan Works! played an instrumental role by providing funding to assist Angela along her journey. This funding helped her acquire a laptop and various other supplies and expenses that were critical to her studies and helped ensure her successful completion.

Annette Hughes, the founder of Sunny Patch Learning Center, established the center with a mission to create a nurturing and supportive environment for children and childcare professionals alike. Her vision is centered on ensuring every child has access to quality education and care. “Every child deserves a secure and enriching space to grow, and we strive to empower those who care for them,” Annette shared.

Angela entered the apprenticeship program with a strong passion for making a difference in the lives of children. Throughout her time at Sunny Patch, she was guided by Annette’s expertise and mentorship. That, coupled with the support of GST Michigan Works!, played a crucial role in her professional development. “Working with Annette has been a transformative experience for me,” Angela stated. “I have gained not only the practical skills necessary for childcare but also the philosophy of kindness and compassion that is essential in this field.”

From the outset, GST Michigan Works! ensured the program adhered to USDOL standards, providing quality training that encompassed hands-on experiences in child development, safety protocols, and effective teaching practices tailored for preschool-aged children. Angela’s enthusiasm and commitment were evident during her daily interactions with the children and their families. “I’ve learned how to create engaging learning experiences and develop meaningful relationships with those in my care,” she remarked.

Annette recognized Angela’s hard work and dedication, stating, “Angela exemplifies the qualities we aim to foster in our apprentices. Her ability to connect with children and her commitment to their growth make her an asset to our community.” Under Annette’s guidance and supported by the framework provided by GST Michigan Works!, Angela flourished, gaining the confidence and skills that prepared her for a successful career in childcare.

As Angela completed the apprenticeship program, she felt empowered and excited to embark on her new career path. “I am eager to take what I’ve learned and contribute positively to the lives of children and families in our community,” she emphasized. Angela’s journey through the apprenticeship not only prepares her for her future but also inspires others to pursue a career in early childhood education.

With the knowledge and experiences gained from the program, Angela is ready to inspire and nurture the next generation of learners, carrying forward Annette’s mission of fostering safe and loving spaces for children to grow.