

Happy spring!

With the new season, let's get to know OHCFR New Professional Board Member (since 2015) **Katie LaPlant, OSU Extension Educator for Ottawa County:**



Where do you work, and what is your education/past work experience?

“Currently I work for Ohio State University Extension as an Extension Educator in Family and Consumer Sciences (since 2014). Before coming to OSU Extension I attended Central Michigan University to get my M.S. in Human Development and Family Studies. Through graduate school I interned at Washington State University Extension focusing in a parenting program that incorporated mindfulness and yoga as well as a program for divorcing parents. Before that I attended Washington State University for my B.A. in Human Development with a family studies certificate. Between undergrad and graduate school I interned at Casey Family Programs, an organization under the Annie E. Casey Foundation that focuses on child welfare through supporting youth in foster care.”

What got you into family work? What are your particular interests within family science?

“When I first went to college my plan was to teach preschool. In my first few semesters in my Human Development classes we talked a lot about families and the role family plays in the lives of children and this became my new interest. I am particularly interested in the foster care system and youth within the system and the transition out of the system. I am also interested in the family strengths perspective, developmental assets, positive youth development, and family involvement among other things.”

What projects are you currently working on?

“Currently I am working with a head start program for one of their parent engagement sessions. I will teach the parents about budgeting and financial literacy and then they will have their kids come and decorate a piggy bank while I have parents talk to their child about saving and money. I am really trying to start the conversation about finances and money early while encouraging the parent-child interaction. In the past I have also done a parent-child cooking class which was a lot of fun.”

What do you like to do outside of work and school?

“Outside of work I like to do Zumba and to run 5K races in the area. I also enjoy doing different craft projects and am learning how to knit and sew.”

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about yourself, your work, or your family?

“I am getting married in July and my fiancé and I just bought a house and will be moving in this week!”

Congratulations to Katie, and thanks for the great things you bring to OHCFR!