



Stephanie Klingenfuss Preschool Counselor & Head of Inclusion Department

Stephanie is an accomplished educational psychologist from Guatemala. Her academic journey began at the Universidad Francisco Marroquin and continued her education at Universidad Católica, where she obtained her degree in psychology. With an illustrious 14-year career in the field of education, Stephanie is passionately dedicated to creating an inclusive and nurturing learning environment where every student can excel. Her professional goals revolve around the promotion of individualized education and supporting students with diverse needs.

Stephanie's expertise shines in her ability to work effectively with students presenting Autism, ADHD, Down Syndrome, and various learning disabilities. She is renowned for her skill in crafting curriculum modifications and collaborating seamlessly with multidisciplinary teams to develop Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). Central to her educational philosophy for preschool children is early infancy intervention, nurturing various manifestations for emotional regulation in children, and providing essential tools for their success. Stephanie also prioritizes collaboration alongside parents about these crucial aspects of their preschoolers' development.

One of Stephanie's standout achievements was her instrumental role in pioneering inclusive education at the first bilingual-inclusive school in Honduras, where she devoted nearly five years of her career. She also served as a liaison to behavior analysts and autism experts, solidifying her strategies and techniques in supporting students with diverse learning needs. Stephanie possesses a rich skill set that includes curriculum development, early intervention strategies, effective teamwork, and exceptional communication skills. Her unwavering commitment to the success of every student, coupled with her genuine passion for education, cements her as an invaluable asset to any educational community. Seeking to establish a three-way partnership involving children, parents, and educators, where cooperation and communication are central to our approach towards educational excellence.



Melissa Lugo
Elementary School Counselor

Melissa studied Psychology at Keiser University and has a certification in Human Talent Management and Positive Psychology. She's been working with children for more than nine years, also has vast experience detecting students with learning disabilities and guiding them and their families within the process. Having students' needs as a priority, she is always open and accessible for both students and parents. Ms. Melissa is an enthusiastic and positive element in our team. She completed the Child Protection Level One program and is part of the LIA Safe Environment Team.



Maria Nieves Martinez
Middle and High School Counselor

Maria Nieves has a Master's Degree in clinical psychology from the Latina University of Costa Rica, where she worked in a ONG providing psychological attention. She is specialized in working with children and teenagers. She participated in the XI Young Researchers Conference (UCA) obtaining 3rd place. Her thesis was about a therapeutic game for patients of APROQUEN. She has also taken courses of continuing education that include higher diploma in psychotherapy, knowledge in the management of trauma and crisis intervention. She participated in the I Congress of Positive Discipline in Latin America as the only member from Nicaragua to assist. Maria Nieves completed the OLWEUS Bullying Prevention program and Child Protection Level One training and is part of the LIA Safe Environment Team. She has 14 years of experience in clinical care providing support and psychological treatment to children and teenagers within the psychiatric field and has been working 8 years as a counselor in schools.



Roberta Belli
Safe Environment Coordinator

Roberta Belli has been in the field of education for over 18 years. She is a passionate educator with a deep commitment to fostering meaningful learning experiences. With a Masters' in Education and a Master's in Emotional Intelligence, she brings a holistic approach to teaching. Her goal is not only to impart knowledge but also to nurture the emotional and social growth of her students. She believes that by understanding and harnessing the power of emotional intelligence, we can create a more empathetic, resilient, and successful generation of learners. She is dedicated to inspiring a love of learning and helping students develop the skills they need to thrive academically and emotionally. Ms. Belli is our Safe Environment Coordinator and oversees many areas related to the wellness and safety of our students.