

## May is Better Hearing and Speech Month!



*(top left to right: Lauren, Mary Anne, Gina, Kaitlyn, Kailey, Deirdre/bottom left to right: Elizabeth, Laena)*

## Speech-Language Pathology Team Members Early Childhood Services / Ronkonkoma Campus

Thank you to this amazing team for all you do for the children and families we support.  
#peopleinspiredbypurpose

### Lauren Philips

I graduated from Bloomsburg University with my undergraduate degree and SUNY Plattsburgh with my Masters in speech-language pathology (SLP). While going to school I worked as a TA and completed one of my internships at Starting Early in Ronkonkoma. I am now the Speech Supervisor for that very program. DDI has helped me grow as a professional and as a person. I love the children we work with and can't imagine working with another age group. I love how the field is still growing and changing and enjoy going to the ASHA (American Speech and Hearing Association) Conventions-I have now been to four- Miami, Boston, New Orleans and Philadelphia!

### Mary Anne Devine

My first position as a speech-language pathologist was at DDI/Starting Early at Bicycle Path in the fall of 1992, just after graduating from SUNY University @ Buffalo, though I worked for one and a half years in

the late 80's at the Children's Residential Program at Hollywood Drive when it first opened. In the mid-90's, I left to try new SLP adventures and worked two months as a 'traveling SLP' with preschoolers and school age children up to sixth grade in Conway, S.C. in a school district as a temporary placement.

Following that, I worked for one year an independent provider/contractor SLP in Suffolk Co., but I decided to come back to DDI/Starting Early as I missed working in a multi-disciplinary setting and my great co-workers. The travel bug hit once more about a decade ago when I spent a year in County Clare, Ireland where for six months I worked as an SLT (that is what they are called there). It was an interesting experience, but I was happy to come back to the U.S. and DDI with a new appreciation of the services we offer preschoolers and their families. I celebrated 25 years of employment at DDI this past Fall 2017 and look forward to what may come.

### **Gina Greco**

I have worked as a speech-language pathologist for 8 years. While I was at Adelphi University, I completed my externship at DDI in Huntington and was as a clinical fellow in DDI in Ronkonkoma after graduation. My career includes working with all ages in various settings, such as school, home, and private practice. I love being an SLP because I get to help people communicate in fun and innovative ways. Working at DDI has helped me grow as an SLP. I enjoy coming to work each day and working with my colleagues and all of the students.

### **Kaitlyn Giannone**

I graduated from Nova Southeastern University in December 2017 and began working at DDI in Ronkonkoma as a Clinical Fellow Speech Pathologist in January. I always knew I wanted to work with young children, so DDI feels like the perfect fit for me. I find it so rewarding to work with children with speech and language deficits and help give them a voice to communicate. It's also a great environment to collaborate with other professionals to utilize a team approach.

### **Kailey Rommel-Baker**

I graduated with my masters from Adelphi University in May 2017 and am now completing my clinical fellowship at DDI! Working as part of such a supportive and inviting department has helped me grow so much as a speech therapist. I have worked with young children, middle school students, and college-aged students but love being in the preschool setting!

### **Deirdre Rubino**

I have been a speech-language pathologist for 10 years. I started with DDI in January 2018 working as a Speech Consultant for the Center for Autism in both Medford and Ronkonkoma. In addition to the consulting, I provide Early Intervention services in Medford. I am really enjoying this position and love working as a team with so many other talented professionals.

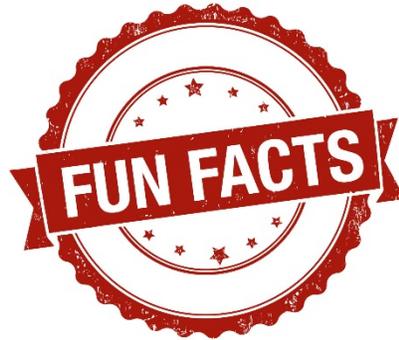
### **Elizabeth Shedlow**

I love working with young children and their families, but I have worked with children of all ages throughout my time at DDI. I've worked as a substitute teaching assistant with school-age children in Deer Park, Hollywood Drive, and later in Huntington.

### **Laena Misseri**

I have been a speech pathologist for almost 8 years and have worked with all ages in the school and private practice setting. I started off at DDI as a teaching assistant 5 ½ years ago and have been

employed as a speech therapist for 4 ½ of those years. Being a speech therapist is loads of fun and especially rewarding! I enjoy helping children learn better ways to communicate to make their lives, and the lives of those around them, much easier!



**Years at DDI: 51.5 years**

**Years as SLPs: 61.5**