



ROCHESTER
Hearing
& **Speech**
Center

TAMMI HITTEPOLE

April 2021 Employee Spotlight



Rochester Hearing and Speech Center has been lucky to have **Tamara (Tammi) Hittepole** on our team for the past 21 years! Tammi is our Coordinator of GROW and Daycare Contract Screening Programs. Through her expertise, warmth and commitment to excellence, Tammi positively impacts the lives of young children and their families every day.

For 50 years RHSC has worked with daycare programs to screen, evaluate, and monitor children as well as guide staff and parents about milestones and red flags for young children in their care. RHSC partners with GROW to perform hearing and speech screenings for hundreds of three and four-year-old children throughout the city of Rochester. GROW, is a comprehensive initiative from Roc the Future that integrates screenings for three-year-olds to identify needs in hearing, vision, dental health, language and speech, cognitive, and social-emotional development. The goal is to screen as many children as possible so that any that show signs of possible delays get connected to evaluations, and if needed, services as early as possible in order to have a positive impact on the child, their family, and ultimately our community.

Tammi not only coordinates and provides screenings, but she is also on the evaluation team as well as a provider of speech-language therapy to preschoolers in the Related Services program at Rochester Hearing and Speech Center. She provides screenings, evaluations, and/or speech-language therapy in the ABC Head start centers and more than 20 other childcare centers in Rochester. Tammi also represents the evaluation team at school district meetings and is an integral part of our Educational and Clinical Department team.

“My favorite parts of therapy are the children's smiling faces when we arrive for their sessions, all the funny things they say, and the relationships we build with the kids and their families! I also love being involved in screenings and helping to identify children who may benefit from services,” Tammi shares.

COVID made it so that everyone needed to learn a completely new way of doing their jobs, which was very challenging, but resulted in many silver linings. Family involvement in therapy became stronger than ever with her clients, who she previously saw only in daycare centers and schools. The ability to connect with parents on a regular basis allowed for sharing techniques with them that they can now practice with their children. Tammi does look forward to a time where she is able to reconnect with co-workers!

Tammi and her husband have three children and one very rambunctious dog. She enjoys both her family and her work very much.