Dr. Mary Jo Cherry

“Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood.”

This Fred Rogers quote might begin one of Mary Jo’s early childhood education classes. An advisor and professor of undergraduate and graduate education courses, Mary Jo has a teaching style that expects that her students are familiar with reading and concepts before class. She supplements her teaching by asking questions and enhances the readings with relevant examples and experiences from the early childhood classroom.

One of Mary Jo’s most memorable educational experiences was working with a student who had an illness that made her physically vulnerable. “I watched her go through her studies with enthusiasm. She made it look like nothing was wrong.”

“I always wanted to be a teacher, and never considered another career. I started teaching fourth grade, but through the mentoring of college advisors, took a liking to younger children.” Mary Jo recommends considers graduate school a “must” for future teachers as they need to pursue additional areas of study such as the reading or generalist 4-5 endorsement to expand their learning and teaching. “In education, information, not only the content but the methods, are constantly changing. Those who want to maintain their edge in the classroom can never stop learning.”

In her spare time, Mary Jo likes to cook, read, and spend time with her family. You can also catch her hanging around Ursuline’s athletic functions, as she is a big fan of the Ursuline College Arrows.

FAVORITES:
Song/music genre: Classical
Color: Blue
Vacation Spot: Disney World
Holiday: Thanksgiving
Season: Fall
Food: Peanut Butter
Book: Harry Potter Series
TV Show: Law and Order Special Victims Unit
Animal: Giraffe
Sports Team: Cleveland Indians
Historical Figure: Jean Piaget (educational figure)
Quote: “Who we are in the present includes who we were in the past.” (Mr. Rogers).