



## The Learning Lane Employee Mini Bio

**Name: Monica Soland**

**Position: Social Teacher**

**Please describe your educational / experience background.**

**My educational background begins when I graduated from Corpus Christi Texas A & M University with a Bachelors degree in Science with a minor in Interdisciplinary Studies. I have my teacher's certification in general education to teach early childhood thru fourth grade. I did my student teaching with a first grade class then I took over the classroom at the end of the year. I worked as a first grade teacher during the 2003-2004 school year right before I had my second son. After staying home with him for about nine months, I worked with a child with autism. The child I worked with was three years old and she changed my life. When she was ready, her family started her at Hannah's Hope which is a school for autistic children. I followed her and worked at the school through the summer program. I loved it. Then I started at Mental Health and Retardation -Early Childhood Intervention (MHMR-ECI). While working there I learned a lot. I worked one-on-one with children who have disabilities and also with their families in their homes. I also worked with many therapists, such as occupational, physical, speech and health. I loved working with all of those children and I will always have them in my mind. Then my husband was transferred to Big Spring, TX. I taught third grade until his job was completed. Finally, we decided that we wanted to plant our roots here in Conroe. I was lucky to find this wonderful opportunity at TLL. I finally get to work with the children I love and to be in a place that I enjoy.**

**How long have you worked with The Learning Lane?**

**March 2010.**

**Why have you chosen to work at The Learning Lane?**

**When I saw this opportunity available, I knew I would be great for this position. I love working with children who have autism and I am so blessed to be here.**

**What do you like most about your job?**

**The Learning Lane is a special school that I am extremely proud of. Mrs. Crawford is an intelligent woman, who is a great leader and friend. She knows all the children personally and works with them all the time. The staff here are wonderful as well. We all work especially well together and our children blossom from our cooperation. Everyone tries to help each other the best they can. The most important reason I am here is because of the students. I love working with autistic children. Children with autism are a challenge; therefore it is a different and fun experience for me daily. I love all the children's personalities and I will always work extremely hard to have all of my students be prepared for kindergarten and their social life to the best of my abilities. I have been working with children for many years so I know this is my passion! I am excited to have this opportunity to work with the children at the TLL!**