



# Dawn Larson

## Provider (Bachelor)

Hello, my name is Dawn. I have a passion for supporting others, so they can be the person they want to be, no matter what past obstacles they have had to overcome or are working on overcoming. I was a Birth to 3 Program Coordinator and early interventionist for over 20 years in Western Wisconsin. I loved my job! However, it was frustrating providing early intervention services for children when I knew their parents needed additional support to flourish and better support their children.

I grew up near the Como Park Zoo in St. Paul, Minnesota. I spent my summers staying with my family near Balsam Lake, Wisconsin. I graduated from Concordia College with a Psychology Major, Pre-Kindergarten License, and Parent/Family Education License. I recently completed the Capstone Certificate in Infant, Early Childhood and Family Mental Health from UW-Madison. I have training in special education, mental health, behavior management, trauma informed care, resiliency, wellness, parent education, and Drug Endangered Children. My special education background allows me to support families to advocate for their children while building a solid partnership with their children's teachers.

I feel the obstacles I have experienced in my life have humbled me while empowering me to advocate for myself and others. I had a speech impediment when I was young, so I was often picked on by my peers and underestimated by teachers, which impacted my self-esteem. When I was in my early 20s, I fell for a man who introduced me to the cycle of violence. It took me longer than I would like to admit to breaking the cycle permanently. Then in my 30s I met and married my husband. Our marriage was perfect until we started having stressors of infertility, high-risk pregnancy, a baby with sensory integration issues who did not sleep through the night or eat solid foods until he was 20-months old. I remember working full-time successfully helping other families deal with their difficult children, while I was struggling with my own child. During that time, I pulled away from most of my supportive relationships because I was grieving the loss of a significant family member. I feel all my obstacles have gifted me with knowledge via experience allowing me to better support others in overcoming their obstacles on their journey to becoming the person they want to be.

In my free time I like to travel, kayak, bike, hike, and go camping with my family. If I am inside our house, I am spending time together with my family, reading, or continuing to work on my journey to minimalism. I try to go to the Boundary Waters every year by myself with my tent and kayak for a week to recharge. When I watch the sun rise, I like to remind myself that every day is a new beginning. Keep me in mind if you are ready for a new beginning and would like support on your journey.

## CCS Service Arrays

Individual Skill Development and Enhancement

Wellness and Recovery

Psychoeducation

## CLTS Service Arrays

Parent and Unpaid Caregiver Supports

Empowerment and Self-Determination

## Counties Served

Serving clients in Polk, St. Croix, Barron, Burnett, Pierce, Dunn, and Washburn.

## Speciality Areas

Parent Coaching

Special Education Background

Lived Experience

Outdoorsmanship

Domestic Abuse Recovery

Life Skills Instruction

