



# THROWBACK

# THURSDAY

## **Kelly Willard, M.Ed., BCBA**



Meet Kelly, a Barton Lab graduate!

- Graduated with a Master's in Early Childhood Special Education and specialization in Applied Behavior Analysis from Vanderbilt in 2020
- She is starting a new job as an Early Childhood Teacher at Longview Elementary School in Williamson County, TN

Swipe for her  
story!



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What will your role look like?

As a special education teacher in the EC program, I will teach 3- to 5-year-olds with and without disabilities in an inclusive classroom setting. To meet the needs of all students, I will use evidence-based practices to promote social emotional competence and pre-academic skills with developmentally appropriate instruction.



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**How did VU  
prepare you  
for this role?**

The faculty in the ECSE and ABA programs at Vanderbilt excellently prepared me for a future of serving young children and their families. Coursework and research instilled in me a strong appreciation for evidence-based practices and an extensive 'toolbox' of strategies for different children and situations. A fellowship at Susan Gray School and ABA internships gave me daily opportunities to practice these strategies, which built my confidence and competence as a teacher and practitioner.

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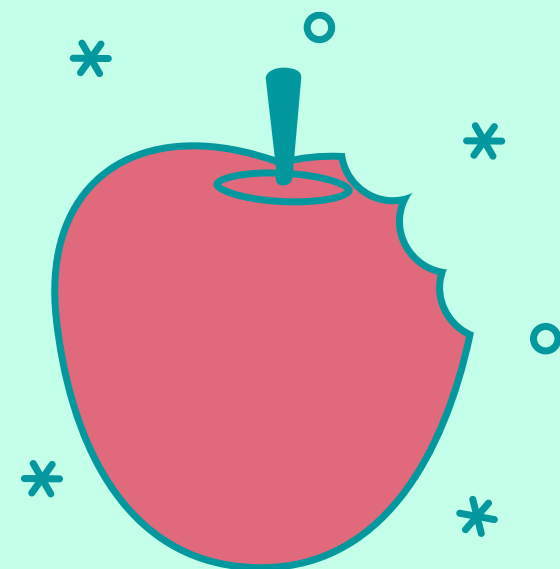
**Kelly Willard, M.Ed., BCBA**

What are two of your greatest accomplishments since graduating from Vanderbilt?

**1** Passing the exam to become a Board Certified Behavior Analyst!



**2** Accepting a teaching position and joining a supportive team of Early Childhood teachers at Longview Elementary, who also graduated from VU!





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What is one piece of advice you would give to current or prospective Early Childhood Special Education students?

This program is life changing! It opens so many doors and provides you with unparalleled training to best support children with disabilities and their families. Build rapport with your faculty and peers - these relationships will set you up for success, during and after the program. Also, remember the importance of self-care!