“I think teachers are the experts in their own classrooms,” says Jenna Tarleton. “I am there to help provide new strategies and ideas, but if the child care provider doesn’t think something will work then we figure out how to adapt it.” Jenna has a Bachelor’s degree in Family and Community Services and a Master’s degree in Child Development and Family Relations from East Carolina University. She has provided CAP services to children with special needs and has also served as a substitute teacher in the Early Childhood Education Program at Wake Technical Community College.

In the Partners In Inclusion (PlI) program, Jenna offers child care providers technical assistance and consultation to help them better support children in their classrooms who have special developmental, behavioral and/or social-emotional needs. “I like to form a relationship with each provider and to let them know that I’m there to help make their classroom the best that it can be for all of the children enrolled,” she says. Jenna provides straightforward, practical strategies for addressing challenging behaviors—strategies that can be woven into typical classroom routines. She also provides training to child care providers on a variety of topics related to disabilities, childhood development, and building classrooms that successfully include children of all abilities.

“Some people think that a child with a disability can’t do very much in a classroom with his or her typically-developing peers. The PII program helps providers learn about the simple strategies they can use to help that child with a disability do just about anything he or she wants!”