When Charisma Grygorczuk’s granddaughter needed daily childcare, she gladly accepted the opportunity and started her own childcare business. She had been a successful entrepreneur and felt this would be the best and most rewarding business she could ever hope to open. At her childcare, it is her goal to involve all the children as much as possible on different age-appropriate levels.

“I want to treat all of the children like they are my own and want do for them what I wanted to do for my granddaughter. Everyone is involved in every activity in some way. No one is left out, no matter the age.”

While focusing on social interaction skills and emotional wellness, children learn through hands-on activities, arts and crafts, music and play. One of their favorite activities is cooking class once a week. Everyone discusses the recipe and where age-appropriate, children help. Charisma strongly believes that if the children can help and actually prep their own food, they are more apt to try it.

Through her CACFP sponsor, Charisma participated in the Healthy Start, Healthy Children Program. In the program, the children participated in cooking classes and physical activities. The children loved making snack recipes and taking part in taste tests. Charisma enjoyed watching them try new foods and liking them simply because they were a part of the creation. To add to the learning, Charisma attended nutrition classes to gain new ideas and resources.

Charisma is constantly looking for ways to improve learning and keep the children active. She has applied for grants to add gardening tools and materials, cooking utensils and an outdoor classroom. In addition, when seeing an idea the children love, such as a butterfly garden, they implement that at the childcare. Charisma leads by example when seeing a beneficial idea for the children and using her own initiative to be the best childcare provider she can be.

From Balch Springs, TX Charisma has been a CACFP participant through Child Care Group since 2014.