



Natalia Brattan, Director

Tell us a bit about yourself and why you chose Owl for your family's child care needs?

I am a mom of three amazing girls and a wife of a wonderful husband. Our family lives in Waterloo. When selecting a child care centre, we visited over a dozen, including Montessori schools. To our surprise, we found that many child care facilities are located close to busy highways, which was not the case for Owl. In addition, Owl attracted us by its focus on nature, well-planned interior and exterior design including wooden furniture and playground elements, and very experienced staff.

Directors, and parents who have a child in care for whom monthly fees are paid to Owl are eligible to become members of the organization. What does it mean to be a member?

Being a member implies greater involvement and connection with the child care provider. As members, families can shape the present and future of Owl by voting at the annual general meeting, raising important questions, and participating in members only surveys, which helps them get better visibility on new and strategic areas that Owl is prioritizing.

Why did you decide to get involved with Owl's Board of Directors?

I think it's a privilege to be able to contribute to the environment which influences the early years of our children. As a certified auditor and risk management professional, I've been working with boards of directors for many years. My position on Owl's Board of Directors gives me an opportunity to bring my knowledge and experience to the organization which is so important to our family.

How has being a Director on the Board benefited you personally and professionally?

Personally, I feel grateful to have an opportunity to "direct and protect" the organization that has an impact on my child. Professionally, I think that being a Board member gives me new ways of looking at various aspects of organizational governance, which is important for my day job. In addition, I am learning about operations of non-profits and childcare sector.

Share a fond memory from your childhood that has stayed with you over the years?

How has this and other similar moments influenced your parenting style?

I grew up in Ukraine. Every summer my parents rented a cottage at a small town which was located on the Azov sea. As a child I loved freshly picked fruits, berries, vegetables and freshly caught fish, shrimp and crabs that we got daily from a local farmers' market there. I also loved the closeness to nature and the social part of our vacations. Now as a mom, I am still a big fan of all-natural healthy food. Every week we bring home fresh heirloom farm food that you can rarely see in supermarkets and experiment. Nature, hiking, swimming and all kinds of other outdoor activities are a big part of our family life too.



Centre: St. Luke