

# - DSP Spotlight -

April 2025

## Nina McMillan



**What do you like to do in your free time?** I enjoy playing with my kitten, Skelly, who keeps me quite busy. If it's a nice day, I enjoy walking some of the park walking paths in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and trying new dinner recipes. I also enjoy working with my Cricut machine to make handmade cards and décor for the dayhab!

**How long have you worked as a Direct Support Professional?** I have worked as a DSP with Midwest since August 2022. I am rapidly approaching three years as an DSP.

**How did you start in the field?** I got my start in the field working with Special Education students at Copley-Fairlawn Schools, then taught at Nardon for a year. My specialty area was reading. It has always been a passion of mine because when I help anyone with their reading, it helps with everything they do, not just in one specific content area. To this day, I am still passionate about reading to our individuals. I love to read short stories as well as picture books. There are so many wonderful books out there!

**Has there ever been anyone that has stood out to you as a mentor in this field?** This field is packed with people that are passionate about helping individuals with developmental disabilities. There have been so many SSA's, behavior specialists as well as other DSPs that have helped me. We all understand that we have to work together to help our individuals succeed and accomplish their goals!

**What is your favorite thing to do with the people you serve?** My favorite things to do with the people I serve are anything that is a real-life/world experience either in the dayhab or in the community. I also love reading text-poems, short stories, chapter books, and picture books. Experiences with books expand their world, and I love it.

**What is your favorite part of being a Direct Support Professional?** The best thing about my job is I have 50 individuals looking forward to seeing me each and every day. Most jobs do not come with that perk!

**What makes Nina a great DSP?** Nina has been witnessed by many to go above and beyond for the individuals in her care. Nina is upbeat, caring, and very reliable. She wears many hats at Midwest, always stepping up to cover what is needed. Nina has a great attitude while supporting individuals; she is patient, explains situations, redirects when needed and always is complimenting good actions and behavior. Nina is great example of what a Direct Support Professional should be.

**Thank you for your outstanding contributions to helping people with developmental disabilities and their families in Medina County. Thank you for sharing your dedication and commitment to making a difference in the lives of others every single day.**

