

# - DSP Spotlight -

April 2026

## Mary Findley



**What do you like to do in your free time?** I have a lot of hobbies I enjoy in my free time, such as skiing, ski racing, backpacking, mountain biking, and BMX racing. I also love gardening with native plants and vegetables and spending time with my family (dogs included).

**How long have you worked as a Direct Support Professional?** I have been a certified Independent Provider for seven years.

**How did you start in the field?** I think that having a sibling with a developmental disability had a major impact on me. I grew up with a lot of exposure to the field, including volunteer opportunities at a young age. I continued volunteering with various programs throughout college and really never lost interest, even if I hadn't always considered it as a career path.

**Has there ever been anyone that has stood out to you as a mentor in this field?** As an independent provider, I don't have traditional coworkers, but I have met many wonderful people in the field. I have also learned a lot from my parents, especially my dad, a retired occupational therapist who specialized in Sensory Integration. He's one of the smartest and most compassionate people I know.

**What is your favorite thing to do with the people you serve?** Volunteering in the community has been one of my favorite activities. I also love getting outside; I've worked with people who want to go out and do things like snowshoeing or birding and it's genuinely a lot of fun!

**What is your favorite part of being a Direct Support Professional?**

My favorite part is seeing the people I work with grow as individuals. I find it really rewarding when someone identifies new things about themselves and pursues their interests, whether it's new skills or hobbies they enjoy, or just a new type of food that they like to eat. I love seeing someone explore what interests them and evolve as an individual!

**What makes Mary a great DSP?:** Mary is so valued and appreciated by our family. She is patient and caring and truly understands my daughter. Mary respects and encourages my daughter's independence but is also a trusted resource for her when needed. Their relationship adds immeasurable quality to my daughter's life.

