



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

VICKIE BRANDENBURG



Vickie holds a bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and a Unified Endorsement in Prekindergarten and Special Education which she earned with help from the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Iowa Program through Iowa AEYC. She also holds a National Administrator Credential and is a validator for the NATIONAL Accreditation Commission.

Vickie is the owner and director of the Loinheart Early Learning Center in Iowa City with five stars on the Iowa QRS. She began college in the Human Services program and found that she wanted to reach children before they were in the system. Her professor encouraged her to take an early childhood class, and as she says, "the rest is history." She worked as a preschool teacher for five years before she

started her first director position. In the past twenty-five years she has been a preschool teacher, director, and executive director for four centers in Eastern Iowa. After sixteen years as an executive director she decided to open her own child care center which she did in August of 2015.

Vickie joined Iowa AEYC three years ago to become more involved in her community and provide opportunities for new providers. She is currently serving as the secretary for the East Central Chapter of Iowa AEYC. Her favorite part of being an Iowa AEYC member is meeting providers and learning about the early childhood programs in Iowa. As a premium member she values the print subscriptions to *Young Children* and *Teaching Young Children* along with the

five complementary books she receives each year. One of her favorite association memories was attending the *Saving Play* Spring Leadership Institute in 2017.

Q&A

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE STARTING THEIR CAREER IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION?

Collaborate with a veteran teacher and network as much as possible.

WHAT ARE SOME ACCOMPLISHMENTS YOU ARE PARTICULARLY PROUD OF?

I helped design and build two child care centers in Iowa and remodeled my own child care center. I also mentor new directors and enjoy visiting their programs to provide consultation.

TELL US SOMETHING FUN ABOUT YOURSELF.

I read a great deal and in the summer I spend my weekends camping and boating. I love to travel although I don't get to do that as much as I like so short weekend trips are my substitute.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CHILDREN'S BOOK, AND WHY?

Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak is just a fun book. I enjoy reading the book with a big voice and getting children involved.

WHAT ARE YOU READING RIGHT NOW?

The Smartest Kids in the World and How They Got that Way by Amanda Ripley.