

Q & A

What advice would you give to someone starting his or her career in early childhood education?

Practice self-care. It is easy to get caught up in caring for others and to forget to fuel yourself. You have more to give when you are at your best.

Why do you continue your membership each year?

Because there is always more to learn, and there is so much work to do in the area of advocacy.

What NAEYC/Iowa AEYC benefit do you MOST value?

The print subscription to *Young Children* or *Teaching Young Children*.

What is your favorite association memory?

Presenting at the annual NAEYC conference for the first time in Washington D.C.

What are some accomplishments you are particularly proud of?

I am proud of having held nearly every position in an ECE environment. These experiences help me every day in my current role as Director. Other professional highlights I take pride in include winning an Educator Award in 2012 and presenting twice at the NAEYC national conference.

What is your favorite children's book, and why?

I frequently ask this question during interviews and frequently think of myself I wouldn't know how to answer. My favorite children's book really depends on the moment. Books have a magical power to transform moments and the possibilities are endless. A book can calm a room, teach empathy, practice math skills, or incite a room full of laughter. As a teacher, I have always cherished the moments the perfect book helped create.

Tell us something fun about yourself.

When I'm not at work, I enjoy spending time with family and my two pug mix dogs, Sandwich and Ruth Bader Dogsburg.

What are you reading right now?

Norse Mythology by Neil Gaiman