

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

HOW DID YOU GET STARTED IN YOUR PROFESSION?

Prior to becoming a child care provider I worked professionally as a Girl Scout Council staff member and a substance abuse prevention specialist. I had volunteered as a 4-H leader, Girl Scout leader and support chairperson. Most positions involved children and/or families. When the need for a little extra income after an early retirement it was a natural choice to look into child care. I was also interested in something my husband could share in also. He had considerable experience as a youth volunteer prior.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR CURRENT POSITION.

My husband and I own and operate a registered child development home. We serve 21 children, some full-time and many part-time. We currently have 11 children who attend school, most of which started with us as babies. Some are here just for breakfast and a ride to school, some before and after school, and some only on days there is no school. We offer rides to school, nights and weekends when needed, and love our children and grandchildren.

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

Ask questions, attend trainings, and lead with your heart. Don't be afraid to open your heart up to your families. We have wonderful relationships with our parents and love them as much as their children.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF BEING AN IOWA AEYC MEMBER?

The friendship and the ready base of knowledge available if needed.

WHY DID YOU BECOME A MEMBER?

The first time I joined was to meet ChildNet and QRS requirements. However, I stayed a member because I enjoyed the friendship and the chance to extend my knowledge base.

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?

I feel that bringing the ACEs training to child care providers was an important step to take. I feel good that I was able to help support this training.

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO ENTER THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FIELD?

After spending the majority of my life working with children, it was a natural choice.

WHAT ARE SOME ACCOMPLISHMENTS YOU ARE PARTICULARLY PROUD OF?

I'm so proud of my kiddos and the wonderful people they are growing up to be. I'm also proud of the relationship we have developed with our families.

TELL US SOMETHING FUN ABOUT YOURSELF.

A Girl Scout volunteer once shared a quote that went something like this... "One hundred years from now it will not matter what car I drove, clothes I wore, or house I lived in, but it will matter that I was important in the life of a child." This idea drives me each day ... the responsibility that a child care provider has in the lives of these special little people.

ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU WANT US TO KNOW?

I appreciate every person I encountered on my journey to becoming who I am today.