



TRACY EHLERT



Tracy Ehlert has been an Iowa AEYC member for seven years. She has her own child care program which she opened about the same time as she joined Iowa AEYC. Since 2007 she has gone to college, with help from our T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood@ IOWA program received her CDA credential, associate's and bachelor's degrees, then continued on her own until she received her Master's degree in Early Childhood Education (ECE). She has a QRS Level 5, is accredited through the National Association of Family Child Care, is an ECE trainer/instructor, is on various ECE committees (Including Iowa AEYC's ECE Workforce Committee), and is even running for State Representative.

HOW DID YOU GET STARTED IN YOUR PROFESSION?

I started as a volunteer at Head Start many years ago when my oldest son attended. It sparked an interest that I didn't pursue for a few more years and then I opened up my own child care program in 2007 when friends were seeking child care.

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

I had always wanted to teach, but really struggled in high school and didn't feel like I was smart enough to pursue a teaching degree. I then later on had friends struggling to find childcare and decided to start watching their children, I loved it so much that I then looked at what I needed to do to become registered and open my own program and the rest is history.

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

Every one of us can make a difference. No act is too small when working with children.

WHY DID YOU BECOME A MEMBER AND WHY DO YOU CONTINUE YOUR MEMBERSHIP EACH YEAR?

To learn more about the field and to continue receiving the great resources and training opportunities..

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART OF BEING AN IOWA AEYC MEMBER?

I love the access to all the resources. NAEYC articles and books played a huge part in helping me with finishing a master's degree in ECE.

WHAT NAEYC / IOWA AEYC BENEFIT DO YOU MOST VALUE?

The Iowa AEYC Resource Library.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ASSOCIATION MEMORY?

I really enjoy the IAEYC Fall Institute each year.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE QUOTE?

My favorite quote is “do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better do better” -Maya Angelou

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

I love the Junior B. Jones series. I have seen them entice children who didn't think they liked reading and they are just a really funny series of books.

WHAT ARE YOU READING RIGHT NOW?

Anti-Bias Education for Young Children and Ourselves