



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

SHANNON WILSON



Shannon is a Program Coordinator in Ames at ISU Human Sciences Extension and Outreach with Early Childhood Education as her area of expertise.

She tells us that when she started in the field of early childhood education her focus was on the children, but what she has come to realize is that her impact is so much greater. She broadened her focus to include the families and communities surrounding the children. She

may work with a child for a few years, but that child is with its family for its entire life.

She considers herself a child at heart and believes this quality has helped her connect with the children and see things from their perspective.

Q&A

How did you get started in your profession?

I enjoyed babysitting before college and when I needed a part-time job while getting my bachelors I applied for an assistant teacher position at the Sonoma State University campus Lab School.

Why did you decide to enter the early childhood education field?

I love children; I love how they engage with the world around them. Every moment they are learning and discovering something new.

What advice would you give to someone starting their career in early childhood education?

Find a mentor teacher. I learned so much by observing seasoned teachers in their daily interactions with children. They loved their work and it showed. It helped me take the information I learned in class and see it in action.

Why did you become a member of Iowa AEYC?

I wanted to be a member because I see myself as a professional in the field of Early Childhood Education.

What is your favorite part of being an Iowa AEYC member?

The information I receive about my field of work.

Why do you continue your membership each year?

It is important to be part of an organization.

What NAEYC or Iowa AEYC benefit do you MOST value?

Iowa AEYC event discounts to the Iowa Annual Early Care and Education Institute and/or the Spring Leadership Institute.

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

The *Tall Book of Make-Believe*. I used to read it with my mom. She had kept the book from her childhood and then passed it on to me. Now I share it with my children.