



Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children

OCTOBER 2021, ISSUE NO. 1

# ECE Matters

## State Leaders Visit Local Centers

During the month of September, state leaders visited local centers throughout Delaware to tour facilities and to have round-table discussions about the current issues within the early childhood field to increase awareness and advocacy in an effort toward positive change.

On September 17th, the Early Enrichment Center, located in Wilmington, was toured by Senator Laura Sturgeon (center), Senator Lisa Blunt-Rochester (center-right), and Senator Kyle Evans Gay (second from right).



Story continued on page 2.

## Advocacy

Federal  
NAEYC'S VIRTUAL CONFERENCE  
NOVEMBER 6 - 9TH  
[REGISTER HERE](#)

State  
[CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE!](#)

INVITE THEM TO YOUR CENTER OR SEND AN EMAIL.

SHARE THE RESPONSES WITH DEAEYC, AND KEEP THE ADVOCACY GOING!



## State Leaders Visit Local Centers (cont)

Senator Marie Pinkney toured the Little Caboose Child Care & Learning Center, in Newark, on September 21st. Her shared post on Facebook reads, "As beautiful and loving as the center is, it was hard to hear that child care in Delaware is in crisis.

"Our centers are battling workforce issues and economic challenges that are threatening their ability to provide quality early education to Delaware's children."



Representative Ruth Briggs and Lieutenant Governor Chief of Staff Keith A. Warren toured Beach Babies, in Lewes, and engaged in discussions about the concerns in the field.

The Cape Gazette [published an article](#) highlighting the site visits, as well as the concerns and the need for funding.

With activities, such as site visits, center owners can have a voice and illustrate their challenges to local representatives. The goal is to make systemic changes within legislation to support the early childhood field into the future.

**"Our centers are battling workforce issues and economic challenges that are threatening their ability to provide quality early education..."**

SEN. MARIE PINKNEY





## Community Highlights

Child care should be highlighted every day! This month, deaeyc dedicates this highlight to all of the educators, administrators, directors, and owners who have devoted themselves to the community's children.

Thank you!

Thank you, from the children you provide quality care to.  
Thank you, from the parents who trust you with their precious children.

Thank you, from the community that knows you are there, developing the minds of future leaders.

Thank you, from the economy that needs you, as you are a pillar to its success.

THANK YOU!

**"Early  
childhood  
education  
is the key  
to the  
betterment  
of society."**

Maria Montessori

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## Local Child Care Program Owner Honored by Delaware Business Times

Jamie Schneider, owner of the Early Enrichment Center, in Wilmington, DE, was honored recently for her success, as one of the 40 Delawareans under 40 to receive this award.

Delaware Business Times (DBT) honors "a select group of the region's best and brightest young professionals, all under the age of 40 who are making a difference with their intelligence, initiative, and innovation."

CONGRATULATIONS,  
Jamie!

[SEE HER FULL PROFILE HERE.](#)







# Parents' Corner

## Anyone Can Advocate!

Parents can make a huge impact in outcomes when they advocate for early childhood education.

There are several ways you can advocate, but maybe you're not sure where to start. Below are four ways that anyone can advocate for early childhood education:

- Talk! Share! Tell your family and friends about your passion for children and early childhood education. Show others your passion, maybe it will catch on!
- Tune in on social media. Follow local state leaders, engage with their posts.
- Contact your representative. Via email or phone, contact your local representative, and tell them why you are advocating and what they can do to better support your community.
- Show up! Local representatives have constituent coffees or may hold town halls, which are great places to speak up about early childhood education.
- Connect with deaeyc, and join one of our committees!

## Resources

Below are links to organizations that advocate for young children. Getting to know your local groups will help in your start toward getting involved!

- [Public Policy & Advocacy, NAEYC](#)
- [deaeyc Advocacy](#)
- [First State PreK](#)
- [Rodel](#)

### 9 Ideas for Exploring the Outdoors with Your Child (from naeyc contributors)

1. Go on a nature scavenger hunt
2. Observe and sketch
3. Follow an ant trail
4. Observe a tree throughout the seasons
5. Find nature in surprising places
6. Press flowers
7. Explore holes and mud
8. Explore seeds
9. Collect conservatively




# Please Share!

deaeyc's latest fundraising effort started October 15, 2021 and will close December 6, 2021.

Tickets are on sale now!  
CLICK THE IMAGE BELOW  
FOR TICKETS!

Enter for a chance to win:  
**TWO TICKETS**  
to see the touring cast of  
**Pretty Woman:  
The Musical**  
January 15, 2022  
8:00 p.m.  
Kimmel Center for the  
Performing Arts  
Academy of Music  
**Parking Included!**  
**1 raffle ticket for \$25**  
**5 raffle tickets for \$100**



# deaeyc Upcoming Events

**SAVE  
THE DATE**

**01  
22  
22**

**DEAEYC'S  
ANNUAL  
ADMIN FORUM**  
Virtual 2 Day  
Conference



What topics would you like to see offered at the admin forum?

[Click here to tell us!](#)



## Would You Like to Contribute to this Newsletter?

We are looking for contributors for content in the following areas:

- TEACHER HIGHLIGHTS
- CENTER/PROVIDER HIGHLIGHTS
- PROGRAM EVENTS
- LOCAL ADVOCACY
- PARENTS' CORNER

Send your contributions to

Lisa Miller  
lmiller@deaeyc.org

THANK YOU!