

EDUCATION

Master of Science in Education, *Early Childhood Leadership*; Certificate in Education Administration and Supervision, Bank Street College of Education; Internship at *Research Connections*, National Center for Children in Poverty, Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health.

Bachelor of Science, *Early Childhood Education*; New Jersey Teaching Certificate, Elementary (K-8) and Nursery School Teacher, The College of New Jersey.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EARLY EDUCATION RESEARCH

2019 – present

Early Childhood Education Technical Assistance Specialist

- Coordinate activities of the Ready, Set, Go project to improve school district and early care and education providers' readiness to expand and effectively implement high quality preschool programs.
- Provide support to preschool expansion districts via individualized technical assistance and regional professional development.
- Work with the New Jersey Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood Education, to prepare guidance materials and professional development in support of preschool expansion program implementation.
- Collaborate with state and county level staff and community agencies to build consortia of support for preschool expansion across districts and providers.
- Strategize with key stakeholders, including higher education faculty, to engage in statewide efforts to expand and support preschool expansion.
- Work on New Jersey Preschool Quality Studies, conducting research on preschool quality in a variety of New Jersey preschool programs, in collaboration with, and funded by, the New Jersey Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood Education.
- Compile data to inform the writing of *The State of Preschool 2019: State Preschool Yearbook*.
- Provide support to staff and management in planning and implementation of various NIEER projects, including the Infant and Toddler Policy Research Center at NIEER.

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DIVISION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

2015 – 2019

Project Director, Preschool Expansion

- Responsible for management of \$17.5 million annual federal Preschool Expansion Grant; ensure compliance with all federal and state fiscal and programmatic elements.
- Worked with local school districts to implement all grant components designed to develop and maintain high-quality preschool programs.
- Consulted with early childhood education staff and administrators in school districts to provide maximum supports, oversight, and professional development opportunities.
- Supervised all activities of project staff.

- Collaborated with state and community agencies to further integrate supports and services for families and children across the birth to third grade continuum; sit on state Interdepartmental Planning Group.
- Worked to advance broader goals of the Division of Early Childhood Education.

CHILD CARE CONNECTION

1991 – 2015

Director of Professional Development and Referral Services: 2006 - 2015

Manager of Quality Care Initiatives: 2002 - 2006

Enhanced Care Coordinator: 1998 - 2002

Enhanced Care Specialist: 1993 - 1998

Child Care Referral Counselor: 1991 – 1993

- Served as director of agency Early Childhood Institute for Professional Development, overseeing all quality initiatives, and programs covering infants to school-age; includes Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential classes, in-service training, web-based training, and various enhanced care initiatives.
- Successfully managed quality enhancement programs for child care centers and family child care providers, including *Steps to Quality Family Child Care Initiative*, *Strengthening Families, NJ Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS)*, *Building Stronger Centers Child Care Collaboration*, *New Jersey Accreditation Facilitation Project*, and *Children’s Futures Improving Quality in Child Care Initiative*.
- Conducted on-site technical assistance and professional development for public and private early care and education programs (infant/toddler and preschool age) primarily serving high-need communities throughout New Jersey.
- Supervised all training staff, planned programs, hired consultants, wrote grant proposals; maintained records and reported to funding and regulatory agencies.
- Supervised agency child care referral department, overseeing all day-to-day operations, including supervision in processes and procedures to ensure the seamless delivery of services to families seeking child care and child care assistance through the Work First New Jersey program.

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

Cruz, N., Gardiner, B., Tahbaz, J., Vanderburg, H. & Weisenfeld, G. (January 2021). *Remote Preschool: What We’ve Learned*. Virtual presentation for Rutgers University, Graduate School of Education.

Gardiner, B., Oliva-Olson, C. & Porterfield, M. (December 2020). *Meaningful Family Engagement*. Virtual presentation for the Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five Annual Convening.

Acerra, R., Gardiner, B., Lindenbaum, C. & Rice, C. (October 2020). *A Parent Lunch and Learn: Bringing Preschool to Your Community*. Virtual presentation for the New Jersey Parent-Teachers Association.

Gardiner, B. & Rice, C. (May 2020). *Money Isn’t Everything: Building a Strong, Equitable Preschool Infrastructure One Community at a Time*. Virtual presentation for the National Association for Young Children, Professional Learning Institute.

Gardiner, B. (October 2019). *NJ Preschool Expansion: Enlarging the House that Abbott Built*. Presentation for Council of New Jersey Grantmakers, Princeton, NJ.

Gardiner, B. (November 2018). *Successful Inclusion Strategies*. Presentation for Preschool Development Grant (PDG) Annual Meeting, Arlington, VA.

Gardiner, B. (November 2017). *Birth to Grade 3 Transition Practices*. Presentation for Preschool Development Grant (PDG) Annual Meeting, Arlington, VA.

Gardiner, B., Guastello, D. & Wilkins, R. (September 2016). *Building State P-3 Systems*. Presentation for Center for Early Learning Outcomes (CEELO) Regional PDG Meeting, Arlington, VA.

Francis, J. & Gardiner, B. (May 2016). *Preschool Quality in the New Jersey Preschool Development Grant Program*. Presentation for the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Annual Conference, Austin, TX.

SPECIALIZED TRAINING

- Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale – Third Edition Reliability Training
- Teaching Pyramid Observation Tool Reliability Training
- CLASS Observer- Preschool and Toddler Reliability Training
- Program Administration Scale Assessor Reliability Training
- Pyramid Model for Supporting Social Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children
- Strengthening Families Train-the-Trainers

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Coalition of Infant-Toddler Educators (CITE)

National Association of Early Childhood Specialists in State Departments of Education (NAECS)

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)