

Nora Thompson

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Early Childhood Educator Special Education Advocate Engaged Researcher
Specialist in Community Collaborations Technology Integrator

Early Childhood and Special Education Experience

Michigan State University , East Lansing, Michigan Head Teacher/Specialist, Child Development Laboratories	2014-Present
City of East Lansing , East Lansing, Michigan Director, Bailey Community Child Care Center	2013-2014
Ingham Intermediate School District , Mason, Michigan Early Childhood Special Education Teacher Early Childhood Coordinator Galileo Early Childhood Center Founder, Program Director, and Lead Teacher Early Childhood Special Education Teacher	1987-2013 2010-2013 2009-2010 2002-2009 1987-2001
Lansing Public Schools , Lansing, Michigan Teacher	1982-1986
Okemos Public Schools , Okemos, Michigan Permanent Substitute Teacher	1982-1986
Howell Public Schools , Howell, Michigan Teacher	1982-1986

Education, Certifications and Licensing

International Study, Researcher Municipal infant-toddler centers and preschools, Reggio Emilia, Italy
2002, 2006

Master of Science, Child Development, 4.0 GPA 1989
Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan

- 38 post-Master's credits in child development and educational technology 4.0 GPA

Bachelor of Science, Special Education, physical and mental impairments 3.8 GPA 1980
Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan

State of Michigan, Licensed Teacher of the Preprimary Impaired, K-8 Elementary Education, K-12 Special Education, NP endorsement in Educational Technology

Certified as a Supervisor for Parents as Teachers (PAT)

Training and Technical Assistance coursework in Early On 101, Procedural Safeguards, Child Outcomes, Devereaux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA), Infant-Toddler Developmental Assessment (IDA), Routines Based Intervention, Assessment, Evaluation and Programming System (AEPS), Ages and Stages Questionnaire, Preschool Early Literacy Inventory (PELI), and Battelle Developmental Inventory

Employment

Head Teacher/Specialist, Michigan State University, and Child Development Laboratories 2014-Present

- Head teacher in four-year-old classroom providing two half-day preschool programs in an inclusive environment
- Support and supervision for student teachers in three courses, (320, 321, 424)
- Provided parent component including meetings and after school activities
- Collaboration with Early Childhood Special Education staff and Head Start staff
- Provided assessment with Work Sampling System, Ages and Stages Questionnaire
- Implemented the curricular approach of the Reggio Emilia approach to early education
- Presentation at local, state, and national conferences

Director, City of East Lansing, Bailey Community Child Care Center 2013-2014

- Mentored, supervised and provided professional development to 45 child care providers
- Provided parent engagement activities including potluck meals and home visits
- Managed \$500,000 budget and 20,000 sq/ft facility.
- Lead curriculum development utilizing the Reggio Emilia approach
- Organized community march to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s March on Washington. Engaged local community members, such as the mayor and local business owners, to participate.
- Complied with State of Michigan licensing requirements and Standards of Quality

Ingham Intermediate School District 1987-2013

Early Childhood Special Education Teacher 1987-2001,2010-2013

- Performed comprehensive evaluations for children, birth to three, using variety of evaluation instruments
- Provided home visits and active playgroup activities for children with disabilities and their families
- Coordinated team of therapists and professionals; served as mentor to new staff
- Created collaborative relationships with Early Head Start, Head Start, local school districts, community settings and child care centers
- Organized and led Individual education plan/family service plan team meetings including special needs coordination with Head Start for service delivery
- Created a strong, successful parent component and offered presentations to professionals
- Initiated the first community playgroup in Ingham County where inclusion was practiced fully

Early Childhood Coordinator 2009-2010

- Attended Early Literacy Coalition workgroup, Parent Education workgroup, Quality Initiatives workgroup, Kindergarten Transition workgroup and Kindergarten Steering committee meetings as part of the Great Start Collaborative of Ingham County
- Coordinated Play and Learn groups for the Great Start Collaborative: Collaborated with agencies to find staffing, sought out high need community locations and prepared weekly schedules
- Assigned referrals for children with suspected disabilities, birth to three years, and coordinated service with Early Head Start and Head Start
- Monitored compliance for Early On program through file reviews and IFSP/IEP reviews
- Trained as Supervisor for the Parents as Teachers program in Ingham county
- Assisted with Great Parents, Great Start grant writing
- Coordinated scheduling and staffing for Early On and Great Parents, Great Start playgroups
- Summarized data and provided recordkeeping for various needs in Early Childhood and Early On
- Taught theory and practice with digital video cameras for Early On staff
- Provided technical support for Early On staff with computers, cell phones, Share Point, and cameras
- Accomplished desktop publishing of brochures, schedules and forms

- Program Director, Founder and Lead Teacher at Galileo Early Childhood Center 2002-2009
- Founded a model early childhood center for 30 children, ages 2-5, inspired by the early childhood work originated in Reggio Emilia, Italy
 - Established an inclusive environment where children with special needs were fully included in a general education program with extensive collaboration with therapists, psychologists, social workers, teacher's aides and medical professionals
 - Created beautiful, outdoor, nature-based learning space on three acres with community garden, forest exploration, study of wildlife, and sand and water experiences
 - Led year-long project "Woven Arts" offering children experiences visiting sheep farms, carding and spinning wool, dying yarn, weaving on looms and exhibiting work at MSU Museum
 - Facilitated year-long project "Little House" offering children experiences in designing and building a small house inside the school utilizing city architects, cable installers, contractors and parent engagement
 - Collaborated with Michigan State University Museum to restore a deer skeleton from a deer that died in our forest inspiring a study on anatomy
 - Initiated relationship with Head Start classroom at Wayne State University (WSU) in Detroit, Michigan with videoconferencing and meeting in person as we supported an exploration in diversity
 - Engaged regular visits with award winning clay artist, Doug Delind, to create collaborative clay projects reflecting the studies of the children
 - Practiced instant video revisiting with digital video to assist in conflict resolution with the children and won an award for the work from the Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning (MACUL)
 - Provided innovative experiences with technology such as podcasting, daily blog entries, daily posting of photos and videos on school website, digital music composition, videoconferencing and photo editing
 - Engaged parents in supporting the children's learning by incorporating their unique areas of expertise
 - Established a successful parent community with monthly dinners and presentations, cooperative planning and a strong volunteer base

Presentations, Consultation and Publications

Featured in a Scholastic book, "Literacy and the Youngest Learner", 2005

Prominently featured in a video for PELLC, The Promoting Emergent Literacy in Licensed Care Project - distributed to every child care center in Michigan for best practices in literacy, 2006

Author, "She Is Our Little Sister: Reflections on Inclusion", article in *Innovations In Early Education: The International Reggio Exchange*; Winter 2006

Adjunct faculty, Lansing Community College (LCC) in the Child Development program teaching CHDV 197: Special Topics, about the Reggio Approach to Early Education, 2012

Facilitator, Project Impact (Improving Parents as Communication Teachers), a program for children with autism spectrum disorder at Michigan State University, 2010-2013

Teacher Mentoring Institute, Galileo Early Childhood Center, Mason, Michigan, Summers of 2005-2008. Initiated and collaborated with Wayne State University to offer 5-day program furthering educator skills in reflection, listening and documentation of children's learning.

Presentations

- **The Language of Materials**, Coming Together for Children conference, Lansing, Michigan, 2014
- **Early Childhood Education and the Reggio Emilia approach** for Dr. Esther Onaga, MSU, East Lansing, Michigan, 2002 to present
- **Facilitator of Atelier Experiences** at Al Moana Park, NAREA Summer Conference, Honolulu, Hawaii, 2013
- **This Is Where We Live: Creating Community With Children and Adults**, Michigan Inspirations Series, East Lansing, Michigan, 2013

- **Documentation of Children’s Work and the Importance of Listening to Young Children**, LCC, Lansing, Michigan, 2012
- **Use of wire and clay with young children**, LCC, Lansing, Michigan, 2006, 2012
- **Introduction to the Reggio Emilia Approach**, Baker College, Owosso, Michigan 2009, 2011
- **Parent Education Series**, Northville Public Schools, Northville, Michigan, 2008-2010
- **Poster Presentation about Diversity**, NAREA National Conference, Boulder, Colorado, 2008
- **Fundamentals of the Reggio Approach**, NAREA, Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2007
- **Characteristics of an Inclusive Program**, State of Michigan Inclusion Network, Everyone Together conference, Lansing, Michigan, 2007
- **To Know a Child: Using Observation and Documentation to Discover the Spoken and Unspoken Voice**, Innovations in Early Education Seminar Series, WSU, Detroit, Michigan 2007
- **Woven Arts**, Michigan Early Childhood Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2006
- **Project Based Learning**, Saginaw Intermediate School District, Saginaw, Michigan, 2006
- **Little House**, Michigan Early Childhood Collaborative Conference, Dearborn, Michigan, 2005
- Popular presentation requests: **“Shooting with Sticks”** (aggression), **“Babies Who Come to Live With Us”**, **“The Words We Use”**, and **“Through the Open Door”** (nature education)

Awards and Grants

East Lansing Arts Commission	Cultural Arts Grant	2014
MACUL Awards	Michigan Association of Computer Users -Creation of online video library for parent education -Usage of digital recording for conflict resolution	2012 2005
“Champion for Children”	Michigan Early Childhood Inclusion Project	2007

Leadership and Professional Memberships

Member	NAEYC Public Policy workgroup, Washington, DC	2004
Editorial Board	<i>Innovations in Early Education: The International Reggio Exchange</i> current	
Michigan Coordinator	North American Reggio Emilia Alliance (NAREA)	2005-2014
Assessor	National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, Early Childhood Science	2008
Advisory Board	Innovations In Early Education Seminar Series, WSU	2005-2009
Advisory Committee	Michigan’s Great Start to Quality Central Resource Center	2013-present
Member	Michigan Division of Early Childhood (MiDEC)	