



Name: Della Becker-Cornell

Position: Director

Degrees:

- M.Ed. with minors in Mathematics, Elementary Education and Computer Science, Aquinas College
- B.S. Quantitative Business, Ferris State University
- Certified Teacher K-8
- Child Development Associate Credential

About Me: Since becoming one of the first teachers hired at the ECDC in October 2002, the Center has become my second home. I've dedicated myself to providing the best possible learning environment for children of all ages. I quickly became an integral part of the program by enrolling new families as the Assistant Director. In June 2005, I became the Interim Director of the ECDC overseeing all operations of the Center. I officially became the Director a year later and have acquired my dream job. I found the love of working in early childhood in 1990 after the birth of my first daughter. I enjoy teaching early childhood classes, presenting at conferences and sharing my knowledge of early childhood with other educators. My husband Jim and I have two daughters, Kristy and Kayla. Kristy is starting her 4th year of college at Oakland University and has a yearlong internship at Beaumont Hospital while Kayla is in her 2nd year at UM-Flint studying Communications. Both girls are employed as lifeguards as they are avid swimmers and water polo enthusiasts. We reside in Grand Blanc with our two dogs; Jacobi the German Sheppard and Buster the Boxer.

Professional Membership:

- National Association for the Education of Young Children
- Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children, Communications Chair
- Greater Flint Association for the Education of Young Children, President
- Child Care Center Director's Association, Treasurer
- North American Reggio Emilia Alliance
- Michigan Reggio Collaborative
- Genesee County Great Start Collaborative

Professional Interests:

- Reggio Emilia Approach to Education
- Staff Development Training
- Family Involvement
- Observation and Documentation of Children's Learning
- NAEYC Accreditation
- Sign Language

Presentations & Professional Accomplishments:

- Part-time Early Childhood Adjunct Instructor at Mott Community College since Jan 2007
- Baker College Annual Presenter for the Genesee County Regional 4C's, 2003-2004
- GFAEYC Presenter, Mott Community College, 2003
- CPR and First Aid Certified Instructor since February 2003
- Child Development Associate Credential, 2000
- National Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference Presenter, Grand Rapids, Michigan 1999-2001

Areas of Expertise:

- Early Childhood Administration
- Ounce Scale and Work Sampling
- Negotiated Curriculum
- Thematic Approach to teaching across the curriculum
- Extensive experience in child care with children of all ages
- Strong people skills and can easily interact with individuals from diverse backgrounds
- Skilled in usage of various technology and multimedia

Research Interests:

- Role of the environment and how it affects interactions
- Children's interest in commercial toys versus natural materials
- Effective documentation layouts to present evidence of children's learning
- Collaboration and relationships among children, families, and staff

Research Questions that guide my current work at the Early Childhood Development Center:

- How well does the ECDC provide a learning environment for college students and interns?
- Is the teaching staff providing the best possible learning environment for the children?
- How does the presentation of a documentation layout affect the understanding of the learning taking place within the classroom?