



Name: Diana Hensley

Position: Co-Lead Teacher, Nido Room

Degree: I have an AAS in Early Childhood Education from Mott Community College. I will begin classes in fall 2011 to receive my BA in Early Childhood Education from Baker College in Flint.

About Me: My husband Steve and I have been married for 17 years. I have lived in Genesee County all of my life. We have two children: Halle age 14 and Hayden age 4. Halle will begin high school in the fall 2011 (yikes) and Hayden is in Cascata B. When I am not at work, I enjoy heading north on 75 to my family cottage in Hale.

Professional Interests: Being in child care has been my life's work and is my passion. I first began babysitting when I was 12 years old and have built my career caring for children. I have a strong interest in Child Advocacy, promoting the thought that we should "vote with children in mind." I believe that working together we can make Genesee County a great place to raise children.

Presentations & Professional Accomplishments: My biggest accomplishment is the work I have done in volunteering on the board of the non-profit organization Greater Flint Association for the Education of Young Children from 2001-2011. While being with G.F.A.E.Y.C., I was collaborating with my peers as we provided Genesee and Lapeer County with conferences and workshops pertaining to our field. For several years I was on the child advocacy board of Priority Children, UAW-GM Child Development Center's Communications Committee, and GISD project S.K.I.P.'s promotion committee. I have also organized two Child Watch tours in Genesee County. I have presented at the state and local level, but prefer being behind the scenes organizing events. While on Priority Children's Advocacy Committee it gave me the highlight of my career by meeting Dr. Penelope Leach (author of *Your Baby and Child*) during a 3 day Children's Summit that was held at the Character Inn in downtown Flint.

Areas of Expertise:

- Infant and Toddler Development
- Child Advocacy
- Grant writing

Research Interests:

- Developing my own knowledge and understanding of the Reggio Emilia Approach
- Child Advocacy
- Brain Development
- Attachment
- Positive Parenting

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

- How to create a smooth transition for International Families?
- Reggio Amelia Approach, How to best incorporate it into Infants and Toddlers?
- What's new in brain development?