



Name: Tara Hyatt

Position: Head Teacher / Administrative Assistant

Degrees:

- Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education
- State of Michigan Elementary Provisional Teaching Certificate, Grades K-5
- Certified in Language Arts & Mathematics, Grades 6-8
- ZA Early Childhood Endorsement

About Me: Originally from Flushing, my family now lives in Grand Blanc. I graduated from the University of Michigan-Flint in 2003 (Go Blue!) and began working in the infant/toddler program at the ECDC in August 2005. This past Spring 2011, My husband, Aaron, and I share three beautiful children...Chloe, Emily, and Andrew. Chloe is a 6th grader and possesses great love for animals and music. Emily is in 2nd grade and enjoys drawing, animals and playing the piano. Andrew started Kindergarten this year and loves Spider Man and to construct or fix things. My husband works for Raven Logistics and has mastered the Rubik's Cube. As for myself, in my spare time, I enjoy solving a Sudoku puzzle, roller skating, traveling, and going for bike rides with my children.

Professional Interests:

- Autism in Children
- Family involvement in early childhood education
- Reggio Emilia Approach
- Temperaments of young children
- Children's Literature
- Ways to document/capture children's engagements

Presentations & Professional Accomplishments:

- CPR and First Aid Certified
- Happiest Baby Certified
- SIDS/Shaken Baby Syndrome Presenter

Unique Infant/Toddler Exploration Ideas

- MiAEYC Conference, Grand Rapids, MI, March 2011
- Jackson Area Early Childhood Conference, Jackson MI, March 2011 / March 2010
- MiAEYC Conference, Grand Rapids, MI, March 2010
- Regional Early Childhood Conference, Howell, MI, November 2009
- MiAEYC Infant/Toddler Conference, Dearborn, MI, Sept 2009; Novi, MI Sept 2006
- GFAEYC Conference, Flint, MI, February 2009 / February 2007
- NAEYC Conference, Dallas TX, November 2008; Chicago, IL, November 2007
- Jewish Community Center, Ann Arbor, MI, August 2006

Building Relationships with Families in Infant/Toddler Programs

- MiAEYC Conference, Grand Rapids, MI, March 2011 / March 2010 / March 2009
- Jackson Area Early Childhood Conference, Jackson MI, March 2011 / March 2010
- Regional Early Childhood Conference, Howell, MI, November 2009
- MiAEYC Infant/Toddler Conference, Dearborn, MI, September 2009
- GFAEYC Conference, Flint, MI, February 2008

Exploring Projects with Infants and Toddlers

- Jackson Area Early Childhood Conference, Jackson MI, March 2011
- NAEYC Conference, Anaheim CA, November, 2010
- MiAEYC Infant/Toddler Conference, Grand Rapids, MI, March 2010

Professional Memberships:

- National Association for the Education of Young Children
- Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children
- Greater Flint Association for the Education of Young Children

Areas of Expertise:

- 17 years experience working with children of all ages
- Roller skating coach for children and adults
- Providing sensory experiences for infants/toddlers

Research Interests:

- Working together with families to expand their child's experience
- Early detection and intervention for children with special needs
- Supporting social learning and relationships amongst a community of learners
- Improving our program and offering meaningful experiences for our children by utilizing ideas and concepts from the Reggio Emilia Approach

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

- How does the way in which we present new materials to children affect their understanding and use of them?
- Is there a place in the field of early childhood education for 'looping'? What advantages does this pose to children at a young age? Are there any disadvantages associated with looping?
- What strategies are successful in promoting collaboration and relationships in a community of learners?
- How do children respond to new environments? How can we help children get acquainted to new environments?