



**Name:** Wendee Hooker

**Position:** Head Teacher, Fiore Room

**Degrees:**

- Master of Arts in Education, UM-Flint 2010
- Bachelor Degree, Rochester College 2008
- Associates Degree, Delta College 1999

**About Me:** I am originally from Saginaw, MI but I now live in the Grand Blanc area. In 2003 I came to the UM – Flint’s ECDC and have been there ever since. Besides working full time for the Early Childhood Development Center and part time for Baker College, I have an 11 year old son, Alexander, who is starting middle school this year at West Middle School in Grand Blanc. In my spare time, I enjoy roller skating, bowling, singing, dancing and reading novels. My son participates in karate but also loves skateboarding, snowboarding and BMX’ing. Between the two of us we are really busy but we love to ride bikes, especially around Mackinac Island every summer. I have been working in infant/toddler programs around the state of Michigan for over 15 years and bring a plethora of early childhood experience with me.

**Professional Interests:**

- Reggio Emilia Approach
- Providing quality infant/toddler programs
- Regarding early childhood programs as a community
- Looping in ECE

**Presentations & Professional Accomplishments:**

**Unique Infant/Toddler Exploration Ideas**

- MiAEYC Conference, Grand Rapids, MI, March 2011 / March 2010
- 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, 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

**Relationships the Heart of the Journey**

- NAEYC Conference, Atlanta, GA, November 2007
- MiAEYC Infant/Toddler Conference, Novi, MI, September 2006
- MiAEYC Conference, Grand Rapids, MI, March 2006
- GFAEYC Conference, Flint, MI, February 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 Membership:***

- 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:***

- Infant Toddler Curriculum planning
- Providing quality programs for infants and toddlers
- Using sensory experiences to enhance brain development in young children
- Building Relationships with Families in Early Childhood Settings

### ***Research Interests:***

- Increasing family involvement in early childhood
- Using documentation to show children's learning
- Using long term project exploration with infants and toddlers
- Using Music to enhance learning with young children

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

- How can documentation of children's learning can be used as a tool to increase awareness of children's abilities for early childhood educators?
- What methods can be used to consistently build positive meaningful relationships with families?
- How can educators increase male involvement in Early Childhood Programs?
- What steps can be taken for children undiagnosed with special needs in Early Childhood Programs to assure they are getting what they need?
- What can we do to bridge the gap between the UM –Flint ECDC and outside agencies, to ensure children with referrals actually get the services they need?