

**EDUCATION**

Master of Science in Education, *Early Childhood Leadership*; Certificate in Education Administration and Supervision, Bank Street College of Education; Internship at *Research Connections*, National Center for Children in Poverty, Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health.

Bachelor of Science, *Early Childhood Education*; New Jersey Teaching Certificate, Elementary (K-8) and Nursery School Teacher, The College of New Jersey.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EARLY EDUCATION RESEARCH**

**2019 – present**

*Early Childhood Education Technical Assistance Specialist*

- Coordinate activities of the Ready, Set, Go project to improve school district and early care and education providers' readiness to expand and effectively implement high quality preschool programs.
- Provide support to preschool expansion districts via individualized technical assistance and regional professional development.
- Work with the New Jersey Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood Services, to coordinate district supports and professional development to enhance preschool expansion program implementation.
- Collaborate with state and county level staff, community agencies and key stakeholders to build support for preschool expansion across districts and providers.
- Work on various New Jersey initiatives, including research on preschool quality, development of products to support the birth to grade three continuum and the work of the Infant and Toddler Policy Research Center at NIEER.
- Compile data to inform the writing of annual *The State of Preschool Yearbook*.

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**DIVISION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

**2015 – 2019**

*Project Director, Preschool Expansion*

- Responsible for management of \$17.5 million annual federal Preschool Expansion Grant; ensure compliance with all federal and state fiscal and programmatic elements.
- Worked with local school districts to implement all grant components designed to develop and maintain high-quality preschool programs.
- Consulted with early childhood education staff and administrators in school districts to provide maximum supports, oversight, and professional development opportunities.
- Supervised all activities of project staff.
- Collaborated with state and community agencies to further integrate supports and services for families and children across the birth to third grade continuum; sit on state Interdepartmental Planning Group.
- Worked to advance broader goals of the Division of Early Childhood Education.

## **CHILD CARE CONNECTION**

**1991 – 2015**

*Director of Professional Development and Referral Services: 2006 - 2015*

*Manager of Quality Care Initiatives: 2002 - 2006*

*Enhanced Care Coordinator: 1998 - 2002*

*Enhanced Care Specialist: 1993 - 1998*

*Child Care Referral Counselor: 1991 – 1993*

- Served as director of agency Early Childhood Institute for Professional Development, overseeing all quality initiatives, and programs covering infants to school-age; includes Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential classes, in-service training, web-based training, and various enhanced care initiatives.
- Successfully managed quality enhancement programs for child care centers and family child care providers, including *Steps to Quality Family Child Care Initiative*, *Strengthening Families, NJ Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS)*, *Building Stronger Centers Child Care Collaboration*, *New Jersey Accreditation Facilitation Project*, and *Children's Futures Improving Quality in Child Care Initiative*.
- Conducted on-site technical assistance and professional development for public and private early care and education programs (infant/toddler and preschool age) primarily serving high-need communities throughout New Jersey.
- Supervised all training staff, planned programs, hired consultants, wrote grant proposals; maintained records and reported to funding and regulatory agencies.
- Supervised agency child care referral department, overseeing all day-to-day operations, including supervision in processes and procedures to ensure the seamless delivery of services to families seeking child care and child care assistance through the Work First New Jersey program.

## **SELECT PRESENTATIONS**

Cruz, N., Gardiner, B., Tahbaz, J., Vanderburg, H. & Weisenfeld, G. (January 2021). *Remote Preschool: What We've Learned*. Virtual presentation for Rutgers University, Graduate School of Education.

Gardiner, B., Oliva-Olson, C. & Porterfield, M. (December 2020). *Meaningful Family Engagement*. Virtual presentation for the Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five Annual Convening.

Acerra, R., Gardiner, B., Lindenbaum, C. & Rice, C. (October 2020). *A Parent Lunch and Learn: Bringing Preschool to Your Community*. Virtual presentation for the New Jersey Parent-Teachers Association.

Gardiner, B. & Rice, C. (May 2020). *Money Isn't Everything: Building a Strong, Equitable Preschool Infrastructure One Community at a Time*. Virtual presentation for the National Association for Young Children, Professional Learning Institute.

Gardiner, B. (October 2019). *NJ Preschool Expansion: Enlarging the House that Abbott Built*. Presentation for Council of New Jersey Grantmakers, Princeton, NJ.

Gardiner, B. (November 2018). *Successful Inclusion Strategies*. Presentation for Preschool Development Grant (PDG) Annual Meeting, Arlington, VA.

Gardiner, B. (November 2017). *Birth to Grade 3 Transition Practices*. Presentation for Preschool Development Grant (PDG) Annual Meeting, Arlington, VA.

Gardiner, B., Guastello, D. & Wilkins, R. (September 2016). *Building State P-3 Systems*. Presentation for Center for Early Learning Outcomes (CEELO) Regional PDG Meeting, Arlington, VA.

Francis, J. & Gardiner, B. (May 2016). *Preschool Quality in the New Jersey Preschool Development Grant Program*. Presentation for the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Annual Conference, Austin, TX.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

Friedman-Krauss, A. H., Barnett, W. S., Garver, K. A., Hodges, K. S., Weisenfeld, G. G., Gardiner, B. A & Jost, T. M. (2022) *The State of Preschool 2021: State Preschool Yearbook*. New Brunswick, NJ: National Institute for Early Education Research.

Friedman-Krauss, A. H., Barnett, W. S., Garver, K. A., Hodges, K. S., Weisenfeld, G. G., & Gardiner, B. A. (2021) *The State of Preschool 2020: State Preschool Yearbook*. New Brunswick, NJ: National Institute for Early Education Research.

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### **SPECIALIZED TRAINING**

- Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale – Third Edition Reliability Training
- Teaching Pyramid Observation Tool Reliability Training
- CLASS Observer- Preschool and Toddler Reliability Training
- Program Administration Scale Assessor Reliability Training
- Pyramid Model for Supporting Social Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children
- Strengthening Families Train-the-Trainers