



EveryChild California's Circle of Excellence
February 2021
Kanwal Lachhar
Executive Director
Cambridge Community Center

EveryChild California is proud to recognize Kanwal Lachhar, Cambridge Community Center as the February 2021 recipient of the Circle of Excellence award.

The Circle of Excellence is awarded to a member of EveryChild California who has supported the Associations' endeavors and has shown outstanding leadership within the ECE community.

For over 25 years, Kanwal has been working in the Child Development field. She started her career as a substitute teacher in middle school and as a part time instructor with Brandman University. She was offered a management position with Contra Costa County working with migrant head start families. She found that to be a wonderful experience being able to get close to the community, especially as an immigrant herself. It was exciting to learn different cultural norms! She welcomed a new experience working with a private nonprofit when she joined the management team at Cambridge Community Center as Program Director in 2012. She was appointed as Executive Director in 2015. Kanwal says, "It is an awesome experience that is teaching me how to manage fiscal expensive, Human Resource, budgeting."

Thank you, Kanwal, for being an active and supportive member of EveryChild California.

We appreciate your time in answering a few questions:

1. What has been most rewarding about your career in early education so far?

I am proud to say that during a pandemic year I was able to keep my staff employed, and provide childcare and meals to essential workers when they needed it most; it has made me proud to be part of helping however I can during this time. Families need us more than ever.

2. If you could give advice to someone who is new in the administrative role, what would it be?

Support your staff, help grow them so they can be the best version of themselves which in turn allows them to provide quality childcare services to our families.

3. What is your proudest accomplishment in your career?

During a year at which the staff could be distraught and discouraged, my team has grown together and unified in a way that show that we are a real team. It makes me proud as an Executive Director to come to work each day and see them here with an upbeat attitude and a smile in their hearts. I will not forget the moment when all the staff at Cambridge stand together to serve the essential workers families and march in the neighborhood to tell the families that our site is open and we are here to support the families and children