



EveryChild California
Circle of Excellence
April 2021
Nicole Lopez
Little Tokyo Service Center

EveryChild California is proud to recognize Nicole Lopez, Little Tokyo Service Center as the April 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.

Nicole Lopez is the Child Development Department Director at the Little Tokyo Service Center in Downtown Los Angeles. She has her BA in Child Development, and her MSW as well (go Trojans!). She also serves as the co-chair for the Child Care Planning Committee on the Governance Work Group. She has enjoyed working with children and youth for over 10 years now. Thank you, Nicole, for taking time to answer a few questions. We are honored to have you as a member.

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

What's been most rewarding to me is seeing people come together during difficult times to offer services to those in need. Whether that be through food distributions, rent relief, or housing. This pandemic has been hard but seeing so many organizations step up to the challenge to help others is heartwarming.

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

My advice to someone new in an administrative role is to not be so hard on yourself. It can be a lot at first, but there are so many great people and resources out there to help (like EveryChild!). Subscribe to all the listservs and read every update that comes out. Roll with the changes, because there will be quite a few!

What is your proudest accomplishment in your career?

The most recent accomplishment that comes to mind has been helping with vaccine clinics lately. Our organization has been working with LA county to offer vaccines to those that are eligible. Just this week, we were able to get 200 people vaccinated in just 4 hours. Often, the hard work we do is invisible and behind the scenes. This is a tangible way to see a positive change in our community.