



EveryChild California's Circle of Excellence
March 2019
Kristin Hills
Program Manager
Mendocino County Office of Education

EveryChild California is proud to recognize Kristin Hills, Mendocino County Office of Education as the March 2019 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.

Kristin Hills began working in early childhood education by volunteering as a parent in her children's programs. "I like to say my kids graduated from preschool, but I stayed behind." She has been working for the Mendocino State Preschool Consortium since 2004. She made the move to administration in 2016, when the previous Program Manager retired. Kristin holds her AS in Child Development and Family Relations from Mendocino College, her BA in Liberal Arts from Sonoma State University, and she will finish her MEd in Curriculum and Instruction, with an emphasis in Early Childhood Education, at Concordia University in April 2019.

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

My most rewarding experiences in my work are related to relationships I have formed with the families that we serve. Working in a rural area, where "everyone knows everyone," it is so gratifying when parents reach out to me as a resource, even after their children have graduated from our programs. I also deeply appreciate the opportunity to support staff members who are working in direct service to our children, families, and communities. When staff members come to me with issues, I try to help them to find the answers within themselves; when this approach is successful, it means that they feel supported, and also empowered.

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

Find mentors. Network. Ask all the questions. Develop the strengths of individuals to maximize the skills on your team.

3. *What is your proudest accomplishment in your career?*

There hasn't really been one moment. I'm proud that I've continued to grow professionally and to seek out new challenges and responsibilities.

Thank you, Kristin, for your support and efforts on behalf of the children of California and EveryChild California. If you would like to nominate an EveryChild California member for the Circle of Excellence, please email us at info@everychildca.org