



EveryChild California's Circle of Excellence
April 2020

Martinez Early Childhood Center

EveryChild California is proud to recognize **Martinez Early Childhood Center** as the April 2020 recipient of the Circle of Excellence award.

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

The **Martinez Early Childhood Center** is a private, non-profit program offering high quality Toddler and Preschool Education and Care for children 1 to 5 years old.

HISTORY

The **Martinez Early Childhood Center (MECC)** opened May 6, 1974. We started with six children and grew to a class of thirty-five preschool children in just two months. The Center opened with funds from Contra Costa County and soon after, the funding was provided by the California Department of Education. We now serve approximately 100 families each year.

By 1976 we raised the funds to purchase our 2½ acre site. Then in 1981 we had raised the funds to build a facility for the Infant-Toddler program. Our fundraising success is due to the strong community support and hard work of the families in the program.

Community Relationships

MECC is very fortunate to be located in the community of Martinez; it truly is a small town with a big heart. We have had the pleasure of serving multiple generations of children from the same families. (Repeat customers are a sign of quality, right?) It is not uncommon for past students to return to us as High School Volunteers, Aides, and Teachers. The MECC Staff is a dedicated group of professionals; who are committed to bringing a quality program to the children and families we serve; we are serving our neighbors, literally. We have achieved a 5 Star rating with our Quality Rating System and have been nationally accredited by NAEYC for over 20 years.

MECC families and staff enjoy volunteering and being involved in various Martinez Community events such as: The annual Beaver Festival, Art in the Park, July 4th Parade, Seeking Santa Light Parade, and more.

Now and in the Future

MECC is very fortunate to be in a beautiful, natural setting. Our 2.5 acres is nestled between the Alhambra Creek and the hills of Martinez where children study and enjoy wildlife daily, such as deer, turkey, squirrels, turtles, ducks, foxes, otters, and the occasional beaver. We have enjoyed our outdoor classrooms long before it was trendy! Recently, MECC was given an Eco award at the Martinez City Council meeting for our newly implemented compost and recycling program. The children really earned this award: they have become expert worm composters and are actively involved in the Creative Curriculum “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” Study. MECC is always evolving and changing to meet the needs of families and children in the community. We have no major changes planned outside of facility maintenance and up-grades. We just completed a new roof installation on the main building and Kaplan came and installed new, safe, playground surfacing! We have submitted a Mitigation Grant Application with FEMA and California Office of Emergency Services to renovate and strengthen our creekbanks and prevent further erosion to our property; this beautiful, bucolic setting is most times a blessing, not often a curse!

Fundraising

The annual MECC wine tasting fundraiser is an event the community looks forward to each year. What began 41 years ago as a small gathering has grown to a major event with live music, silent auction, delicious food and wine for over 300 people in attendance. We thank the hard work of parents, staff and community volunteers! This year’s event will be held on May 15, 2020, follow the link for info: <https://mecc.yapsody.com/event/index/538861/mecc-41st-annual-wine-tasting-fundraiser>