

**Heather Sweet**  
**Candidate for Vice President**  
**NYSAEYC Governing Board**

Serving the community through CDAEYC's Week of the Young Child events over the past few years has been one way I am committed to children and families. My passion for serving children and families began many years ago through my experience as a preschool teacher. It continued to grow from there when I found myself accepting a position as Center Director/Head Teacher in an Early Head Start program. That's where my philosophy of partnering with families and supporting them in educating their children was affirmed. Through my experience in EHS, I was able to connect families with services and educational experiences they not have been able to obtain. My current position at the Capital District Child Care Council I am able to partner with teachers in their work with children and families through workshops and intensive technical assistance. In this manner I am able to reach more families. I also offer workshops for families regarding many different topics pertaining to their child's development, as well as giving them guidance in selecting a quality child care program.

One area which I have recently developed, partially because of my involvement in AEYC, is advocating for children and families. Over the past two years I have taken the opportunity to join other advocates at the Capitol in February for the annual Advocacy Day. Although I am no longer in the classroom, I feel I am more equipped and poised to have a greater impact for children and families. Being elected to the NYSAEYC Governing Board as Vice President would afford me the opportunity for reaching families outside of the capital district.

If elected to the board I will continue to advocate for the early childhood community. There are many questions about future funding for the early care community. I believe the greatest issue NYSAEYC will need to focus on, in addition to the CCDBG, is the effects of the minimum wage increase, which is great for the professionals, but will have a huge impact on program budgets and the cost of care for families.

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