

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE

THE 7TH ANNUAL SUMMER INSTITUTE
EQUITY, TRUTH, & CARE

**APPLYING EARLY CHILDHOOD VALUES
TO GLOBAL CHALLENGES**



Defending the Early Years

**P.O. BOX 473
BROOKLINE, MA
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JUNE 23-25, 2025

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A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



In 2012, Diane Levin and I, along with a group of national leaders in the field of early childhood education, founded Defending the Early Years, a non-profit organization working for just, equitable, and quality early childhood education for every young child. A critical part of our work at DEY has been the annual Summer Institute, a three-day, one-of-a-kind online professional development experience for early childhood educators. Our organization grew out of the urgent need to advocate for quality early education at a time when the pressure to teach academic skills to young children was on the rise, replacing approaches based in child development and an understanding of how young children develop and learn best.

Unfortunately, the need for this work is as critical today as it was a decade ago. Each year the Summer Institute brings together educators and advocates of young children from across the country to learn and build connections that will sustain continuing work toward providing just, quality early education for all children. We offer the Institute free to all attendees as many early educators are vastly underpaid. We invite you to show your support of our work at Defending the Early Years through conference sponsorship. In the pages ahead, you will see how you can become a sponsor of this year's Summer Institute and what your support will provide. Thank you for considering this opportunity to support our critical work on behalf of young children.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Carlsson-Paige". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a solid red horizontal line.

Nancy Carlsson-Paige is professor emerita at Lesley University where she was a teacher educator in child development for more than 30 years. She has written many books and articles on children's play, their social and emotional development, and the effects of media and technology on young children. She is a critic of current education reforms that promote standardized tests and the privatization of schools. She has received many awards for her leadership and advocacy in peace and early childhood education. In 2012, she co-founded Defending the Early Years, a nonprofit advocating for equitable, quality early education for every young child.

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ABOUT THE SUMMER INSTITUTE

Our annual event brings together early childhood educators and advocates from across the country to develop a thoughtful and dynamic grassroots advocacy platform and action steps that support the whole child, respects child development, and recognizes the importance of play so that all children may experience a just, equitable, and quality education and future. Our community comes together to learn from each other, share what is working and build stronger platforms.



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Why Equity, Truth and Care?

The future is unpredictable, but one thing is sure: the challenges we face today—climate change, water scarcity, natural disasters, gun violence, income inequality, racial injustice, housing unaffordability, food insecurity, and inadequate access to healthcare—will intensify as we move deeper into the 21st century.

What role can early childhood education and care serve in helping us to address an uncertain future?

This Summer Institute explores how the core values of our field can guide us in preparing for an unpredictable future. In times of uncertainty, our commitment to ensuring a just and equitable early childhood for all children must remain steadfast. When the future threatens to reshape our world, our shared values can ground us in what all children fundamentally need and deserve. We invite you to join us as we explore how a commitment to values of Equity, Truth, and Care can support our efforts to resist threats of domination, control, power, racism, white supremacy, climate disaster, and environmental terrorism. Now more than ever, we must double down on what we know constitutes high-quality early childhood education care.



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BECOME A SPONSOR

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN INSTITUTE SPONSOR?

As an Institute sponsor, you stand in solidarity with childhood defenders across the nation and are committed to promoting just, equitable, and quality education and care for every young child. You believe that all children, regardless of race, ability, or income, deserve access to a meaningful and fulfilling learning experience, and you support the development of an educational system where this is the norm.

WHAT WILL MY SPONSORSHIP DOLLARS PROVIDE?

Sponsor dollars are used to subsidize costs so that we can host the Summer Institute free of charge, allowing us to reach as many educators, parents, and stakeholders as possible.

To become a sponsor, contact geralyn@dey.org

	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD
	\$500	\$1,000	\$5,000
Logo on conference webpage			
Logo on promotional materials			
Shout-out during the Institute			

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ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to work for just, equitable, and quality early childhood education and care for every young child. We inform educators, administrators, and parents about how children develop and learn best. We advocate for active, playful, experiential approaches to learning informed by child development theory and evidence-based research.

OUR GOALS

- To advocate at the grassroots, local, state, regional, and federal levels for education policies based on child development theory and research.
- To mobilize the early childhood community to speak up for age-appropriate standards, assessments, and classroom practices that are based on research.
- To promote appropriate practices in early childhood classrooms and to support educators in counteracting policies and practices that undermine whole child health and optimal learning.

