



Meet Jaclyn Vasquez

If we put our children first and not organizational or systemic agendas as the priorities, then we can make real progress toward a better tomorrow - Jaclyn Vasquez

Jaclyn Vasquez is a seasoned early childhood former educator, administrator, consultant, policy and leadership director and coach, and community partnership strategist with a critical lens for racial equity and social justice for young children and their families with over 25 years of service.

Through her consultancy, Jaclyn is a team member at **Kids First Chicago**, working to identify high-quality early childhood from the perspective of the family. She is currently an adjunct supervisor for the **Alternative Licensure Program at Dominican University**, where she coaches and is a mentor to bilingual educators during their first two years in the classroom. She also assists across North Chicago and their ongoing work focusing on young children and their families. She also shares her expertise with **Illinois Action for Children** as a former coach for the **Birth to Five Illinois** restructuring care and education work. She continues to support community collaborations across Illinois as an on-demand coach and develops and facilitates PD for the organization. Jaclyn also sits at Policy and Research tables across the state and nation, where she continues to advocate to hold the child at the center of every conversation.

Jaclyn is the former director of the Early Development Instrument (EDI) of the Policy and Leadership department at **Erikson Institute**, where she co-designed the Framework for Data Literacy based on her work with communities and the EDI. Preceding her work at Erikson, Jaclyn expanded the scope of the Child Parent Center model as the program manager for **Chicago Public Schools (CPS)**. Additionally, she piloted the Social Impact Bonds program for the city of Chicago and co-created the Altgeld Riverdale transitions model. Jaclyn recently contributed a chapter to the 2023 book **Transforming the Early Years Policy in the US - A Call to Action**.

Jaclyn serves as the newest board member of **Elgin Partnership for Early Learning (EPEL)**. She has admired the work of EPEL for many years and looks forward to continuing to advance the mission and vision in the community.





Meet Marissa Raglin

*I am so honored and excited to be joining the EPEL Board!
I look forward to all that we will accomplish and the deep
change that we will make, together. - Marissa Raglin*

My academic and professional journey has been marked by a deep commitment to the field of psychology and counseling. While completing my BA in Psychology at the University of Illinois in Chicago in 2014, I had the opportunity to study abroad in Ecuador and India which furthered my understanding of culture, perspective, and intentionality. Earning a Master's in Counseling Psychology with a specialization in adolescent treatment from Northwestern University in Evanston and went on to provide counseling services in the Chicagoland area, working with thousands of individuals of all ages, from children to adults, facing a wide range of conditions and disorders. It is an honor to walk alongside clients, providing a safe space to process challenges and offer insight to fuel next steps!

Currently, I am focused on offering mental health education to all. I firmly believe in the transformative power of psychoeducation, recognizing that by teaching different therapeutic techniques and skills to all ages and for all needs, we will begin to equip and empower people with mental health skills to navigate challenges when they arise and encourage a preventative rather than reactive approach.

With that being said, I look forward to utilizing my experiences and energy to help accomplish goals and make an impact in our community and children's lives at the early and developmental levels!

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