



T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Vermont FY21 Voices From the Field



“I have been working with children in early childhood education for about 10 years. I currently work at a nature-based program in Vermont with children aged 2 to 3 years old. When my directors at Annette’s Preschool and Clubhouse approached me about this opportunity, I was unsure if I wanted to go back to school. Being a single mother and working full time had its challenges already, but I knew I wanted to be the best role model I could be for my daughter. It’s very important to me to show her we can do hard things. I accepted the offer to enroll in the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Vermont Apprenticeship Scholarship Program. I am very grateful for the opportunity and for my directors who supported me the whole way. Without this program, I wouldn’t have gone to college. Now I am the first person in my family to attend college. I hope this shows my daughter that she can, too.

“Throughout my journey with T.E.A.C.H, I had the capability and flexibility of still working full time while completing college courses. It wasn’t always easy, there were challenging times, but with grit and determination, I was able to successfully complete this program with no regrets!

“Throughout this program, I grew as an early childhood educator. I know now, after completing this program, I am making a bigger difference in many lives. I learned new techniques and strategies to apply to my classroom daily. I also grew personally. I gained more confidence and learned who I am as a leader. I can now better support myself, my children and their families and my co-teachers. Furthermore, it has helped me financially. By completing this program, I am moving up on my career ladder. Therefore, I am more qualified and able to earn a higher income. I am hoping to continue classes and someday earn a degree in ECE. If you’re considering this program, the path isn’t always easy, but the answer is: Join T.E.A.C.H.!”

— **Linda West, T.E.A.C.H. Apprenticeship Scholarship Recipient/Graduate**

Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children
145 Pine Haven Shores Road, Suite 1137
Shelburne, VT 05482
802-387-0870
vtaeyc.org/teach/