

HEATHER M. DUNCAN, MEd, NBCT

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PURPOSE

I am "The Child Whisperer", a 21 year veteran Early Childhood educator, trainer, coach and mentor. I advocate for education best practice and am passionate about collaborating for results, creating positive outcomes for all learners, and aligning the continuum of learning from birth through primary school and beyond.

SUPERPOWERS

- Championing sustainable early childhood best practice to administrators, legislators & other stakeholders
- Designing and advocating for integrated, inquiry based curriculum and assessment for young children
- Creating compelling professional development materials and workshops for educators
- Coaching teachers to classroom success with empathy and a sense of humor
- Building relationships by never meeting a stranger and always seeing the potential for partnership

TEACHER LEADERSHIP

Teach Plus Chicago Change Agent Teacher Leader
Chicago Foundation For Education Study Group Leader- Building Classroom Culture
Educators 4 Excellence Teacher Policy Team Member- School Culture & Climate Focus
Teach To Lead Long Beach Team Lead- School Culture & Climate Focus
Chicago Foundation For Education ARLI Research Fellow
Chicago Public Education Fund Innovative Educator Network Team Leader
Chicago Public Schools' REACH Development Team -Early Childhood
Chicago Public Schools' Framework Specialist Team

MENTORING & BUILDING THE FIELD

National Louis University Professor of Early Childhood Education

As a professor I use adult learning theory to meet pre-established learning outcomes and promote students' active participation in their own learning. To promote engaged learning and lively discourse I pose inquiry questions to start each discussion. My classes incorporate personal technology and stories into sessions to draw connections between the classroom and students' lives.

Children's Literacy Initiative (CLI) Literacy Coach

At CLI I guided teachers in setting up child centered, literacy rich classroom environments. I observed, modeled, co-taught and planned with teachers to help them deliver effective lessons utilizing best practice and comprehensive literacy strategies and methodologies.

LEADERSHIP

Collaboration for Early Childhood

Director of Early Learning

At the Collab I engineer the skill development of 200 teachers and child care providers in Oak Park and River Forest. I empower early learning programs to increase quality by connecting them to critical training and engagement activities. By creating a blueprint for alignment of early childhood education programs with Oak Park Elementary School District 97's curriculum, I help to construct a seamless continuum of education for nearly 4000 children from birth beyond kindergarten.

Ahadi Early Learning Center

Founder/Director/Lead Teacher

At Ahadi, I dreamed of a school where middle and low income families could learn from a high quality curriculum and from each other. I directed all aspects of the child care business including vendor relations, staff selection/development, budget, payroll, grant writing and a Chicago Public Schools Community Partnership. I designed curriculum that fostered the growth of children, families and teachers via monthly workshops, and built partnerships with arts and social service agencies to provide enrichment classes.

TEACHING

District 143 ½, Chicago Public Schools, Ahadi Early Learning Center

I used Illinois Early Learning & Social Emotional Learning Standards, Next Generation Science Standards and Creative Curriculum and Teaching Strategies Gold benchmarks and objectives to design developmentally appropriate learning activities and assessment for children aged three to five years in half-day Pre Kindergarten programs. I created year long scope and sequence, unit plans, monthly and weekly lesson plans and student specific differentiated learning, and supervised the work of my Assistant Teacher.

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RESEARCH

Chicago Foundation For Education ARLI Action Research Fellow: Flexible Grouping In Preschool

Teaching Career Trajectories; Helping Preservice Teachers Plan For Careers In The Classroom And Beyond

PUBLICATIONS

Final Report: Illinois Kindergarten Transition Advisory Committee

Sounding the Alarm: Building the Climate & Culture Our Students Need

HONORS

Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Teaching Winner (2018)

Teach Plus Illinois Early Childhood Educator Fellow (2018-19)

Chicago Public Schools' Teacher Ambassador (2017-18)

America Achieves National Teaching Fellow (2014-16)

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Organizational Leadership (In Progress) **Chicago School of Professional Psychology**

Early Childhood Generalist Certification
National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

Early Childhood Leadership Certificate

Erikson Institute of Graduate Studies

Master of Early Childhood Education with
Professional Educator Licensure #1819678 and
Bachelor of Arts, English;

**University Of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign**

SELECTED TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

2019

Global MindEd Conference, Denver, CO

Technology, Tools and Strategies for Low-Income Families and Children

2018

ECET2 Chicago

One time, I did a TEDx talk... My Accidental Teacher Leadership Journey

2017

Chicago Early Learning Parent Conference

The Perfect Partnership: Opening Lines Of Communication Between Families & Teachers

2016

Chicago Public Schools' Ready, Set, Teach Conference

Frameworks For Aligning Standards, Curriculum & Assessments In The Early Grades

2015

PARCC Educator Leader Cadre National Conference, Washington DC

Collaborating For Success- Working across grade bands to move students AND teachers forward

2014

The Chicago Public Education Fund's 14th Anniversary

Techy Teaching: A Preschool Teacher's Journey Into The Digital World

2013

TEDx Wells Street

Groupthink For Good; Why Teachers Need Collaboration