



## **Denise Dickerson Ewing, New Jersey**

### **Biography**

I have been an early childhood educator for over 25 years. I currently work with 2 1/2-3 year olds. I have been married for 28 years to my husband Billy, & together we have raised 3 sons. We are blessed to have 2 beautiful granddaughters & a talented grandson. Being the oldest of 7 children and having to help my mother, being around children is part of who I am and why it was in the stars for me to become a teacher. I started my career as an involved parent when my oldest son started school. I continued to be involved as President of the Lawrence Head Start Parent's Association, & board member of Mercer County Head Start in New Jersey. I started my teaching career as a teacher's aide & obtained my CDA in 1984. In 1995 I became a teacher at Mercer Child Care Center, a NJ state funded program under Mercer County Head Start Child Development Program Inc. In March 2008 Mercer Child Care changed its name to Ewing CYO Preschool @ Hollowbrook. My heart is with the 2- 3 year-old group. I find them to be so energetic, entertaining, & creative. My passion for teaching gives these little hearts a good start in the right direction. I continue to grow and develop as a teacher by attending workshops, trainings, reading teacher magazines & working with my peers.

### **Project- "Library/Discovery Centers Enhancement"**

Since my children are young 2 & 3 year olds, I want both of these centers to incorporate a "hands-on" approach to learning where they can both explore, be safe and still become independent. I am always adjusting materials used in my classroom because of the developmental age of the children.

Adding a CD with headphones to our Library Center along with books on CD will give the children another way to experience the joy of reading and listening to a story. Currently, we use CD with books as a large group because we do not have headphones. Many our families do not have books and CD's at home, thus, we want our children to experience it in school. In the Discovery Area I want to add a draw & write touch board so that they can explore prewriting as they continue to develop fine motor skills. In addition, we would add a color changing touch board. Both of these boards work with only the use of the child's hands. I also want to add a large stand up magnetic board with two sides. They will be able to place large shapes, magnetic gears, and other magnetic things we currently have. Young children love to touch and explore. Having safe items that they can experience will add to their learning. In spring we love to grow plants and have an outdoor vegetable garden. It is difficult for young children to understand roots if they cannot see them. I want to add a jumbo root viewer in our discovery area. Adding these items will offer them experiences that will help them grow and change at their own pace.

