

Alem



Hi! My name is Alemzewd. I was born and raised in Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia.

I started working at World Bank Children's Center since 2018. I was introduced to the Reggio Emilia through professional development and hands-on training at WBCC.

I am working on my CDA (Child Development Association) classes.

Why did you choose Early Childhood Education as a career?

I want to make a difference in the society by contributing in preparing the next generation.

I believe working with children is very important, and having this privilege brings me joy because I can work and participate in their growth and development.

I really enjoy being with children and watching them grow.

Ashi



My name is Ashraf, but everybody calls me Ashi. I am from Iran. I am a mother of three children and have a lifetime of experience working caring for infants and toddlers. I have completed a 65-hour course education certificate and have CDA qualifications, as well as CPR and First Aid training.

I am very excited to work at the World Bank Children's Center so I can put into practice my experience, and learn from my colleagues.

Why did you choose Early Childhood Education as a career?

I think it is a wonderful opportunity to be able to help children through their stages of development. Each day is a learning experience not just for the children but for me as well.

Atefeh



My name is Atefeh but everyone calls me Ati. I am originally from Iran. I have one son and a lifetime of experience. Over the course of my life, I pursued many careers. In the last nine years I enjoyed caring for infants, toddlers, two's and three year old.

I have completed the 90-hour course certificate in Early Childhood Education and look forward to pursuing more educational opportunities. Before I joined WBCC, I worked for KinderCare in Maryland and gained valuable experience.

I have an Associates degree in Early Childhood Education.

Why did you Choose Early Education as your career?

First and foremost, I am very happy to work at the World Bank Children's Center and I look forward to taking care of your children. I chose to be a teacher because I like the field of education. Most importantly, I love children and I enjoy working with them.

Aster



Hello, my name is Aster. I was born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. My mother tongue is Amharic. I am a mother of three beautiful daughters, and I am proud of my children.

I am a High school graduate and have also completed Child Development Associate Credentials.

Why did you choose Early Childhood Education as your career?

When working at a family daycare I discovered how much I enjoyed working with children. I love children that is why I choose early childhood as my career.

Aynalem



My name is Aynalem. I was born in Ethiopia. I am married with four children. Before coming to the United States, I worked with children in Dubai for 3 years. In 2019 I joined World Bank Children Center as an Assistant Teacher. I am very happy to be a member of the WBCC community!

Why did you Choose Early Childhood Education as a Career?

I choose to work in Early Childhood Education as my profession because I love being around children. I have 4 kids of my own and it was a joy seeing them grow and learn. Children give me so much happiness!

Betania M.



My name is Betania, but most people call me Betty. I am originally from Ethiopia, but I was born in Virginia.

I have spent most of my life living in the US, except for 3 years when I was a child and a couple months as a young adult. My father worked for the World Bank and was stationed in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia. My older brother and I moved with him and went to school there for a couple years. We returned and finished school in Virginia. Some years later, I decided to spend some months in Germany.

Throughout my life I have mostly worked as a babysitter and nanny and in 2017 I began working at the World Bank Children Center.

Why did I choose early Childhood Education as my career?

I have a very large extended family, who growing up spent weekends all together. I was always the one who took the responsibility of watching over all the younger children. I had a love for babies since I was a young girl, and as I got older it grew into love for all children. I still spend most of my time playing with, teaching, and watching over the children of my friends and family.

"Education begins the moment we see children as innately wise and capable beings. Only then can we play along in their world."

- Vince Gowman

Branka



My name is Branka, I am originally from Croatia. I came to United States in 2015, I am married, and I have a lovely son.

I completed the Child Development Associate Certification (CDA). I have six years of Early Childhood Experience at WBCC and over five years of experience in studio work with children of different ages.

On my spare time I love painting and reading, and I worked as an art coordinator in my country.

Why did you choose Early Childhood Education as your career?

The best part of being a teacher is that I can teach and make a difference in their lives. I enjoy spending time with children and see how they grow and develop. I want to help children to find ways of socialization, reconnection and express themselves through different art medias.

Carmen



My name is Carmen. I am originally from Venezuela, but moved to the United States in 1995. I have been a master swimmer for over 16 years.

I went to medical school at Universidad Central de Venezuela before moving to Washington, DC. In the US, I decided to explore the field of education and I fell in love. I have worked as a preschool teacher for more than 17 years, completing my CDA certification and have furthered my knowledge by attending several professional trainings on education worldwide.

Why did you choose Early Childhood Education as a career?

I listened to what my heart told me to do...love, hope and support our children for their future and because I just love being around children.

Carole



My name is Carole Moukoudi Ndema. I was born and raised in Cameroon and moved to the United States of America in 2014 to join my husband.

I completed my Child Development Associate Credentials two years ago.

Why did you choose Early Childhood Education as a career?

I love children. My desire is to pursue my career in Education and to take advantage of my passion and love for children. I was working as a pre-school teacher in Cameroon for over two years and gained experience in childcare. God blessed me with two adorable little girls of my own.

Cecilia

Studio Teacher



I am from Montevideo, Uruguay. I came to the United States in 1993 with my two daughters and my husband, in order to fulfill his desire of obtaining a Ph.D. In 1994, I started working as an assistant teacher in the Infant Room of one of the Harvard University – affiliated centers, completing a Massachusetts' certificate for Infant Teachers. In 2000, I also received my Child Development Associate (CDA) credential. Work was also a learning experience for me as I observed other teachers being creative, energetic, loving, and well organized in their work with children and families.

We moved to Washington, DC in 2000 and I began at the WBCC in 2001. This environment gives me the opportunity to be surrounded by a very diverse community which is greatly appealing to me. In 2016, I completed my BA from George Mason University in "Creative Art in Early Childhood Education".

Understanding that life gives you the opportunity to continue learning and growing, I hope to share what I have learned with the wonderful teachers here.

Why did you choose Early Childhood Education as a career?

Learning was the reason I chose this career. The first years of life are truly amazing. Every moment is a learning opportunity. It is so enjoyable to see how much energy children have; it is contagious and the same time exhausting. However, it does not matter how tired I am at the end of the day, the children's smiles and their joy for life energizes me again for the next day.

Daditu



My name is Daditu. I come from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. I have lived in the United States with my husband and three children for five years and counting. My oldest daughter, Ayantu, is currently in her second year of college majoring in biochemistry. My son, Robera following after her is his first year in college planning on majoring in electrical engineering. The youngest of all, Natai, is in his sophomore year in high school. All three of my children are aiming for success, and nothing less. That makes me confident in seeing them succeed in life. My family, myself included, is all from Ethiopia. Hence, we speak Amharic in the house. In Ethiopia I was able to receive my Teachers Training Institute (TTI) certificate. I was able to receive a certificate in Home Health Aide (HHA) from the department of health in the United States. I have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credentials.

Why did you choose Early Childhood Education as a career?

Back home, in Ethiopia, I was able to achieve teaching children for eighteen years. Being with children for this long has given me the experience and knowledge on how children are developed. Therefore, having this skill would be a great use In Early Childhood Education.

Debbie



My name is Debora but I prefer people to call me Debby. I got married to the most wonderful man on the planet. I was born and raised in a Christian household, in small town in Indonesia. I'm the middle child of five. I have three brothers and one sister whom I love so dearly. I have a wonderful mom who raised us so well on her own, after my father passed away.

In 2008, I had an opportunity to come to the United States to continue my studies. After trying my hand at nursing college, I heard about an Early Childhood Development Program that Northern Virginia Community College (Nova) offered. I just had to attend. I finished the CHD classes in four semesters and I got my Associate Degree in Early Childhood Development in May of 2013. I have been working at World Bank Children's Center since that time.

Why did you choose Early Childhood Education as a career?

I have always loved children even when I was little girl. I watched and taught my neighbor's children often. Children are honest and silly, which gives me joy to work with them. I look forward to working at WBCC and using my passion to add to these children's lives.

Eya



Hello, my name is Eya Biosse. I was born in Togo. I am a mother and married to wonderful husband.

I moved to the United States of America in 2015.

In Togo, I worked as infant and toddler assistant teacher at Sika Childcare.

I am so fortunate to pursue my career in the education of young children. In 2019, I earned my CDA certificate.

Why did I choose early childhood education as career?

I really love children. It has been my passion and desire when I was young. To work as a teacher in Early Childhood Development is a fulfillment of one my dreams.

Firehiwort



Hello, I am Firehiwort. I am originally from Ethiopia where I lived with my family. I moved to the United States in 2013 and now live in Silver Springs, Maryland. I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education, which I earned attending Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia. Upon graduating I began working as an Educator with children ages five through 11. For them, I taught music theory and song, a subject that is near and dear to my heart. I also taught one-on-one piano lessons for children who also have a passion for music.

I completed my Child development Associate Credentials four years ago.

Why did you choose Early Childhood Education as your career?

I chose this profession due to my love of music, children, and learning. Teaching music to children truly opened my eyes to the wonders of mentoring young minds. I enjoyed watching their progression as well as their excitement each time we met. I plan to continue my education in child development as I work with the wonderful teams in the WBCC.

Frenchie



My name is Frenchie. I was born in Winston Salem, NC and raised in Washington, D.C., where I raise my teenage daughter Simone. I feel as if I have been involved in child care my whole adult life. I began by working with my mother in our Family Child Care business. In 1989, I went to work at HUD as a clerk for six months. While working upstairs I noticed that there was a child care center in the HUD building. I realized my heart was in child care so I applied for the job. I was hired as an assistant teacher for the HUD child care center.

I am currently holding my CDA in Early Childhood Education. I have worked with all ages of children ranging from three months to six years. I have been at the World Bank Children's Center since October, 2002.

Why did you choose Early Childhood Education as a career?

I enjoy working with children. I feel we learn from children and through children's relationships and interactions. I believe that children learn and grow with teachers around them. I love to walk into work every day and see the children's smiles.

Genevieve



Hello, my name is Genevieve. I was born and raised in Cameroon where I obtained my High School Diploma. In 2014 I moved to the United States of America and I decided to pursue my career in the education of young children. I completed my Child Development Associates in Early Childhood Education three years ago.

Before I traveled to the United States, I worked in a childcare program as a teacher to fulfill my passion of working with children. A few weeks after my arrival to the United States of America, I was fortunate to take care of three children at a private house in Virginia for two over years.

Why do I choose early childhood education?

I love children and taking care of them. Childcare has always been my passion since my childhood. I look forward to improving myself as a professional through the valuable services I bring into the lives of young children.

Habtamua D Bahiru



My name is Habtamua D Bahiru and I am from Ethiopia.

I was working as a nanny before I joined the World Bank Children Center in June 2012. I finished my Early Childhood Education Certificate in 2013.

Why did you choose early childhood education as career?

I chose childhood education as a career because I love children and their happiness gives me great pleasure. And I feel responsible to help them grow in to a wonderful and successful future.

Jean



I prefer Jeannie, but the children sometimes call me Ne-Ne. I am originally from Philadelphia, PA. All of my schooling has been in Pennsylvania and I am continuing my education in Washington, DC. I entered child care in 1986 and after six years I left the field. I worked for a time as a preschool teacher's assistant in the DC Public Schools. When I re-entered child care it was with the WBCC. I have worked at WBCC since 1994, and have learned to adapt to many changes. Most importantly, I have grown and been given many opportunities.

Why did you choose Early Childhood Education as a career?

This field was not chosen, but instead was instilled in me at an early age. As a young child, I watched my mother teach and nurture relatives, neighbors' children, as well as me and my two sisters. My environment was one I will never forget. I knew it took lots of TLC and hoped one day in the future it would be me. Well, that time is now and I feel as though I am a replica of my mother. Thanks, mom!

Kenia Graterol



I was born and raised in Caracas, Venezuela, where I also earned my bachelor's degree in Public Administration. Early in my career, I studied pre-school education through several courses and workshops, and I worked for 4 years as an assistant teacher.

Why did you choose Early Childhood Education as a career?

Coming from a big family and surrounded by nephews and nieces, I would say that this career chose me. My sisters hold a bachelor's and master's degree in preschool education which has inspired me to continue the legacy of being involved in children's education.

For the last two years, I have been working in the World Bank Child Center as an assistant teacher. It's been a wonderful enrichment learning experience working and sharing experiences with colleagues, children, and families.

Last Summer, I completed the Child Development Associate program. I will expect to continue growing in this field while building new relationships with children and their families every day.

Kidist K. Aga



I was born and raised in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. I grew up in a large family which I believe played a part in my interest with young children. I did my BA in Economics and my Masters in Public Health. I moved to the US in 2013 and worked in different fields before joining the childcare world. I joined WBCC in 2018 and worked with a toddler and two's age group. I am now CDA certified and planning to further my education in early childhood.

“Why did you choose Early Childhood Education as a career?”

I strongly believe that a person's entire knowledge and behavior is shaped at the early stages of development. That's why I choose to make early childhood my career; I want to work where I can make the greatest impact on people. In addition to that I think children bring out the joy in people through their untainted love, openness and purity. It would be a blessing to be part of that.

Kidst T.



Hello, my name is Kidst and I am originally from Ethiopia. I came to the United States in 2014 from Dubai, where I was working as a nanny.

I myself came from a large family and we learned early on, to share and take care of each other. After high school, I followed computer training classes. Once in the US, I completed Home Health Training and became a caregiver. I am very happy to be a part of WBCC. I have a certificate in Early Childhood Development (CDA).

Why I chose Early Childhood Education as my career?

I like to be around children, they give me lots of happiness. I like to see them grow and learn.

Laurice



My name is Laurice. I am a native Washingtonian and I grew up in Upper Northwest. My younger sister and I were raised by loving parents in a nurturing home. I obtained my education in early childhood from the University of District of Columbia. Also, I received my Child Development Associates (CDA) in infants and toddlers in 2015 from Rasmussen College. I am now currently taking classes at Rasmussen College focusing on children with special needs. I will be fully certified in December to work with children with special needs in an early childhood setting. Today I reside in Fort Washington, MD raising a 2-year-old Yorkshire terrier named Bella.

Why I chose Early Childhood Education as a career?

I chose early childhood education as my career because I wanted to observe how children grow and experience life. As I am learning more about the Reggio Emilia philosophy, it is challenging me to become more creative and open-minded. I also see that learning has no boundaries.

Lida

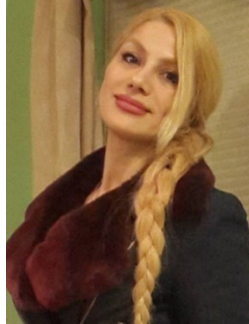


My name is Lida. I was born in Iran. I have graduated in psychology and education degrees. I have been teaching in the United States for the last two years, and taught in Iran for more than ten years before relocating. I am proud to say I am a proud holder of Child Development Associate credentials.

Why did I chose Early Childhood Education as a career?

As I studied educational psychology, I loved to know about the phases of child development and discover new methods of teaching that can be more useful for them.

Marzieh



My name is Marzieh, I am originally from Iran. I came to United States in 2017. I am a mother of a son, Ojan.

I am an artist painter, I owned an art gallery in Iran and I had exhibition of my artwork in the US, Dubai, Turkey and Armenia. I give private painting classes to children and adults. I also have a Master's in Physical Education from University of Fordosi Mashhad, Iran and Sport Science and a Master in Executive Management. I completed three courses of Early Childhood at Rasmussen College and I am also taking English classes at Montgomery College.

I completed my Child Development Associate Credentials one year ago.

Why did you choose Early Childhood Education as your career?

I am a mother and I love to work with children, because they give me positive energy. I work from my heart. Children are special, they make my life beautiful and happy.

Nelum



Hi, my name is Nilmini but everybody calls me Nelum. I was born and raised in Sri Lanka. My husband and I moved to the USA in 1995 with our two sons when they were toddlers. We lived in Washington, DC from 1995 till 2003 and moved to Rockville, Maryland and have been living there since.

Being with young children is always a joy for me. My love of working and being with small children inspired me to join the WBCC team. I began working at the WBCC in October of 2014. I am holding teaching credentials from Montgomery College, Maryland.

Why did you choose Early Childhood Education as a career?

"A child's brain is like a blank page. It is up to us as educators, and the environment what these pages will read in the future"

What thought processes are behind those bright eyes? Children are like sponges, soaking up the world around them. I delight in their curiosity, imagination, sense of adventure, playfulness, and the questions they ask. Their deductions about the world are brilliantly entertaining. Children make me think outside the box and make me look closer at things I take for granted as an adult. I am wiser because of them.

Oritoke (Toke)



My name is Oritoke (Toke) and I am originally from Nigeria. I moved to Maryland about twenty years ago to join my husband. Together we have two children. My daughter graduated from college with honors and is currently working in administration. My son is enrolled in a four-year college and looks forward to graduation. I am also bilingual. I speak English and Yoruba.

I earned a National Certificate of Education from Nigeria. I also have 90-Hours of Early Childhood Education Certification as well as a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential. I have been privileged to work with toddlers in two private centers in Maryland for over fifteen years before joining the WBCC.

Why did you choose Early Childhood Education as your career?

I love nurturing and caring for children because they are friendly, endearing, and they bring lots of fun and curiosity to their environment.

Rachana



My name is Rachana Pokhrel. I am from Nepal. I majored in Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2012.

In January 2020, I joined World Bank Children Center and was introduced to the Reggio Emilia approach. I have acquired a Childhood Development Associates Certificate (CDA).

Why did I choose to work in this field?

I chose teaching because I love it. To be able to work with children and watch them grow is the most amazing thing in the world. I love to watch children's innocent minds at work and as they engage in imaginations. It makes me realize that there is so much more in life that is not worth stressing over.

Rachel G.



My name is Rachel. I was born in Bethesda, Maryland but grew up in many places including Gaeta, Italy and Cheltenham, England. I've spent most of my adult life in Northern, Virginia where I earned my Bachelor's Degree in English from Virginia Commonwealth University. I plan to become a creative writing teacher or an English teacher and hope to take my expertise toward a field involving troubled youth, specifically, at American-Indian schools.

Why did you choose Early Childhood Education as a career?

There is a certain fulfillment that comes from working with children that I do not believe one could find in any other profession. I enjoy teaching, in any aspect. However, when it comes to children, there is no bias and no pride. I also find joy in the amazing balance of when children teach me.

Rawa



Hello! My name is Rawa. Originally from Iraq, I speak Arabic and English. I am a mother of two beautiful children, the oldest is a boy and the youngest a girl. I have graduated from high school. I am extremely passionate and experienced in taking care of children. I enjoy doing activities with children and my favorite part is helping them to master skills on their own, and learning game activities. I am very happy to work for the World Bank Children's Center, and am committed to doing my very best. I have a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential.

Why did you choose Early Childhood Education as your career?

I love how honest children are. Giving them love and care, brings happiness to my life.

Ruth



Hi my name is Ruth. I am a graduate from the University of Maryland College Park with a Bachelor's Degree in English literature and a minor in English as a second language or TESOL. I have several years of experience with teaching and working with children of all ages and backgrounds. Next, I will be attending Graduate School in order to get my Master's in Special Education focusing on working with elementary school-aged children. As always, I look forward to fostering a positive relationship with both students and parents in WBCC.

Why did you choose early childhood education as a career?

Of all the courses I took at the university, the courses on early childhood education were the most rewarding and spurred an interest in me to work with young children. I feel that early childhood education will give me the opportunity to make a significant impact in the children's lives. With my background in education, my experience working with children of different ages and backgrounds, my knowledge of the physical, social and cognitive development of a child: I will be able to aid a child during their most critical years.

Saowanee



Hi, my name is Saowanee. I was born and raised in Thailand. I have experience of babysitting my two beautiful nephews. I have loved working with children ever since. I moved to the United States in 2015 to marry my husband. I have been working at the World Bank Children's Center for the past three years. I have a bachelor's degree in Business Administration (Marketing) from Thailand.

I am a proud holder of Child Development Associate Certificate.

Why did I choose Early Childhood Education as a career?

I love nurturing and caring for children because they are friendly, endearing, and they bring lots of fun and curiosity to their environment.

Shahla



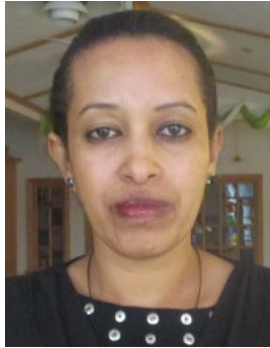
My name is Shahla. I am from Iran. I have two children; a daughter, and a son. I have been living in the United States since 2014. I have a Bachelor's in Psychology. I also hold certificates in Enhancement of Knowledge and Skills for teaching children in kindergarten. I have experience working in a kindergarten for many years and volunteered working with children with special needs.

I hold a Child Development Associate Certificate.

Why did you choose Early Childhood Education as a career?

The love I have for children motivated me to choose childcare as my career. I am very happy working at WBCC because I believe we create a safe, calm and friendly environment that motivates children to develop and make new discoveries.

Yemenor



Hello, my name is Yemenor and I am originally from Ethiopia, I came in the United States since 1996. I am married and have two wonderful girls. I graduated from High Point High School and have a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from University of Stayer. Since 2010, after my first baby was born, I decided to stay home. I opened my own Home Daycare and have a Prince William County license. Currently I am working on my CDA.

Why did I choose Early Childhood education as your career?

My experience as a mother taught me that being around my children gives me lots of happiness and joy; an incredible feeling. I decided to become an educator, to appreciate Gods children, they are all precious and they give me lots of love.

Zaida

Studio Teacher



I was born in Arequipa, Peru and spent most of my life there. I come from a large family. As soon as I finished high school, I decided to go into the field of education and enrolled in college at the Catholic University of Arequipa. After receiving my degree in Education, I taught in an elementary school for two and a half years. Shortly after that, I came to the U.S. and started at the WBCC. I have been a teacher at the WBCC since 1996. My experiences at the WBCC have been wonderful and have affirmed my decision to be a teacher.

I completed my Child Development Associate Credentials four years ago.

Why did you choose Early Childhood Education as a career?

I know I have chosen the right profession for myself because it allows me to learn, especially from the children, as much as I teach. In this field, I get to give and receive all the joy learning brings.

Zarqa



My name is Zarqa. I am from Pakistan, where I was a School teacher. I first received my Bachelor's of Education and later obtained my Teaching License. Afterwards, I started to teach in Government Girls School. Furthermore, I pursued my Master's Degree in History.

I moved from Pakistan to the United States in December 2011. Before coming to the World Bank Children's Center, I worked as a teacher in Chesterbrook Academy Preschool.

I completed my Child Development Associate Credentials four years ago.

Why did you choose Early Childhood Education as your career?

Throughout my university career, I had taken courses in education that I feel relate well to early childhood teachings. I believe that children are the future and it is essential for them to get the necessary tools, starting from infancy, to succeed. It is rewarding to help shape their future.