

# What It Takes

A special poem in honor of provider appreciation 2022

*Written by Meghan Pallante, DIEEC Technical Assistant*

What does it take to be an early childhood educator?

It takes more than credentials,  
More than education,  
More than a job interview.

It takes patience.

Patience with the babies who are teething,  
Patience with preschoolers learning to share,  
And patience when the days feel long and breaks feel short.

It takes spirit.

A silly spirit to make up songs,  
A creative spirit to play pretend,  
And a cheerful spirit to make transition times fun!

It takes strength.

Strength to ask for help,  
Strength to advocate for the early childhood field,  
And strength to keep going, even during a global pandemic.

It takes dedication,

Dedication to daily lesson plans,  
Dedication to individualized care,  
And dedication to working in partnership with families.

A child with blonde hair, wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt, is sitting on a light-colored wooden floor. They are playing with several large, light-colored wooden gears. One gear is being held up by the child's hands, showing a cross-shaped hole in the center. Other gears are scattered around on the floor, some with different shapes like a heart and a star. The background is slightly blurred, focusing on the child and the gears.

It takes heart.

A heart to wipe tears and kiss boo-boos,

A heart to love even on challenging days.

And a heart to hold the memories of every child who has been in your care.

And it takes a village.

A village to support each other,

A village to celebrate the good times,

And a village to lift each other up during the tough times.

Thank you for being part of the village supporting and loving Delaware's children.