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# VOICES FROM THE FIELD

## Celebrating the CDA Credential

Written by Lin Nordmeyer

About nine months ago, more than 90 early childhood education professionals began a journey to receive their CDA credentials by participating in a cohort facilitated by DIEEC professional development coordinators. The Child Development Associate (CDA) credential represents a pathway to learning best practices for early childhood educators.

More than 40 completed their portfolios after participating in the CDA cohorts, and we are thrilled to share that 16 educators have received their credential. In this issue, we will showcase and celebrate four of them but congratulate all who participated in the cohorts.

### Clarise Brooks



Meet Clarise Brooks, a family child care educator from Middletown, Del. When asked about her "why" in making this commitment, she

answered, "I pursued this credential for several reasons. To ensure that I provide the best quality care for the children and families



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**"Lifelong friends have been made and, for that, I thank everyone!"**

*Clarise Brooks,  
The Kids Zone Family Childcare  
& Preschool*

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in my program, to be up-to-date on the latest developmentally appropriate practices, and to add to my resumé for future employment opportunities."

She also added that participating in the cohort provided excellent support. "Being in a cohort allowed me to work with other providers while pursuing this credential, gain new resources, emotional support, the ability to ask questions while receiving guidance and clarification, and be part of a great team that cared for each other. Lifelong friends have been made and, for that, I thank everyone!"

## Crystal Brock



Crystal is a PreK teacher at Greenwood Mennonite School and pursued the credential because of her growth mindset. "I wanted the opportunity to learn and grow as a PreK teacher.

I want to ensure I'm giving the best care and education to students entering my program," said Crystal.

She found the cohort helpful with navigating the portfolio setup and the entire CDA process.

"The instructors were amazing in always being available and offering help when needed. I am very grateful for the program that was offered to me," added Crystal.

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**"I wanted the opportunity to learn and grow as a PreK teacher. I want to ensure I'm giving the best care and education to students entering my program."**

*Crystal Brock,  
Greenwood Mennonite School  
PreK teacher*

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## Janet Moody



Janet runs Janet's Little Friends Daycare for children ages six weeks to five years old. She appreciated the support of working with other educators on the CDA process.

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**"I saw and heard that I wasn't the only one struggling with something in the portfolio, and we worked together to figure it out."**

*Janet Moody,  
Janet's Little Friends  
Daycare*

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"Being in the cohort, you didn't feel like you were out there doing it all by yourself. I saw and heard that I wasn't the only one struggling with something in the portfolio, and we worked together to figure it out," said Janet. "Thank you to Melissa and Angie for making it so easy to go through the procedures."

## Pauline Kugmeh



Pauline is another family child care educator who participated in a cohort. She manages M&M Daycare in New Castle, Del. Her goal in getting the CDA was to

become a professional caregiver. "One has to learn the art of the trade," said Pauline. "Without the cohort, I would have not gained greater insight about what a professional caregiver is like."

"I'm so grateful for the opportunity to participate in the program. My appreciation goes to Melissa Schulte for her relentless effort to ensure everyone succeeds. I say thank you. Also, my thank you to Angeline Riley for helping us all," added Pauline.

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*Pauline Kugmeh,  
M&M Daycare*

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