

PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT

MADISON HOGSTEN

Indian River Early Learning Center



Winner, 2025 DIEEC Excellence in Early Childhood Awards (Early Career Educator Category)

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July 2025

"Watching my students light up when they understand/learn something new and their eagerness to show me makes this job so special."

The Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood (DIEEC) is delighted to honor Madison Hogsten from [Indian River Early Learning Center](#) as the winner of the inaugural 2025 [Excellence in Early Childhood Awards](#) in the Early Career Educator category. This award recognizes educators who, early in their careers, are already making a significant impact and demonstrating immense promise for the future. With two years in the early childhood field, Madison comes by her passion for education honestly: she comes from a family of teachers, including her mother and aunt, making her journey into the field a natural progression.

Madison cherishes giving children a place where they are excited to see their friends, their teachers, and simply excited to come to school. Watching her students' faces light up as they learn something new, especially achieving milestones like writing their names, brings her pride and affirmation in her career choice. She fosters an environment where children feel loved, special, and supported, no matter what, embodying her belief that she can "be there for children when they need it the most."

According to Madison's colleagues, despite being early in her career, Madison "exhibits the traits of a seasoned educator. She possesses a keen understanding of child development, which guides her thoughtful and creative lesson planning." Her colleagues note her ability to transform everyday moments into learning experiences, turning a rainy day into a science exploration or using a favorite story to inspire dramatic play. This intentionality ensures that lessons are not only engaging but also responsive to the children's interests and questions.

Madison actively seeks opportunities for growth. She collaborates with her administrators, fellow four-year-old teachers, and her paraprofessional to explore new ideas and strategies for her classroom. This reflective practice and openness to feedback are key indicators of her dedication to evolving as an educator.

Her ability to make learning "silly" and fun is a skill that helps children listen and engage, making them feel like she's both their teacher and a friend. Madison hopes to see more opportunities for students to benefit from early learning programs in the future, underscoring her commitment to the broader field. Madison is a deserving recipient of this inaugural award and a bright light in the future of early childhood education.

Content for this article was compiled from the Excellence in Early Childhood Award application, letters of recommendation, and a phone interview.