

Serene N. Stevens

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Early Childhood Professional

- Consultant for Early Childhood Programs and Organizations
- Professional Development Specialist
- Leadership Coach for Educators, Program Directors and Parents

My Sweet Pea and Me, LLC

2018 - Present

Bronx, New York

Founder

- Providing consultation services to public, private, and not-for-profit organizations to develop and fortify infrastructures established to support young children and their families.
- Providing coaching for Early Care and Education Leaders at all levels and parents of children ages birth through 8 years old.
- Creating and facilitating Professional Development content for Early Care and Education teams within public, private, and not-for-profit organizations.
- Providing ongoing facilitation for special client projects.

Recent and current clients include: Yale University, Leading for Children, EdTrust NY

Leading for Children

2022 - 2025

South Orange, New Jersey

Project Leader

- Co-Constructing nation-wide Learning Network Facilitations to adults who support young children.
- Leading Professional Development facilitations with early childhood coaches, teachers, and school leaders nation-wide.
- Coaching individuals and groups of early childhood education leaders, teachers, and other adults who support young children.

New York Professional Development Institute,

2018 - 2022

Leadership Initiative

Brooklyn, New York

Leadership Coach and Professional Development Facilitator

- Supported Early Care and Education Leaders, according to the NAEYC coaching standards, through reflective conversations and the provision of resources.
- Consulted Early Childhood Directors in one-on-one and group sessions around topics that impact organizational structure with the goal of increasing staff productivity aligned with program quality standards.
- Co-Creating content with a team to facilitate regularly scheduled speaker series events, book group discussions, and networking events for Early Care and Education Leaders.

Bronx House

Bronx, New York

Director**2015 - 2018**

- Managed staff of 50 Early Care and Education professionals across two Department of Education Pre-K programs containing 175 students and families.
- Created and maintained a successful “My Grown Up and Me” Program for children ages 12-36 months to serve as a feeder program for the Pre-K program.
- Sought out and collaborated with Pre-K Programs within the borough to build a network of support for administrative team members and teaching teams.

Assistant Director**2013 - 2015**

- Assisted the Program Director with hiring, onboarding, and training of new Early Care and Education Professionals.
- Designed and facilitated Professional Development workshops for individual teachers and teaching teams as needed for the application of the Creative Curriculum and the Department of Education’s Units of Study.
- Transformed large storage space into a fully functioning library utilized by students and families.

The Children's Aid Society, Philip Coltoff Center

New York, New York

Education Director**2010 - 2012**

- Created and facilitated curriculum based planning meetings and staff development workshops to build staff capacity to engage with children and families.
- Developed and implemented new block building and literacy based programs for children ages 2 through 4 years old.
- Created systems and organized site spaces to enhance staff communication and maximize instructional material accessibility.

Nursery Program Head Teacher

2005 - 2011

- Successfully managed a teaching position in conjunction with the Education Director position.
- Assisted Program Director in acquiring NAEYC accreditation for the school.
- Provided Assistant Teachers with a classroom environment conducive to learning and developing leadership skills, which resulted in the promotion of three entry level teachers at the conclusion of their second year of teaching.

Early Childhood Program Lead Teacher

1999 - 2005

- Managed four separate "mommy and me" classes daily for children ranging from 4 months to 2.6 years of age with a focus on music, movement, art, and science.
- Developed and operated the program's first "Baby Time" class for children ages 4-8 months old.
- Facilitated focused discussions designed for parents to support their comprehension of child development.

Education

Master of Science, Education: Early Childhood Education- The City College of New York- 2009

Bachelor of Arts, Education: Elementary Education- The City College of New York- 2006

Associates of Science, Education: Early Childhood Education- Borough of Manhattan Community College- 2001

Certifications

Pyramid Model Master Cadre

Infant, Toddlers, Preschool

Positive Solutions for Families

Practice Based Coach

New York State Training and Technical Assistance Professional Credential: Coach for Early Childhood Teachers and Leaders

New York State Training and Technical Assistance Professional Credential: Professional Development Specialist Trainer

Child Development Associate (CDA) Professional Development Specialist

New York State Early Childhood Education Professional Certification (Birth-Second grade)

New York State Childhood Education Professional Certification (Kindergarten-Sixth grade)

Teaching

Borough of Manhattan Community College 2019- 2022
Adjunct Professor, Teacher Education Department, Early Childhood

Professional Development Workshops

“Your Voice Matters: Effective Communication Practices for Educators” YMCA Conference, November 2023

“Self-Reflection in the Midst of Change” YMCA Conference, November 2023

“Relationship Based Coaching” New York Association for the Education of Young Children, April 2021, April 2019

“Optimistic Leadership” Wyoming Cowboy Conference, September 2020

“Developing and Strengthening Teaching Practice” Freshmade NYC, New York City, January 2020

“Connecting to Build Communication” Children’s Corner Learning Center, White Plains New York, January 2019

“Healthy Practices for Leaders at All Levels” Childcare Council at CUNY 15th Annual Childcare Council Conference, New York City, January 2019

“The Power of Observing Young Children” Creative Steps, New York City, November 2018

“The Power of Reflection” New York Association for the Education of Young Children, March 2023

Publications

Stevens, Serene, Gilken, Jennifer & Scott-Croff, Cecilia. *Reflecting with Grace*. Exchange Magazine. ExchangePress.com. November 2022

Affiliations

Member, Leadership Initiative Advisory Board 2019-2022

Member, Leading for Children Optimistic Leadership Council 2020-2025

NAEYC Membership 2018-present

Client List Available Upon Request