

I am WAGES®

Davina Woods



When Davina Woods was asked how she became interested in early childhood, she said, “I entered the profession as an undercover helicopter mom! I had just placed my son in child care and I couldn’t stand not being there and seeing what and how he was doing.” Her child’s center hired her as a part-time school age group leader before she eventually found her calling with young children and their teachers.

She started with no education and now she is in the master’s program at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with the assistance of a T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® scholarship. After 25 years in the field, she loves her position as director of Excel Christian Academy, a five-star child care center in Alamance County, where she has been for 13 years.

“It has been a privilege to work in every single aspect of child care,” Davina said. “In every classroom, with every age group, in every position. I have fulfilled every duty from cook to van driver and it gives me perspective and appreciation. I love this viewpoint. I get the luxury of working with children, families and teachers.”

Davina’s center prioritizes its teachers by providing a livable wage as well as other key benefits, which she knows most teachers are unable to access in this field. “And then they get WAGE\$ and T.E.A.C.H. on top of that,” she said.

“WAGE\$ and T.E.A.C.H. are just part of who we are, part of the center’s make-up,” Davina said. “It is essential, imperative, to have an educated staff, especially here in the 21st century where children are not changing but the modes and methods of educating children are constantly evolving. Teachers must know best practices and know how to utilize the latest research and incorporate that into classrooms for the best outcomes for children.”

“WAGE\$ is essential because it helps to boost teacher morale within the program. WAGE\$ both encourages and motivates staff to increase their education. Additionally, WAGE\$ provides a sense of healthy competition among team members as they see who can achieve the next level first.”

—Davina Woods

She said, “My teachers talk about the courses they take and they drive each other.” Three of her staff will graduate in December with their Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education and they remind Davina of why she does what she does. “If I take great care of my team, they will take great care of the children.”

Thank you, Davina, for your support of the workforce and the Child Care WAGE\$® Program.

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