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## Early Childhood Educator and Play Advocate, Kisha Reid Joins National Advisory Board for Defending the Early Years

BOSTON/BALTIMORE, November 11, 2020 – Leading advocacy group for just, equitable and quality early childhood education, [Defending the Early Years \(DEY\)](#), announced today that respected early childhood educator and advocate, **Kisha Reid**, Poolesville, Md., has joined its [National Advisory Board](#). Reid founded Maryland-based, Discovery Learning Center, and online community, Play Empowers.



“We are thrilled to have Kisha on our DEY Advisory Board,” said Nancy Carlsson-Paige, Cofounder of Defending the Early Years. “She understands the value of play in the early years so deeply, and her innovations around child-centered environments are creative and pioneering. We’re lucky to have her with us.”

**Lakisha Reid** is the founder and head of school at Maryland-based [Discovery Early Learning Center](#). Her early childhood career spans over twenty-six years and includes work in almost every facet of early education. Her passion for providing

a place for childhood where children can unfold naturally, led her to open her own center in 2013. Kisha still works alongside children each day as the lead teacher in the four and five-year-old room.

In 2013, Kisha created an online community called Play Empowers. Hosting and presenting at the annual Play Empowers Retreat sparked a passion for speaking and adult education. Kisha has presented at several local and National AEYC conferences, filmed a mini-documentary for Defending the Early Years' Teacher Speak Out series, and was proud to be a part of two of the largest international early childhood conferences- The Play First Summit and Transform Challenging behavior conference.



The **DEY National Advisory Board** comprises respected leaders in early childhood education. Members enhance the advocacy and educational efforts of DEY by sharing their professional expertise, expert

advice, support, passion, and relevant resources and relationships. Reid joins current National Advisory Board members:

- **Erika Christakis**, Early Childhood Educator and Author, Norwich, VT
- **Sherry Cleary**, Executive Director, New York Early Childhood Professional Development Institute, The City University of New York, NY
- **Bill Crain**, Professor of Psychology, City College of New York, NY
- **Stephanie Feeney**, Professor Emerita, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Portland, OR
- **Doris Pronin Fromberg**, Professor of Education, Hofstra University, NY
- **Ayla Gavins**, Former Principal, Mission Hill School, Boston, MA
- **Michelle Gunderson**, First grade teacher, Nettlehorst School, Chicago Public Schools, Chicago, IL
- **Edgar Klugman**, Professor Emeritus Wheelock College & Co-Founder of Playing for Keeps, Boston, MA
- **Susan Linn**, Lecturer in Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School, and Research Associate, Boston Children's Hospital, Brookline, MA
- **Deborah Meier**, author and activist, NY
- **Ruth Rodriguez-Fay**, Save Our Schools and United Opt Out, Boston, MA
- **James St. Clair**, former kindergarten teacher, Cambridge, MA
- **Judith Van Hoorn**, Professor Emerita, University of the Pacific, El Cerito, CA

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### **About Defending the Early Years**

Defending the Early Years (DEY) is a nonprofit organization advocating for developmentally-appropriate learning in early childhood and elementary school years. Founded by respected experts in early childhood education, Nancy Carlsson-Paige, Ed.D. and Diane Levin, Ph.D., and steered by a National Advisory Board, DEY aims to educate parents, teachers and administrators on the evidence-based approaches to how young children learn best; to embolden a return to a model of active, play-based and experiential learning and ongoing observations and formative assessments over time; and to make these opportunities available to every young child. For information, visit [dey.org](http://dey.org), Facebook: [@DefendingtheEarlyYears](https://www.facebook.com/DefendingtheEarlyYears), Twitter: [@DEY\\_Project](https://twitter.com/DEY_Project), and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1).

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