



Defending the Early Years is a non-profit organization. Their mission is to work for a just, equitable, and quality early childhood education for every young child, by informing educators, administrators, and parents about how children develop and learn best and advocating for the active, playful, experiential approaches to learning informed by child development theory and evidence-based research.

The Oaks applied for and was awarded a mini grant to use toward the creation of a **MUD KITCHEN** at our NCHS location! In keeping with DEY's mission, The Oaks also promised to use this as an opportunity to intentionally advocate for playful experiential approaches to learning by enlightening parents and teachers of the evidence-based importance of MUD PLAY - stay tuned!



The beloved mud kitchen at The Oaks, West Ashley!



## INTERNATIONAL MUD DAY - JUNE 29, 2023

The Oaks is joining others around the globe in a day of splashing, rolling, squishing, sliding, making mud pies, and more! Mud Day is a way to connect children to the Earth and soil, and discover the messy joy that comes from playing in and with mud!!

\*more info to come!\*