

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE

THE 6TH ANNUAL SUMMER INSTITUTE  
**ADVANCING QUALITY**

IN DEFENSE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION AND CARE



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# THE 6TH ANNUAL SUMMER INSTITUTE JUNE 24-26, 2024

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### A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



In 2012, Diane Levin and I, along with a group of national leaders in the field of early childhood education, founded Defending the Early Years, a non-profit organization working for a just, equitable, and quality early childhood education for every young child. A critical part of our work at DEY has been the annual Summer Institute, a three-day, one-of-a-kind online professional development experience for early childhood educators. Our organization grew out of the urgent need to advocate for quality early education at a time when the pressure to teach academic skills to young children was on the rise, replacing approaches based in child development and an understanding of how young children develop and learn best.

Unfortunately, the need for this work is as critical today as it was a decade ago. Each year the Summer Institute brings together educators and advocates of young children from across the country to learn and build connections that will sustain continuing work toward providing just, quality early education for all children. We offer the Institute free to all attendees as many early educators are vastly underpaid. We invite you to show your support of our work at Defending the Early Years through conference sponsorship. In the pages ahead, you will see how you can become a sponsor of this year's Summer Institute and what your support will provide. Thank you for considering this opportunity to support our critical work on behalf of young children.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Carlsson-Paige". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a thin red horizontal line.

**Nancy Carlsson-Paige** is professor emerita at Lesley University where she was a teacher educator in child development for more than 30 years. She has written many books and articles on children's play, their social and emotional development, and the effects of media and technology on young children. She is a critic of current education reforms that promote standardized tests and the privatization of schools. She has received many awards for her leadership and advocacy in peace and early childhood education. In 2012, she co-founded Defending the Early Years, a nonprofit advocating for equitable, quality early education for every young child.

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### ABOUT THE SUMMER INSTITUTE

Our annual event brings together early childhood educators and advocates from across the country to develop a thoughtful and dynamic grassroots advocacy platform and action steps that support the whole child, respects child development, and recognizes the importance of play so that all children may experience a just, equitable, and quality education and future. Our community comes together to learn from each other, share what is working and build stronger platforms.



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### WHY ADVANCING QUALITY?

Our mission is to work for just, equitable, and quality early childhood education and care for every young child. Quality has always been an important component in ensuring that all young children have access to early care and education. Nonetheless, defining, measuring, and guaranteeing high quality demonstrates the complexities and difficulty in making high quality for all a reality. What does quality mean to you? How do you demonstrate quality in your program or classroom? How can the systems used to measure quality be improved? What does high quality mean in relation to justice and equity for disadvantaged and marginalized children? The 2024 Sixth Annual DEY Summer Institute will address these questions and many more. We hope you will join us in our work to advance a vision and practice of high-quality early childhood education and care.



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#### BECOME A SPONSOR

#### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN INSTITUTE SPONSOR?

As an Institute sponsor, you stand in solidarity with childhood defenders across the nation and are committed to promoting just, equitable, and quality education and care for every young child. You believe that all children, regardless of race, ability, or income, deserve access to a meaningful and fulfilling learning experience, and you support the development of an educational system where this is the norm.

#### WHAT WILL MY SPONSORSHIP DOLLARS PROVIDE?

Sponsor dollars are used to subsidize costs so that we can host the Summer Institute free of charge, allowing us to reach as many educators, parents, and stakeholders as possible.

To become a sponsor, contact [geralyn@dey.org](mailto:geralyn@dey.org)

	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD
	\$500	\$1,000	\$5,000
Logo on conference webpage			
Logo on promotional materials			
Shout-out during the Institute			

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### ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

#### OUR MISSION

Our mission is to work for just, equitable, and quality early childhood education and care for every young child. We inform educators, administrators, and parents about how children develop and learn best. We advocate for active, playful, experiential approaches to learning informed by child development theory and evidence-based research.

#### OUR GOALS

- To advocate at the grassroots, local, state, regional, and federal levels for education policies based on child development theory and research.
- To mobilize the early childhood community to speak up for age-appropriate standards, assessments, and classroom practices that are based on research.
- To promote appropriate practices in early childhood classrooms and to support educators in counteracting policies and practices that undermine whole child health and optimal learning.

