

VOICE for Children

2025 VOICE for Children Award Recipient

Eva Wood

Executive Director, Ligonier Valley Learning Center Inc.

Eva began her journey as a childcare provider in 1988 and found much joy in working with young children. While working in the field she attended Westmoreland County Community College to earn her associates degree in Early Childcare Education. She worked for Tender Loving Care (TLC) childcare for 9 years and later became the site director for the Mt. View location.

Upon returning to work after the birth of her first child she became the site director for the Ligonier Valley Learning Center Inc., Latrobe Kinder-Schull site in 1999 and has been there ever since. She is blessed to work for this organization and continues her growth as a person along with the organization.

In 2005, the agency scrambled to find a new location in the Latrobe area. The agency purchased the 320 McKinley location and after many late nights, sweat and tears a space for the children and families of the agency in their community was created. While serving as the director, she furthered her education and earned her Bachelors of Science degree from Indiana University of



Pennsylvania in Early Child Education and Family Studies, through the T.E.A.C.H program. She later earned her Director's Credentials and then went on to earn her master level Early Childhood Supervision Graduate Certificate from Carlow University.

Most recently, Eva has accepted the role of Executive Director for the Ligonier Valley Learning Center. With her 36 years of experience and the support of Rebecca Faulk, former Executive Director, now CEO of the non-profit organization; along with their employees, she was excited to move into the executive director role and honored to have been chosen.

She worked as a mentor through Keystone STARS for many years, assisting other directors who work in childcare. She is currently a member of the ECE Leadership group and participates in many subcommittees. In 2013, the Director's Consortium in Westmoreland County was established and she continued her work with local childcare directors to discuss, collaborate and brainstorm on topics related to the field. As a director she understands the importance and need for high quality care for our children and wants ALL children to receive this opportunity. She pledges to continue to maintain their Keystone STARS Star 4 accreditation and uphold their National Association for Education of Young Children credentials. She encourages others to be the voice for children and staff. She wants the best for their children and staff too. She plans to continue to work on obtaining scholarship programs, advocate and retention programs for all our employees. She was recently accepted into Trying Together's ECE Advocacy



Fellowship. Because of this program, she has participated in many other advocacy meetings but most recently Photo Voice. As a result of the ECE Advocacy Fellowship, she started the Westmoreland Director's Team which is already meeting and has grown to almost 40 members.

