



Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children

Christine L. Fisher Early Childhood Education Fund
2017 Update

2017 Award Winners

Congratulations to the 2017 Christine L. Fisher Early Childhood Education Fund award winners! The Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children (INAEYC) is proud to announce the following 2017 grant recipients:

- Campus Center for Young Children – located in Goshen, IN
- Ebony S. Drake/God’s Little Wonder’s – located in Fort Wayne, IN
- Elkhart Community Schools Teenage Parent Program- located in Elkhart, IN, and
- Raggedy Ann Child Care and Preschool – located in Terre Haute, IN.

Beginning with FY’17 awards, funds were available to support any one of a child’s development relating to Physical Fitness, Literacy, Creative Expression/Art, or Health and Nutrition. Fourteen (14) applications were received from both the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC) accredited facilities. The award winners **received from \$1,500.00 to \$3,000.00** in support of the focus area selected; **a total of \$9,000.00 was awarded!**

Below are photographs of the fifth annual presentation of this grant to this year’s recipients who received their award checks from Michele and Bob Fisher, representatives of the Christine L. Fisher Early Childhood Education Fund. Also included are the recipients’ comments on what the award means to their program and to the children in their care!

Campus Center for Young Children

Janet Whalen Couch, Director
Goshen, IN



Representing the program were:
Janet Whalen Couch & Sara Stump

What a blessing it is to be a recipient of the Christine L. Fisher Early Childhood Grant! With this gift, we were able to purchase new riding toys for the playground and toddler scooters for the classroom. We take every opportunity possible to get outside and after 20 years, our trikes were definitely starting to show some wear and tear. Because of this grant, we are able to provide safer riding toys for our children and more indoor large motor activities for our toddlers. We are so grateful for this gift and thankful to the Fishers and Indiana AEYC for this opportunity and their support of early childhood programs in Indiana. Thank you!

God's Little Wonders

Ebony S. Drake, Owner
Fort Wayne, IN



Representing the program was: Ebony S. Drake

Through receiving the Christine L. Fisher Grant we were able to incorporate a "Family Garden" in our outdoor classroom. The children and their families have been participating in gardening in which we have the pleasure providing through this generous gift. This has given us the opportunity to incorporate the nutrition-focused learning into our program, as well as build a sense of community amongst the children and families in our program.

Elkhart Community Schools' Teenage Parent Program

Tammara Obendorf, Director
Elkhart, IN



Representing the program were: Sherree' Wilkey, Toddler Teacher
and Tony England, Assistant Superintendent.

Elkhart Community Schools' Teenage Parent Program (TAPP) is so excited and extremely grateful to be awarded the Christine L. Fisher Grant! TAPP believes that all children, especially the very young, benefit from a positive, stimulating environment that lay the foundational building blocks for later learning success. Assisting the young parent in their pursuit of education as well, is an important bridge for family success. Through the generous gift of the Fisher family, TAPP is excited to provided our infants, toddlers, and young parents, a broader experience in artistic expression through the addition of the new playground equipment. Not only will our young ones grow through their new experiences, through modeling interactions with the children, parents will have the opportunity to see artistic expression in new and exciting ways! Thank you so much.

Raggedy Ann Child Care and Preschool

Ann Brooks, Owner
Terre Haute, IN



Representing the program were:
Amanda Gardner & Joanne Clouse

Ann Brooks, owner of Raggedy Ann Child Care and Preschool, expressed the privilege and honor to be a recipient of the Christine L. Fisher award. In her absence, lead teachers, Amanda Gardner and Joanne Clouse, were present and accepted the award on the programs' behalf. Ann shared that in developing their outdoor classroom they have included a stage for music and movement adding that "the children love music and dance and being artistic in their body movements". She also noted that the addition of an Akambira, African xylophone received through the Christine L. Fisher award, with its delightful sound, will add to the children's expression through dance.

Additional items purchased, including Imagination Fabrics and assorted nature samples of cones, pods and botanicals which provide new textures, colors and intricate details for children to explore.

"Our staff, children and families wish to thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the Christine L. Fisher Early Childhood Education Fund and we will continue to support the fund."