

# Your News from <sup>The</sup> Aspire Registry

Connecting Early Childhood  
Professionals in New York State

October  
2016



## Career Pathways in Early Childhood: Real Life Stories

This month we are excited to share another career pathways story from Aspire member and colleague Kathy Moss! Kathy began her work in the early childhood field as a preschool teacher, became a director of an early childhood center, and ultimately moved into her current role as a consultant and QUALITYstarsNY Quality Improvement Specialist.

“From as early as I can remember, I wanted to be a kindergarten teacher. I went to school to pursue a degree in education, and when I got out of college, there were no jobs available. I saw an ad for a teaching position in a preschool, so I applied, got the job, and loved it so much I never left the field. That was 25 years ago!

After several years in the classroom, I moved on to become a center director. In this role, I provided the in-house training for almost 70 staff members, and I found that I had a real passion for supporting and developing early childhood professionals. I followed this passion into my next position providing technical assistance to Head Start and Early Head Start programs in New York. It was a wonderful new challenge working with so many diverse programs across the Long Island and the NYC area. This ultimately inspired me to start my own consulting business and grow as a professional myself.

Currently, I am working as a Quality Improvement Specialist for QUALITYstarsNY, the New York State Quality Rating and Improvement System. I work with all kinds of programs to support their efforts to increase the quality of their services. This has been very rewarding for me personally. One of the best professional experiences I’ve had in my career is watching programs commit to making changes and seeing a real difference as a result of their hard work. It renews my hopes that this can be done everywhere across the state.

Although my positions have varied over my career, my motivation has always remained the same: to make sure children are receiving the highest quality care in their early years. The expectation of ECE programs has changed so dramatically over the past 25 years, and early childhood professionals are finally getting recognition for their important work. I find it a real privilege to be a part of so many new opportunities that help the field continue to grow and expand.”



Kathy Moss is an independent consultant and a QUALITYstarsNY Quality Improvement Specialist supporting child care centers, family child care providers, and public schools to increase the quality of services available to children and families. QUALITYstarsNY is administered by the New York Early Childhood Professional Development Institute.

### SWAG FACTS

In the past year, our team has worked hard to get promotional materials to our members. Some of our newest “swag” items are New York Works for Children and The Aspire Registry stickers! We are excited to get these stickers out to you so you can help us build our brand across the state.

Email us at [info@nyworksforchildren.org](mailto:info@nyworksforchildren.org) to let us know how many stickers you would like and we’ll put them in the mail! Seriously... as many as you want!



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New York Works for  
**Children**  
building knowledge • building careers • building futures

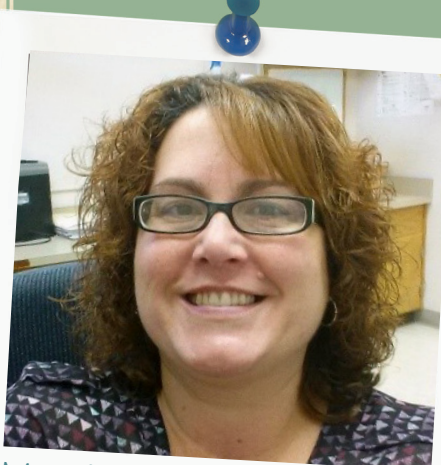
# Do You Provide On-Site Training? The Aspire Registry Can Help!

As a director or administrator, planning and scheduling professional development opportunities is an important part of your work. We know that it is very common that these training sessions are held at your program and possibly even facilitated by you or someone on your team. Whether you've been teaching the content for years or you're new to providing in-service trainings, you know that preparing and documenting trainings can be challenging and time consuming. With your busy schedules in mind, The Aspire Registry wants to help make this process easier and more practical for you!

You've probably seen our Statewide Training Calendar or maybe even used it to search for professional development opportunities in the past. But did you know that as a director or administrator you can use the calendar to track your in-house sessions? Don't worry, you have the option to have your training open to the public or private for your staff. All you need to do is submit training information to The Aspire Registry before the session and once it has been reviewed and approved, you will be able to print out a pre-generated sign-in sheet and certificates for your staff. When your training is complete, you can upload the sign-in sheet directly to The Aspire Registry

and each person will automatically receive credit on their profile. This means you and your staff would not need to mail any training certificates to us! You will also have access to reports that show all the trainings that your staff has taken which can help you plan for future professional development opportunities.

Are you interested in posting one of your upcoming sessions on the Statewide Training Calendar? Feel free to visit our [website](#) for more information or send a message to [training@nyworksforchildren.org](mailto:training@nyworksforchildren.org).



**Merideth Janke**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT POOH'S CORNER, INC.

**SPOTLIGHT** This month's newsletter features Merideth Janke, the early childhood Executive Director at Pooh's Corner day care center.

“ I worked as a Pre-K teacher for 17 years before accepting my current position. I love watching how children can have fun and make important social and cognitive connections at the same time. I've realized that every day is a new experience and a new opportunity to be an intentional and meaningful part of a child's development. I also enjoy building a bridge between home and school for children and their families, so we can work together as a team for the benefit of the children. Now as an Executive Director, I enjoy being able to share my experiences and knowledge with my staff. It is rewarding to see growth in new teachers and to help seasoned teachers look for new opportunities for learning. ”