***NAEYC Virtual Book Club***

***Summer 2020***

***Each and Every Child: Teaching Preschool with an Equity Lens***

*Introducing!*

*Brigitte Willis*: I am a family childcare provider in Grovetown, GA. I am married and have one child who graduated in May 2020. I was recently voted in as District Representative from our local NAEYC chapter in Georgia (GAEYC). I am passionate about steering our field into a more professional industry and highlighting the specific niche of family childcare as a whole. I am open to learning more information that can be shared with peers, families, and children as we move through this very uncertain time in our country and history.

*Jenna Samuelson-Seage*: I am a director with Bright Horizons on Long Island, NY. I am an avid reader and can always be found with a new book about child development, social-emotional learning or nature based programming. I believe children learn best through play in an open ended environment focused on purposeful classroom materials and engagement with the world around them. I have been in ECE for over 15 years and have loved every minute of it! Children are the future of today's society and by fostering the development of the whole child we can create a stronger future and better world.

*Jamie Sloth*: I am a family child care provider in Minnesota. I am married and have two elementary age children. I am passionate about your children and the impact early experiences have on their life.

*Gemma Nicholl Medina*: I have lived in Hawai'i for 20 years and have worked in various early childhood settings on both Maui and Oahu.  I have enjoyed many different positions including: toddler teacher, preschool teacher, co-director of a faith-based program, Educational Specialist at the UH Manoa Children's Center, founding director of Imua Inclusion Preschool and now, full time faculty member at University of Hawai'i Maui college teaching Early Childhood Education. Luckily, I still get to be with children as I mentor and coach practicum students at our on-campus Head Start program. I was a student at the University I now teach for, earning a BS in Social Science with an emphasis on ECE and a MEd. in Educational Psychology. I have been a member of NAEYC since 2000 and am honored to serve on the board for our state affiliate, HiAEYC.  My passions include nature-based learning, inclusive practices, and anything play!

*Denise Owens*: I am a wife to my childhood love and best friend, Kevin. My 25 year old son, Adam, will always be the apple of my eye.  I hold a BS in Special Education from Indiana University of PA and MEd from Carlow University with coursework and professional experience in the field of early childhood education and disabilities. For the last 20 years I have worked for Head Start/Early Head Start of Fayette County in various different roles: home based instructor for children with disabilities, classroom instructor with children of all abilities, and Disability Services Coordinator for the last 6 years. I love learning and am so excited to be more actively involved with NAEYC, Trying Together, PennAEYC, the Division for Early Childhood, and the Council for Exceptional Children, for which I am currently a member.

I would like to be more involved, but haven't yet figured out how I am meant to do that.

I am sure I will learn so much from meeting with all of you over these next few weeks!

*Trisha Plemmons*: I am a primary guide at a Montessori school in Nashville, TN, working with children from 2.5 to 6 years. I have previously taught in Albania, China, and in Nashville public schools.

*Kathy Harris:*  I’ve been a member of NAEYC since 1996. I teach Early Childhood and Early Intervention/Special Education Seton Hill University in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. I have been at Seton Hill University for 10 years. It’s a touch of heaven on the hill! My research interests are children’s spirituality, project-based learning, children’s play, peer-mediated interventions, and mobile technology for young children. I have taught young children, toddlers to pre-kindergarten, directed early childhood programs, and taught professional development trainings for early childhood professionals and families for 22 years. I’m blessed to have a very supportive husband, Bob. We have been married 45 years and we have one daughter, Sabrina. Our home is complete with a cute yellow lab pup, Butterscotch. I love to walk, Jazzercise, and read! I’m so excited to share this summer with you!