

GREAT BEGINNINGS 2018

ROCK SOLID PROFESSIONALISM

Nancy Jane Cheshire, M.Ed.

Past President of Southern Early Childhood Association (SECA)

ROCK SOLID PROFESSIONALS

R – Practice the 3 R's of quality care,

Respect, Response and Relationship,

O – Realize they have the **Opportunity** to make a positive difference in the lives of children and families,

C – Know that knowledge of child development builds **Confidence**, and

K - Shows **Kindness** to children, co-workers, parents and families.

Neil Postman, author of *The Disappearance of Childhood*, wrote, “Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see.” What messages are you teaching the children in your care? Infant and toddler teachers are important in the life of the child, the family and the future of our state and nation.

Professional infant and toddler teachers share the characteristics of:

Continuing professional development,

Practicing ethical conduct and confidentiality,

Showing kindness to children, co-workers, parents and guardians,

Reading, singing and modeling behavior for children, and

They provide a healthy, safe, nurturing environment for children and staff.

A smile, an act of thoughtfulness or a small kindness makes the day more joyful.

Professionals are *honest, trustworthy, and respectful of others*. Because they are professionals, they dress appropriately and conduct themselves with honor and dignity.

Resources and learning opportunities are provided by professional associations. Our state early childhood association is the West Virginia Association for Young Children (WVAYC).

WVAYC is the state affiliate of the Southern Early Childhood Association (SECA). Information and membership applications are available at: www.wvayc.net.

When **Infant and Toddler professionals** understand the important role they play, they can provide a ROCK Solid foundation for the children in their care.

They are INFANT AND TODDLER TEACHERS!