

Betty Lisowski

2019 VOICE for Children Award

In addition to 37 years in the field of early care and education, Betty earned a master's degree with a major in Early Childhood Administration from Nova Southeastern University and a bachelor's degree with certification in both Early Childhood and Elementary Education from the University of Pittsburgh. While growing her own family, all three of her children benefited from a high-quality early learning experience. As a working mother, starting her career as a preschool teacher and becoming an executive director, gave her a firsthand perspective and understanding of the importance of reliable, affordable, quality early care and education from all sides - parent, child, teacher and administrator.

Betty has also served as a presenter, trainer, validator and mentor for NAEYC accreditation, High/Scope Curriculum, Parenting with Love and Logic, Mind in the Making and more. She has been a consultant for organizations supporting start-up efforts of onsite early care and education for their employees. She worked actively to improve program quality, earning or maintaining NAEYC accreditation as the director of both Point Park Children's School and later Riverview Children's Center (RCC), and to grow quality, expanding RCC's capacity by 35-40 percent. A few short years after joining RCC Betty helped to raise nearly \$1 million for a successful expansion/renovation and she is currently seeing to the finishing touches of a second, \$2.4 million expansion and renovation.

Because of her own background, becoming a PA Pre-K Counts Lead Agency for 76 "at risk" students is especially rewarding to her. Believing that children will live up to their potential, respecting the vulnerability of childhood, and valuing playful, joyful and rich learning environments is important to her.

She credits much of her success to positive and collaborative relationships with coworkers, board members, community leaders, elected officials and so many others.