

## VOICE for Children

### 2023 VOICE for Children Award Recipient

**Linda D. Grinage**

**Founder-CSO, Blessed Assurance Christian Child Care and Early Learning Center**

Linda Grinage is a dedicated and passionate Christian child care provider with over twenty years of experience in the sector. Her love for children and her strong faith have driven her to create a safe and nurturing environment in which children of all ages to grow and learn. As Founder and Chief Servant Operator (CSO) of Blessed Assurance Christian Childcare & Early Learning Center, LLC., her Christian values are at the forefront of her work based on Proverbs 22:6 (*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it*) and her child care philosophy is Educating the **Whole Child**: Body, Mind, and Spirit. Her commitment to providing quality care and education to children, combined with her compassionate



and nurturing approach, has made her a beloved and respected pillar of the community.

Linda transitioned into child care after a 26-year career with Equitable Resources Inc. as Human Resources Manager of Education and Training.

Linda earned her bachelor's degree in Child Development & Family Relations from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and holds both a Pennsylvania State Teaching Certificate in Nursery and Kindergarten, as well as a Pennsylvania Director's Credential.

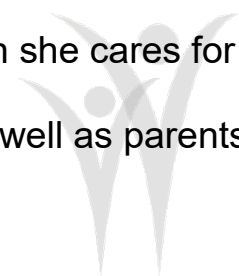
Linda's reputation as a highly respected and trusted Christian child care provider extends far beyond the walls of her center. Linda has been an active member of the Woodland Hills School District Kindergarten Transition Team since 2008 and has collaborated with other early childhood practitioners to establish kindergarten transition processes and agreements with the district's schools. She has also served as a Keystone STARS Mentor where she provides mentoring services to other child care providers throughout Southwestern Pennsylvania as well as early childhood education workshops and seminars.



Linda draws on her experience as well as her organizational affiliations with National Association for the Education of Young Children, PennAEYC, Pennsylvania Child Care Association and National Association for Family Child Care to uplift change in a critical infrastructure sector that is often overlooked. She has both the educational background, relevant work experience and community connection to inspire reform and change in the child care field. Throughout her career, she has had a profound impact on the communities she serves and has embarked on a mission towards advocacy and state reform for Pennsylvania child care.

As a Keystone STAR 4 quality provider, she has dedicated herself to providing affordable and accessible child care services to families who might otherwise struggle to find quality care for their children. Her commitment to helping these families has helped to break down barriers and provide a path for children from underserved communities to reach their full potential.

Her positive influence and impact on the lives of the children she cares for has earned her the admiration and respect of her peers, as well as parents



and caregivers. Her unwavering faith and commitment to helping others have made her a well-respected and valued member of the community and the impact on the lives of the children and families she serves will be felt for generations to come.

