

# Angela Fowler

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## Education

EdS Education (Fall 2023), Concordia University Chicago,  
Major Field of Study: Educational Leadership, EC

M.A. Education, Concordia University, River Forest  
Major Field of study: Education

Teaching License; PEL– Elementary Education (current)  
Endorsements – Self-Contained K-9, Language Arts 5-8, Social Sciences 5-8  
Former Type 04 Early Childhood Education

## Key Professional Accomplishments

**Guest Editor**, Special Edition of the Exchange Magazine

Focus on Reggio Inspired Practice, Nov/Dec 2021

**Founding Director and Creator of Town Square at Erikson Institute**, Creator of a progressive online learning community for educators including multiple forms of professional development, rated 98% useful to improving practice by educators. <https://townsquarecentral.org/>

**Co-Developer and Director**, Head Start BA Completion program at Columbia College Chicago. Innovative competency-based hybrid program graduating 85% of students.

**Co-Chair**, Children’s Rights Working Group,  
World Forum Foundation on Early Care and Education, working internationally and supporting initiatives worldwide.

**Creator of the Spotlight on Children’s Rights Recognition**, for the World Forum Foundation, which has earned recipients millions in funding and national recognition in Mexico and Malaysia in 2022.

**Invited Past Committee Member**, NAEYC Power to the Profession working group.

**Co-Producer, Voices of Children Documentary**, this documentary focused on see and hearing children’s rights through their own voice from around the world. <https://vimeo.com/287069485>

**Keynote Speaker, Technology for the Early Years**,  
World Forum Foundation Conference, Macao, China.

**Guest Speaker**, Chengdu Province, China, on the topic of authentic assessment and progressive education included 5 speaking engagements across the province.

**Founder and Director**, Cultivating the Early Years (CEY), a professional development and continuing education organization supporting progressive educational approaches and working with Urban programs in the Chicago Metro area. Creating content for educators via multiple platforms.  
<http://www.cultivatingey.com/>

**Author**, of several journal articles, book chapters, and curriculum, see below.

## Professional Work History

### Cultivating the Early Years

Founder and Director, 2013 to present

Cultivating the Early Years (CEY) is a consultancy and professional network that is focused on supporting educators in embracing more progressive educational approaches. As the Director, I oversee the organizational administration, hire additional highly qualified coaches and consultants as necessary, coordinate the professional development plans with schools, act as the main consultant with schools, and

coordinate study groups to Reggio Emilia, Italy. To date, we have coordinated 13 study groups to Reggio Emilia and taken hundreds of educators on this professional development. CEY, has coordinated a wide variety of professional developments on many topics in person and in online formats over the past 10 years. [cultivatingey.com](http://cultivatingey.com)

**University of  
Colorado Denver**

Lecturer (Part-time), 2020-2021

Instructor in the online Progressive Education MA Degree program.

Courses taught; Colorado Interpretations of the Reggio Emilia Approach and Contextual Curriculum; a Progressive Education approach to working with young children.

**Erikson Institute**

Professional Development and Continuing Education Instructor, 2015-2019

Developed and implemented continuing education both in-person and in online formats on topics related to progressive education, a social constructivist approach, Inquiry-based learning, and family childcare. Including the development of joint professional development with Reggio Children.

Founding Director and Creator, Federally Funded Town Square Project, 2015-2018

Created and led a visionary online learning community system (Town Square), funded by Race to the Top, to address the needs of early childcare providers, Developed the content, curriculum, philosophy, and framework for the site. Collaborated with the technical team and website developers to create a unique online community. Oversaw the content development in Progressive Education and early childhood education along with practical experience that informed the design process. Managed and track the content budget ensuring that the project met financial reporting requirements and the project deliverables on schedule. Oversaw content development for the website including professional development modules, curated resources from external sources, and subject matter experts. Coordinated the development of the advisory board and connected the project to regional and national stakeholders. Collaborated with state agencies and organizations including OECD, DHS, INCCRRA, Gateways, ExceleRate, Illinois Resource Center and Illinois Higher Education Resources online. Wrote additional grants to continue the project.

**Columbia College  
Chicago**

Director of the Joan and Irving Harris Center for Early Childhood Education, 2006-2014

Developed and revised the program, policies, and procedures for working within the college structure and with the Illinois State Board of Education Teacher's Credentials. Led the strategic planning and reorganization of the program. Responsible for annual reporting to the Illinois State Board of Education. Co-developer of the Head Start Bachelor Completion program that had 80% completion. Managed all aspects of the Early Childhood undergraduate teacher certification and Head Start Bachelor Completion programs. Coordinated the initial the program evaluation of the Gateways to Opportunities credentials in connection to the infant and toddler credential, early childhood credential, and director credential. Coordinated class schedules for undergraduate programs, supervised 20 plus faculty and staff, administered the budgets for the undergraduate programs, coordinated scholarships, planned and implemented international study programs, coordinated campus events, facilitated grant writing, and oversaw development of all courses. Coordinated and developed professional development and consulting with outside organizations such as Chicago Laboratory School, Chicago Public Schools, Francis Parker Elementary School, Boulder Journey School, etc. Coordinated program marketing and recruiting campaigns that doubled the enrollment.

Lecturer in the Education Department, 2006-2015

Developed and taught undergraduate courses in the Teacher Certification program of the Education Department. Elected member of the Faculty Senate. Member of the technology committee and coordinator of the Technology for the Early Years Conference in collaboration with Erikson Institute a professional development conference for early educators.

Courses developed and taught:

Schools and Society, focus on social justice and urban education, taught for 8 years

Pre-Primary Math, Science, and Technology Methods, taught for 7 years

Primary Math and Science Methods, taught 3 years

The Role of Art in Development, taught 5 years

Reflective Teaching, taught for 5 years

Foundation of Early Childhood Education II, taught 3 years

Child, Family and Community, taught 3 years

Coordinator of Placements, 2006-2011

Supervised and advised more than 30 ECE students; recruited and developed marketing materials to support our strategic goals; developed workshops and professional development opportunities for art-

integration and the Reggio Emilia Approach; Acting Director in the Director's absence. Developed policies and procedures for student teacher placement in urban school settings. This position required extensive knowledge of early childhood programs including Head Start, Early Head Start, Preschool For All, and Resource and Referral Agencies in order to find successful student placements.

Early Childhood Grant Manager of the Illinois Parent Information and Resource Center (PIRC), 2007-2009  
Supervised early childhood programs and coordinators for this \$3 million federal grant program. Developed a new model for parent involvement based on an art integration approach. Created policies for how the early childhood portion of the grant would function including the development of deliverables. Maintained, collected, and reported out data for the Department of Education. Developed organizational networks, and collaborations in support of the grant and parent involvement throughout the State of Illinois. Primary author and supervisor of writers contributing to materials, which were distributed through the PIRC website. Developed content for the website.

**US Navy, MWR  
DOD Great Lakes  
Naval Base**

Director of Child, Youth, and Community Programs, 2002-2006

Directed the Early Childhood programs, After School Programs, School Age programs, and Community programs. Administered federal policies and laws as they pertain to the Military Childcare Act of 1989 requiring strict adherence to federal procedures for "high quality" childcare programs. Facilitated the bringing together of all programs to create a true community of programs across the Glenview base. Supervised continuous Quality Assurance measures and managed the extensive, and very successful, Military Professional Development Program. Assisted in the re-vamping of these policies and procedures when the military moved toward a more progressive educational curriculum approach, while still fulfilling legal requirements of the Military Childhood Care Act. My duties also included supervision of 35 plus staff members, management of a \$2.5 million budget, and I acted as community liaison with local school districts. I also supervised the NAEYC reaccreditation process, which was in addition to monthly military inspections. Quality was of utmost importance to the military, and these programs I ran won an award for being the best in the Navy in 2006.

**Alaine Locke  
Charter School**

Lead Teacher, Chicago, 2001-2002

Taught and developed curriculum for an innovative charter school program. Chosen by the Illinois Department of Education to participate in a pilot program for Early Childhood Educational standards. Supervised after school activities for third and fourth grade.

**Picket Fence  
Child Development**

Teacher/Curriculum Coordinator, Elmhurst, IL 1999-2002

Developed curriculum for child development programs infant thru kindergarten. Trained teachers, and supervised national accreditation process. Organized parent involvement and training. Taught kindergarten and supervised student teachers.

**Home Care**

Teacher/Director Home Child Care, Oak Park, Il, 1996-1999

Developed and taught an visionary family care program. Supported early learning in a home/school environment. Coordinated student participation in extracurricular activities through community organizations. Developed a program for early learning utilizing local museums.

**North Berwyn  
School District**

Teacher, Berwyn, Il 1994-1996

Taught Kindergarten and First Grade, coordinated early childhood curriculum with specialists and co-teachers. Supervised aides and student teachers.

**Champaign and  
Urbana School  
District**

Kindergarten-Third Grade/Migrant Teacher, 1992-1994

Taught innovative curriculum in conjunction with the University of Illinois. Developed and taught curriculum for a federal grant where I taught Kindergarten and 2nd grade. The grant supported education for the children of migrant workers and required extensive tracking and record keeping. In addition to being a First-grade classroom teacher.

**Other Professional  
Experience**

**International Work**

Co-Chair Children's Rights Working Group, 2011-present,

A committee of the World Forum Foundation. This committee works on international initiatives that support more recognition of children's rights around the world. Spearheaded the development of the Spotlight on Children's Rights, a recognition of exceptional practice in the area of children's rights through a positive lens.

Coordinator of the Technology Track of the World Forum Foundations, 2013-2020

Through the development of professional development and panels for the World Forum 2017, this committee supports a shift in the way we think about technology and young children. We encourage educators to be more thoughtful about their use of technology making sure all technology is developmentally appropriate.

**Coordinator of  
Conferences and  
Exhibits**

Cultivating Wonder Teacher Camp

Teachers come to an actual camp and over the weekend they take part in workshops making STEM and loose parts related materials that they will take back to their classroom, retreat activities such as hikes, and adventures are planned.

<https://www.cultivatingey.com/loose-parts-revolution-camp>

Technology for the Early Years Conference

Co-creator of this conference, which was a collaboration between the Erikson Institute, Columbia College, and Catherine Cook School. The focus was on hands-on developmentally appropriate use of technology with young children.

Hawkins Exhibit: Cultivate the Scientist in Every Child in Chicago

Coordinated a multi-agency effort to bring the exhibit to Chicago.

<http://www.hawkinscenters.org/blog/messing-about-with-steam-in-chicago>

**Publications  
And Other  
Creative Works**

Guest Editor, Exchange Magazine Special Edition on Reggio-Inspired Practice in the United States. Publication date Dec. 2021. Recruiting and editing 10 articles from Early Childhood Educators around the United States and Reggio Emilia, Italy.

Fowler A. (2020). Finding our Way Forward with Remote Learning, Exchange Magazine, 42(254) 4.

Fowler, A. (2020). Using Technology as a Learning Tool for Nature Explorations, *Exchange Magazine*, March/April 2020.

Nimmo, J., Fowler, A., Goya, V. (2018). Voices of children: Intercultural collaborations in understanding and documenting the meaning of children's rights through dialogue and video. In Akpovo, S.M., Moran, M.J., & Brookshire, R. (Eds) Collaborative Cross-cultural Research Methodologies in Early Care and Education Contexts. Taylor Francis Routledge. Abingdon, UK

Fowler, A. (2017). Practicing technology explorations in the early childhood classroom. *Exchange Magazine*, 39(237) 40-42.

Paciga, K.A., Fowler, A., & Quest, M. (2018). [Constructing preservice teachers' knowledge of technology integration](#). In M. Khosrow-Pour (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Information Science and Technology*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition (Vol. , pp. 7623-7634). Hershey, PA: IGI Global. doi: 10.4018/978-1-5225-2255-3.ch663

Fowler, A, Tertell, L, Flynn-Rambo, & Peterson, J. (2016) Supporting children's understanding and articulation of rights: helping children find their voice. *Childhood Education*. 92 (3) 184-188.

Greenwald, M., Fowler, A., Graham, K. & Boulton, P., (2016) Images of rights- children's perspective project, *Exchange Magazine*, March/April.

Fowler, A. (2016). Valuing Children's Right for Time. *Exchange Magazine*. July/August.

Puerling, B. & Fowler, A. (2104). Innovative tools for teachers and teaching. Technology and Digital Media for the Early Years. London: Routledge.

Fowler, A., Authentic Assessment, Online article for Experience Early Learning 2012. (temporarily unavailable online, during website reworking, the company can provide a printed version)

Fowler, A., childFOLIO (iPad application), I developed and application for authentic assessment, which is currently in its final development

Fowler, A., SPARKLE Approach on the ILPRC Website, Fall 2008. Primary author of the Early Childhood sections of the Illinois Parent Information Resource Center website.

## Workshops and Presentations

- Fowler, A., SPARKLE Materials, A guide for parents that supports their engagement in children's learning. I was the primary author and supervisor of contributing writers.  
Technology as a tool for Learning in Nature  
Nature Explore Conference, 2019 **Invited Speaker**
- Collaborative Consulting; working with school leaders  
Professional Leadership Institute, 2019 **Presenter**
- Creating Effective Online Learning Communities  
Professional Learning Institute, 2018 **Presenter**
- Technology for Young Children  
Macao China, 2018  
Topic: using technology as a tool for learning with young children **Invited Keynote**
- Innovations in Educational Technology; A Shark Tank  
Macao China, 2018  
Topic: panelist review and gave feedback to new technology ideas with young children **Invite Panelist**
- Supporting Authentic Assessment Workshops  
Chengdu Providence, China, 2017  
Topic: Supporting Chinese teachers in using authentic assessment. **Invited Presenter**
- Creating Online Learning Community  
International Step by Step Association (ISSA) Belgium, 2017  
Topic: creating an online learning community that can support competent systems. **Presenter**
- No Small Matter: Featured Session  
National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) Mobile, AL 2017  
Topic: Moderated a panel discussion around the development of an upcoming documentary that included brain development content. **Invited Moderator**
- Technology a Tool for Learning-Pop-up Workshop  
World Forum Foundation, New Zealand, 2017  
Topic: Hands-on workshop demonstrating a constructivist approach to working with technology and young children. **Presenter**
- Progressive Education Seminar Series  
Held through Erikson Institute, 2016, 2017  
Topic: introduction and advanced seminar series (3 sessions each) on Progressive Education and the Reggio Emilia Approach. **Invited Facilitator**
- Reggio Emilia Webinar  
Hosted by Erikson Institute, 2017  
Topic: Co-created with Reggio Children on the documentation process in Reggio Emilia Italy. **Moderator**
- Town Square Learning Modules  
Hosted on the Town Square site, 2016-2017  
Topic: developed multiple in-depth online modules on the learning environment and the use of technology. **Presenter**
- Town Square Webinars  
Hosted at Erikson Institute, 2016-2017  
Topics; moderated or was the key speaker on multiple webinars on topics including managing the early childhood environment, technology with young children, and using technology to communicate with families.  
<http://townsquareil.org/grow/> **Moderator/Presenter**
- Technology as a tool for Communications  
World Forum Foundation, New Zealand, 2017  
Topic: Moderated an international panel on the use of technology as a tool for communication within the field of education. **Invited Moderator**

**Workshops and Presentations (Cont.)**

Creating Online Resources fro Family Child Care

**Presenter**

National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC), San Diego, CA 2016

Topic: supporting family child care through an online resource.

Creating an Online Learning Community

**Presenter**

Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI), San Juan, Costa Rico 2016

Topic: the process of developing and online learning community.

Tech Talks and Working Group Coordinator

**Invited Moderator**

World Forum Foundation 2014, Puerto Rico

Topic: Moderated and coordinated 10 presenters on technology and its use with young children.

Children's Rights Documentary Panelist

**Invited Panelist**

World Forum Foundation 2014, Puerto Rico

Topic: Spoke on a panel of participants who were taking part in the Children's Voices Documentary.

Helping Children Find Their Voice

**Invited Presenter**

Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI) 2014

Presented with co-presenters form Glynwr University, Wales on current initiative in Wales and in Chicago that address Children's Rights.

Children's Rights Initiatives

**Invited Presenter**

Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI), Vancouver, 2014

Topic: Presented with co-presenters from OMEP and Glynwr University, Wales on current initiative and organizations perspectives of children's right from a global perspective

Get Animated

**Featured Presenter**

Technology for the Early Years 2013

Topic: Making literacy connections with animation apps on an iPad

Using Technology to Support Assessment

**Featured Panelist**

Technology for the Early Years, 2012.

Topic: Demonstrated how an app developed for iPad can support authentic assessment in the classroom.

Authentic Assessment and Standards Based Learning

**Invited to presenter**

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) 2012

Topic: Spoke about how we connect authentic learning to formalized assessment.

Authentic Assessment and Technology

**Invited to presenter**

Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI)2012

Topic: Spoke about how to connect authentic assessment to formalized assessment using iPad technology.

Assessment for the Future

**Invited to presenter**

Opening Mind Conference 2011

Topic: Spoke about how to adapted more formalized forms of assessment using technology. The presentation focused on an assessment system I developed am and piloted in schools throughout the country.

Technology in Education Panel,

**Invited to presenter**

World Forum on Early Care and Education, Hawaii, 2011,

Topic: Panelist on an international panel of technology educators.

Innovative Teacher Education Panel,

**Invited to Presenter**

World Forum on Early Care and Education, Hawaii, 2011

Topic: Presented on an international panel of innovative teacher education programs.

Home/School Connections: Creating Space for Parents,

**Invited to Presenter**

Chicago Public Schools and Head Start Professional Development Series 2011

Topic: Facilitated a series of workshops on parent engagement.

<b>Workshops and Presentations (Cont.)</b>	<u>Home/School Connections: Valuing Families,</u> <b>Present</b> Chicago Public Schools and Head Start Professional Development Series 2011 Topic: Facilitated a series of workshops on parent engagement based.	<b>Invited to</b>
	<u>Home/School Connections: Positive Communication and Collaborations</u> Chicago Public Schools and Head Start Professional Development Series 2011 Topic: Facilitated a series of workshops on parent engagement.	<b>Invited to Presenter</b>
	<u>Home/School Connections: Co-Constructors of Knowledge,</u> Chicago Public Schools and Head Start Professional Development Series 2011 Topic: Facilitated a series of workshops on parent engagement.	<b>Invited to Presenter</b>
	<u>Home/School Connections: Valuing Families,</u> Chicago Public Schools and Head Start Professional Development Series 2010 Topic: Facilitate a series of workshops on parent engagement Families.	<b>Invited to Presenter</b>
	<u>Home/School Connections: Creating Space for Parents,</u> Chicago Public Schools and Head Start Professional Development Series 2010 Topic: Facilitated a series of workshops on parent engagement based on the SPARKLE program. Environments.	<b>Invited to Presenter</b>
	<u>Supporting Parent Engagement</u> CAEYC Conference 2010 Topic: Workshops on parent engagement based on valuing families.	<b>Invited to presenter</b>
	<u>SPARKLE Workshop,</u> Columbia College Chicago, IL, 2008. Topic: This workshop showcased the SPARKLE approach to early childhood parent involvement.	<b>Keynote</b>
	<u>Supporting Documentation, SPARKLE Workshop</u> Columbia College Chicago, 2008. Topic: Presented in collaboration with Dori Jacobsohn, a consultant from Visual Thinking Strategies. Focused on tools to improve teacher reflections that support documentation in the classroom.	<b>Presenter</b>
	<u>Early Childhood Parent Involvement,</u> Illinois Title One Conference, Chicago, IL 2008 Topic: Presented on the efforts of the Illinois Parent Information Resource Center to support Early Childhood Parent involvement throughout the state of Illinois.	<b>Presenter</b>
	<u>Early Childhood PIRC,</u> Opening Minds Conference, Chicago, IL 2008 Topic: Childhood Parent Involvement model created for the Illinois Parent Information Resource Center a federally funded grant program awarded to Columbia College Chicago.	<b>Presenter</b>
	<u>Engaging Young Children,</u> Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Fall 2006. Topic: lead a workshop for museum volunteers. Focused on how to engage young learns in activities that volunteers were doing in the early childhood areas of the museum.	<b>Presenter</b>
	<u>Making Standards Part of the Curriculum,</u> Great Lakes Regional Child and Youth Programs, Spring 2005. Topic: lead a workshop for teachers, curriculum coordinators, and administrators on how to use Illinois and national standards in planning curriculum.	<b>Presenter</b>
	<u>Making Connections for Success,</u> NPC Youth Programs Training, San Diego, CA 2004. Topic: to an international audience on need to work with other programs in the Navy.	<b>Presenter</b>
	<u>Making Parents Our Partners,</u> Riding the Waves of Change Conference, Orlando, FL 2005.	<b>Presenter</b>

Topic: the necessity of involving parents in early childhood and school age programs. Focused on ways to bring parents into the process, and ideas of how to make parent involvement teams work.

**Service to  
Community**

Member, Conference Planning Committee,  
Co-Chair workshop committee  
National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)  
2017/18

Volunteer Workshop Leader, The Collaboration for Early Childhood  
Led workshop for Directors

Invited Working Group Member,  
NAEYC Power to the Profession Working Group  
Working with national colleagues to create a national framework for Early Childhood Educators  
2017-2018

Invited Policy Reviewer  
Chicago Children's Museum Technology Policy  
2016

Invited Advisory Board Member,  
Wonder Works Children's Museum

Co-Chair, Technology Track and Children's Rights  
World Forum Foundation  
2011-2020

Elected Faculty Senator,  
Columbia College Chicago  
2014-2014

Co-Chair Hawkins Exhibit Committee,  
This group worked toward bringing the Hawkins exhibit, an inquiry-based math and science exhibit, to Chicago fall 2014.

Wonder of Learning: The 100 Languages of Children Committee  
Member of the team that brought the Wonder of Learning: The 100 Languages of Children Exhibit to Chicago. 2010.

**Recognition,  
Awards, Honors**

Invited Keynote Speaker, for the World Forum Foundation, speaking on appropriate technology use with young children.

Invited Participant, Symposium on Early Education at the University of Colorado Denver. One of only 20 educators chosen to participate in this symposium with renowned Educational Leader and President of Reggio Children Carline Rindadi and renowned Anthropologist Mary Catherine Bateson. 2014

Invited Delegate World Forum Foundation Working Group on Children's Rights  
Only 15 delegates were chosen for their expertise and leadership in this area of study from around the world. The first leadership meeting was held in Norway Summer 2012

Invited Peer Reviewer  
National Head Start Conference 2012

Nominated for an Excellence in Teaching Award  
by Dr. Carol Ann Stowe, Director of the Joan and Irving Harris Center for Early Childhood Education, 2008.

"Best Child and Youth Programs in the Navy" Award, 2006.

Recognized for "Outstanding Contributions to the Navy", from the Head of Navy Child and Youth Programs (CYP), Washington D.C., 2005

## References upon Request