

Annette Muse



Annette Muse has been in the field of Early Childhood Education for over 30 years. She has a background in Special Education, Elementary Education, and Early Childhood Education. She has worked both as a Teacher and as an Administrator. She is currently the Director at the University of California at Santa Barbara Early Childhood Care and Education Services. She oversees a program serving over 200 children 3 months to five years of age. She works closely with families and teachers to ensure a high quality and diverse play based child care program.

Annette currently promotes Learning Stories in the Children's Centers at UCSB. With the ever increasing demands of the accountability movement – quality rating systems, accreditation, performance standards, credentialing – assessments have created an even greater pressure on teachers and program administrators. Learning stories used as narrative documentation for assessment are powerful and one cannot ignore the potential complex contributions to teacher development, family engagement, and the development of the child's identity. Learning stories can be used as a way to bring together heartfelt observation and meaningful intellectual exploration in conjunction with assessment checklists. Annette views Learning Stories as a connection between developing a healthy, self-aware, and curious identity in teachers and the ability to develop that for children.

Annette's overall leadership capacity and values for excellence and quality are embraced in her work with the Children's Center and its families, children and staff. Annette has a breadth and scope of organization participation and leadership roles in Early Childhood Care and Education at local, state and national levels, long-term training of ECE professionals in a variety of areas (childhood assessment, reflective practice and childhood mental health), staff professional development partnership efforts with other education institutions/agencies and volunteerism on workforce and childcare resources in the County. In addition to these contributions to the ECE field, she has proven grant-writing skills, worked with educational and research with the University and has direct expertise in accreditation and licensing.

Annette lives in Santa Barbara, California with her husband and twin sons.