

# Eastern Greene Schools Central Office

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Kelly Padgett, who is the Director of the Early Learning Center at Eastern Greene School, has been awarded a CDA Assessment Scholarship through the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood INDIANA Project, sponsored by the Indiana Association of for the Education of Young Children. Kelly has been in child care for four years. The scholarship will pay a portion of the CDA Assessment fee. As part of the scholarship award program, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood INDIANA will guarantee Kelly a bonus when she receives the CDA Credential awarded by the Council for Professional Recognition. In return, Kelly will make a commitment to remain in Early Childhood Education field for an additional six months.

The T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) Early Childhood INDIANA project serves as an umbrella for a variety of educational scholarship opportunities for people working in licensed, registered, or exempt child care centers and homes in Indiana. In 1998, the Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children (IAEYC) received funding for the Care Fund Board, Inc., a public/private partnership launched in December, 1997 by Governor Frank O'Bannon together with private sector corporate champions. T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood INDIANA projects assists teachers, directors, and family child care providers in continuing their professional development, provides increased compensation with more education, and requires that participants remain in early childhood for a year following the receipt of the scholarship.

Children are the main beneficiaries. They are able to bond with a provider who has made a commitment to the field, who is a specialist in early childhood education, who understands child development, and who is sensitive to the needs of families.