

Who is Jenna- One Voice



Jenna was born and raised on the southside of Racine, Wisconsin and attended Racine Public Schools Grades K-12. She lived in Madison, Wisconsin for seven years and currently resides in Milwaukee, Wisconsin for the past 15 years. She earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Educational Studies with a concentration in Early Childhood Education from, The University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. She earned Masters in Curriculum and Instruction from National Louis University in Chicago, IL.

She has collaborated with Childcare Resource and Referral Agencies throughout the state of Wisconsin and The

University of Wisconsin Platteville developing Early Childhood curriculum with an emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Jenna is a Cultural Humility Trainer and an Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) Qualified Administrator, providing coaching to increase intercultural competence for individuals, teams, and organizations. As the former Wisconsin Registry Professional Development Coordinator, she supported content and delivery of professional development, training approval, and credentialing. In her current role at The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, as a Program and Policy Analyst Advanced within the Bureau of YoungStar (BOY), creates, refines, and administers statewide Early Care and Education (ECE) and school-age care quality improvement initiatives. She is also a University of Wisconsin Whitewater Adjunct Instructor, specifically supporting Early Childhood providers, educators, and facilitators on diversity and related topics.

Through her personal and professional experiences, Jenna further developed her concern for diversity, equity, and inclusion in Early Childhood Education settings. The overriding question became, "How can I help ECE professionals in all systems and the ECE workforce respect one another across our differences and then model this for the children and families we serve?" Jenna has been and will continue to use her voice as a vehicle to push toward establishing better standards for diverse, equitable, inclusive, and intentional practices and policies in Early Childhood Education. This work is not only her profession, but also a personal commitment.

Jenna lives by these five principles:

- *Every day live, honestly, faithfully, and truly.*
- *To help not harm.*
- *Be kind to others.*
- *Follow up and follow through.*
- *Always look to be of service, instead of being served.*

*She believes when there is a **culturally responsive** mindset interwoven with the practice of **cultural inclusion**, the approach will be grounded in **cultural humility**. Applying a cultural humility approach will aid in creating more Early Childhood Education system-wide and family partnerships, relationship building, and forming community connections.*

Jenna continues to pursue more effective ways to encourage willingness and commitment from ECE professionals to put change into practice.