



Tara Dwyer, M.Ed., is a career-long early educator who proudly serves in the role of Registered Apprenticeship Programs Director at Early Care & Education Pathways to Success (ECEPTS). Ms. Dwyer has an extensive background in maximizing educator effectiveness through coaching and mentoring, diversity, and inclusion culture, and modernizing professional development systems at local and state levels. Her career started in a toddler classroom in Philadelphia, PA, but her curiosity and drive to improve conditions for early educators and the children they serve, has brought her to various roles. In the Philadelphia region, Ms. Dwyer served as a professional development instructor and program manager for the Delaware Valley Association for the Education of Young Children (now known as First Up) for almost 10 years. During that time, she developed and coordinated the mentoring and coaching component that supplemented the first Early Care & Education (ECE) Degree-based Apprenticeship in the United States. Since then, Ms. Dwyer worked at the state level in Pennsylvania and oversaw the redesign of the ECE Career Pathway, expansion of registered ECE apprenticeship, and the startup of a \$13 million-dollar ECE professional development system rebuild that focused on expanding access to relevant, accessible credit bearing professional pathways for early educators. Experienced in cross-sector alignment, developing shared vision, and increasing partner alignment, Ms. Dwyer is dedicated to increasing the effectiveness of registered ECE Apprenticeships that advance the recognition of the early childhood educators across the country.

Ms. Dwyer studied Psychology with a focus on learning and motivation at Temple University and later attended Arcadia University where she earned a master's degree, with distinction in Early Childhood Education. In her free time, Ms. Dwyer enjoys long walks in the woods with her pups and spending screen free time with friends and family. Ms. Dwyer travels regularly, enjoys the wild and has visited 23 National Parks.

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