



## Early Childhood Educator Workshop

# I'll Bring the Joy: Finding Purpose, Passion, and Peace in Early Childhood Education



Featuring Dr. Nefertiti Poyner  
*Saturday, March 14, 2026*



**Thank you to our sponsors: Indian River  
County Children's Services Advisory  
Committee, Vero Beach Museum of Art,  
and PNC**



# Dr. Nefertiti Poyner



Dr. Nefertiti Poyner is a nationally recognized speaker, author, and expert in early childhood education and educator well-being. She earned her undergraduate degree from Virginia State University, her master's degree from Chestnut Hill College, and her doctoral of education degree from Walden University. With a career spanning over two decades, she's on a mission to help those who care for children rediscover their purpose, build resilience, and lead with joy.



For 24 years, Nefertiti served with distinction at the Devereux Center for Resilient Children, where she helped shape national conversation around social-emotional learning, staff retention, and trauma-responsive education. After nearly a quarter-century of service, she followed a divine nudge to launch **Mighty Works Education Group** in 2025, a consulting and professional development firm devoted to strengthening “the village” – the educators, caregivers, and leaders who nurture young children from birth through third grade.

Nefertiti is the author of *She Knows What She's Doing*, co-author of *Building Your Bounce: Simple Strategies for a Resilient You* (2nd Edition), and *Socially Strong, Emotionally Secure*. Her work reflects her deepest truth: nurturing joy, resilience, and intention in the earliest years.





**I'LL BRING THE JOY:  
FINDING PURPOSE, PASSION,  
AND PEACE IN EARLY  
CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

*Joy is Always There*

**QUIET THE NOISE.  
REALIGN THE WORK.  
RECLAIM YOUR WHY.**

*The Work You Love  
and the Life You Live*

**BRINGING THEM  
BACK INTO ALIGNMENT**



*From Reflection  
to Alignment*

**CRAFTING YOUR  
NEXT CHAPTER**

*March 14, 2026*

*A Message from  
Dr. Nefertiti Poyner*



Dear Colleague:

I'm so glad you're here.

My name is Dr. Nefertiti B. Poyner, and for more than two decades, I've walked alongside educators, leaders, and caregivers across the country. I have seen firsthand the beauty and the weight of this work. The long days. The quiet victories. The moments that remind you why you started.

As the founder of Mighty Works Education Group LLC, my mission is clear: to help build systems, spaces, and mindsets where joy is not treated as extra, but as essential.

**I'll Bring the Joy: Finding Purpose, Passion, and Peace in Early Childhood Education** is not about pretending the work is easy. It is about remembering why it matters. It is about choosing alignment over autopilot. It is about reclaiming your why when the noise gets loud and the demands feel heavy.

Joy is not a personality trait. It is a practice.  
Purpose is not a slogan. It is a decision.  
Peace is not passive. It is protected.

In this session, we will reflect, realign, and recommit to the work in a way that feels sustainable and true. Not performative. Not forced. But anchored.

Thank you for showing up with courage. Thank you for staying in the work. And thank you for being willing to say, in your own way, "I'll bring the joy."

With appreciation,



@nefertitipoyner



@nefertitibpoyner



@drnefertitibpoyner



**I'LL BRING THE JOY: FINDING PURPOSE, PASSION  
AND PEACE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

# Agenda

## **THREE-HOUR SESSION LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

BY THE END OF THIS SESSION, PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO:

- IDENTIFY PERSONAL EXPERIENCES OR CORE VALUES THAT CONNECT US TO THEIR PURPOSE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.
- DESCRIBE FOUR MISALIGNMENTS THAT OFTEN DISRUPT PURPOSE, PASSION, AND PEACE IN THE WORKPLACE.
- ANALYZE HOW INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL “NOISE” INTERFERES WITH THEIR ABILITY TO NOTICE AND SUSTAIN MOMENTS OF JOY.
- DEVELOP A SIMPLE LISTEN FOR JOY PRACTICE THEY CAN USE TO QUIET THE NOISE AND REALIGN WITH THEIR PURPOSE, PASSION, AND PEACE.

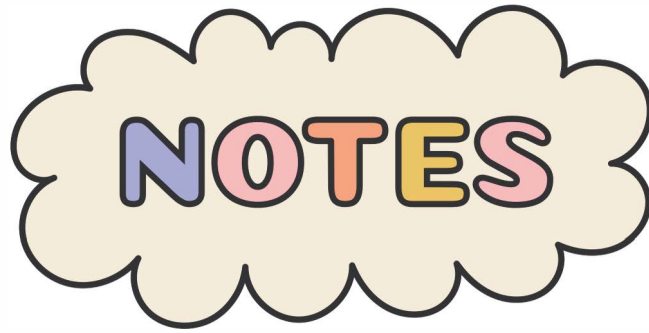
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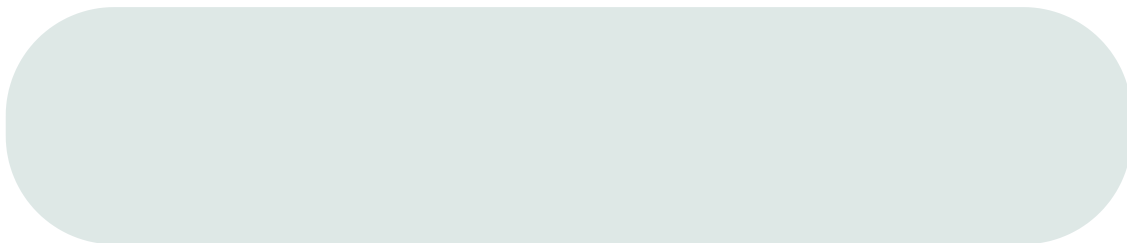
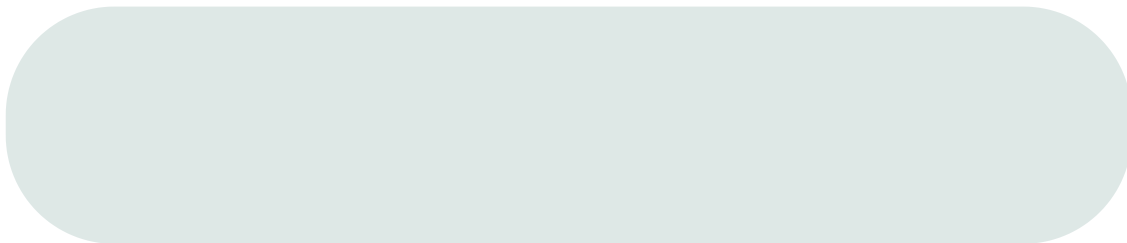
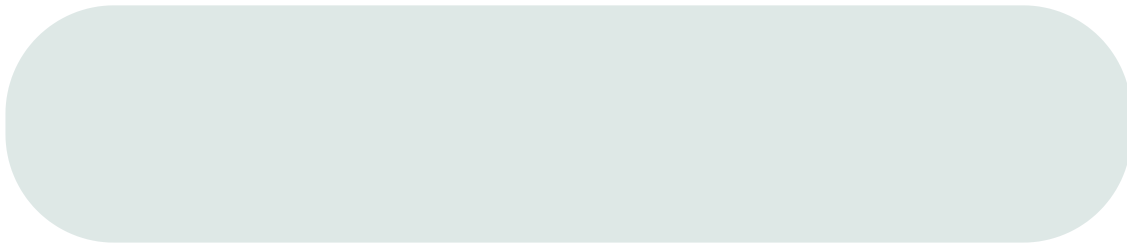
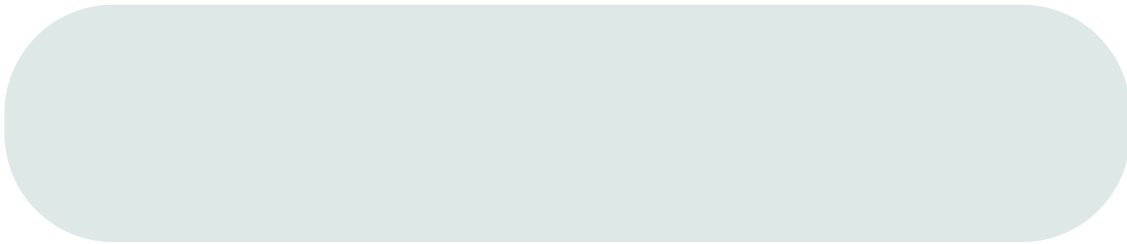
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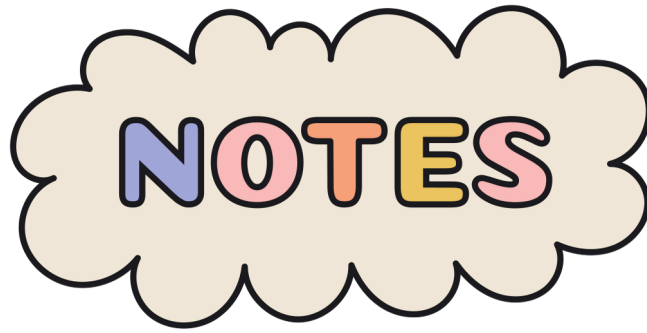




NOTES

**I'LL BRING THE JOY: FINDING PURPOSE, PASSION  
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NOTES

# VALUES ALLOCATION ACTIVITY

*You are walking into your program. You are being asked to prioritize what matters most to you in how you work, lead, and show up.*

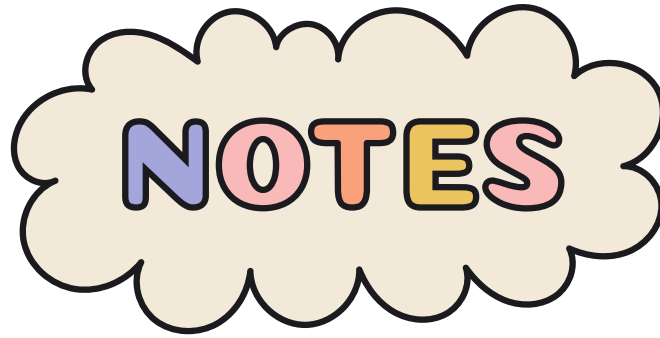
23 values are outlined below. Take a quiet moment to look through all of them. Notice which ones immediately stand out and which ones feel less urgent right now. You'll notice a few blank ADD YOUR OWN spaces on your sheet. You may add your own values if something important to you is not listed. Write in the value and decide how much of your \$100 you want to allocate to it. There are no right or wrong values. You have \$100 to spend.

You may:

- Spend as much or as little as you want on each value
- Spend all your money or hold some back
- Change your mind as you go
- Your choices must total \$100 – you may not go under or over
- Once the \$100 is gone, it's gone.

VALUE	\$
Advocacy for Families	
Belonging	
Being Liked	
Being Seen as Competent	
Confidence in Decision-Making	
Credibility	
Equity	
Financial Security	
Flexibility	
Joy in the Work	
Leaving a Legacy	
Long-Term Impact	
Peace	

VALUE	\$
Professional Respect	
Psychological Safety	
Purpose	
Quality of Care for Children	
Rest	
Staff Well-being	
Supportive Leadership	
Team Trust	
Voice at the Table	
Work-Life Boundaries	
Add Your Own	
Add Your Own	
Add Your Own	



**NOTES**



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@drnefertitibpoyner



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**Early Educators:  
Need help taking your next step?**

**Childcare Resources**

# Higher Education Program

**Stay on track with our mentorship program!**

- Get one-on-one support with registration and financial aid.
- Meet with other local early educators in a supportive cohort.
- Participate in weekly study halls to help you succeed.
- Attend special program-exclusive events.

**New to teaching? Have years of experience?**

**Take the next step in your career by earning:**

- Florida Child Care Professional Credential (FCCPC)
- Director's Credential
- A.S. in Early Childhood Education
- B.S. in Early Childhood Education
- M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction, *Concentration: Early Childhood Education Leadership*
- M.A with Early Childhood Emphasis - Early Childhood Policy Track
- M.A in Early Childhood Practitioner

**Partner Schools Include:**



**Unsure about the financial cost of higher education?**

The Higher Education Program can also help you navigate Florida's Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.) program, helping to pay for your credential or degree, reducing or eliminating your cost.



**Want to know more?**

Visit [ChildcareResourcesIR.org/advance](https://ChildcareResourcesIR.org/advance)

Email Stephanie Harmody: [Stephanie@ChildcareResourcesIR.org](mailto:Stephanie@ChildcareResourcesIR.org)

Email Lisa Gonzalez: [Lisa@ChildcareResourcesIR.org](mailto:Lisa@ChildcareResourcesIR.org)



Funding provided by  
Indian River County Children's  
Services Advisory Committee.

# Coaching for



# Early Childhood Educators



*Collaborate with an experienced educator* | Amanda Gooch, Todd Morrow, Jensen McCord

A Childcare Resources Early Childhood Educator Coach is an empathetic, encouraging, and experienced educator who can help you with curriculum, instructional strategies, program structure, and more! First, you'll identify goals for your classroom or teaching style. Together, you and the coach will discuss strategies to help you reach those goals. After implementing the new strategies, you'll meet with the coach again for feedback.

Build. Work. Strengthen. Implement.

- Build on your strengths as a teacher or director
- Work toward achieving your classroom or school goals
- Strengthen relationships with staff and families
- Implement ideas and strategies from professional development workshops

## Contact A Coach To Get Started!

Scan the QR code or  
call 772-567-3202 ext. 114



Funding in part provided by  
Indian River County  
Children's Services  
Advisory Committee.





# Childcare Resources of Indian River

***Do you know a family struggling to pay the cost of childcare?***

Childcare Resources offers affordable tuition assistance for families with children ages 6 weeks to 5 years who live in Indian River County, work or attend school full-time (30+ hours/week), and meet income requirements.

## High-Quality Early Education

- Developmentally Appropriate Practice-based classrooms for students 6 weeks through 5 years
- All program sites are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

## Family Wellness Resources

- Students are assessed twice annually to monitor progress toward developmental milestones
- On-site physical, occupational, and speech therapy services are available with a referral from the child's pediatrician
- Early childhood mental and behavioral health services are provided on-site

## Family Support

- Parent engagement opportunities on early childhood education and development as well as other topics geared toward child and family success
- Case management services for resources and referrals



**Courage** - We are dedicated to elevating Early Childhood Education programs to benefit children and families in Indian River County.

**Compassion** - We treat all people with empathy and sensitivity, seeking a greater understanding of the challenges of the families we serve.

**Resilience** - We strive to instill hope and self-reliance in all stakeholders helping our students to thrive

**Integrity** - We have a unified belief that fairness, trust, and honesty are essential to sustaining successful relationships and to achieving results.

**Relationships** - We believe that fostering relationships are essential to empower our students and families to grow and flourish.

Scan To



Apply Today!

For more information, call  
772-567-3202 or visit  
[ChildcareResourcesIR.org](http://ChildcareResourcesIR.org)

Funding provided by:



Indian River County  
Children's Services  
Advisory Committee





# Thank You for Attending!



## Childcare Resources Mission:

To elevate and promote the highest quality early childhood development and education in Indian River County, focusing on economically challenged children and families.

