

# JAYLYN C. BURTON, PHD

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## SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Passionate early childhood educator, advocate, program director, and community leader with over fifteen years of combined experience positively impacting the lives of young children and families.
- Expertise in designing high-quality learning environments that support whole-child development, empowering families, and advocating for policies and funding at the state and local levels to strengthen and support child development.
- Recognized for advocacy work on impacting state legislation to expand access and affordability of pre-K education and improving program quality through strengthening the state's Early Learning Standards.
- Extensive knowledge of current research on best practices in early childhood education.
- Volunteer, presenter, event organizer, leader and mentor actively engaging in professional associations (NAEYC, MDAEYC) and community organizations (PTA Council, Urban League, Boys and Girls Club) on behalf of children, families, and community members.

## SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

**Civic Engagement:** Event coordination, group facilitation, leadership, public speaking, active listening, program development, community partnerships.

**Early Childhood Education:** Child advocacy, parent education, curriculum development, assessments, classroom management, policies and procedures, mentoring.

**Technology:** Interactive media, interactive white boards, learning management systems, digital cameras to document child's progress, video conferencing systems, Microsoft Office 365.

**Language:** Spanish (intermediate)

## EDUCATION

### PhD in Education, Specialization in Early Childhood Leadership and Advocacy

Walden University | Minneapolis, MN

May 2025

Dissertation topic: The impact of advocacy at the state level on early childhood policies and funding.

### MS in Developmental Psychology, Specialization in Child and Adolescent Development

Walden University | Minneapolis, MN

2018

### BS in Interdisciplinary Educational Studies

Morgan State University | Baltimore, MD

2014

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Program Director

Holding Hands | Baltimore, MD

Mar 2021 - Present

Holding Hands is a nonprofit organization that seeks to build supportive, nurturing relationships between children, parents, and professionals based on evidence-based practices.

- Develop and implement strategic initiatives, including advocacy with local foundations, to expand Holding Hands' outreach and strengthen its positive impact on families, caregivers, and professionals.
- Manage and supervise a team of eight highly skilled early childhood educators and human development experts.
- Increased the total number of children, parents, and professionals receiving support from 25 to 48 within 18 months through outreach efforts and collaborations with early childhood and social service organizations.
- Strengthened community connections by adding three annual fundraising events that included opportunities to share the impact of Holding Hands and advocate for additional resources resulting in a \$65,000 increase in donations.
- Lead small group workshops where parents can discuss parenting challenges and develop strategies for positive growth.
- Added virtual parenting course options resulting in a 30% increase in annual enrollment.

### Founder, Director

Creative Wingspan Early Childhood Learning Center | Baltimore, MD

Aug 2016 - May 2020

Creative Wingspan is a nonprofit organization that provided an enriched, safe, learning environment to foster the emotional, social, physical, and cognitive growth of young children ages two to five.

- Engaged and nurtured children's natural curiosity through customized curriculum and learning activities that integrated art, music, acting, games, reading, storytelling, mathematical reasoning and outdoor play.
- Managed one administrative assistant and three early childhood educators serving 28 families; led in-service training sessions on teaching strategies and communicating with parents. Reported monthly to the Board of Directors.
- Collaborated with parents on strategies to support their child's development and well-being.
- Created monthly parent round-table discussions on topics related to early childhood development. 95% of parents indicated that the sessions had a direct impact on improving their parenting skills.

## **ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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### **Preschool Teacher, Childcare Provider, Parent Educator**

Bright Star Early Childhood Learning Center | Baltimore, MD

2012 - 2016

### **Administrative Assistant, Tutor, and Group Learning Facilitator**

Mathematics U | Baltimore, MD

2010 - 2012

## **VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

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### **Event Organizer**

Walden Community Action Network (WeCAN!) | Online

2023 - Present

- Organized a virtual program using the Walden Change Action Network (WeCAN) platform and recruited five volunteers.
- Partnered with a local nonprofit organization to provide a college readiness mentoring session for eight high school youth.
- Facilitated a Zoom meeting with breakout rooms for participants and volunteers.

### **Presenter and Event Organizer**

Greater Baltimore Urban League | Baltimore, MD

2021 - Present

- Contributed to three podcast presentations on the topic of early childhood development.
- Provide college readiness mentoring sessions for high school youth and parents.
- Organize an annual college tour for high school juniors and parents and facilitate follow-up discussions.

### **Committee Chair and Event Coordinator**

Parent Teacher Association Council | Baltimore, MD

2020 - Present

- Chair the Advocacy and Legislation Committee.
- Track and share information on federal and state legislation related to education.
- Collaborate with the Maryland Family Network to coordinate the annual Advocacy Day at the State Capitol to advocate for strong Pre-K education and quality programming.

### **Green Space Gardner, Advocate, and Presenter**

Baltimore Green Space | Baltimore, MD

2016 - 2022

- Contributed to the care and preservation of community forest patches, pocket parks, and gardens through caring for plants and organizing volunteers.
- Advocated for local government policies that support the development and preservation of green spaces.
- Presented two workshops on how to start a community vegetable garden.

### **Childcare Provider**

The Family Tree | Baltimore, MD

2015 - 2018

- Supported parents who needed unexpected or emergency assistance by providing childcare.
- Co-facilitated free parenting courses to help parents create nurturing environments for their children.

### **Soccer Coach**

Boys and Girls Club | Baltimore, MD

2012 - 2015

- Coached a 3rd and 4th grade girls' soccer team.
- Taught soccer skills and rules, fostered teamwork, and engaged assistant coaches to create a fun and supportive environment.

## **CERTIFICATIONS AND TRAINING**

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**Adult and Pediatric CPR and First Aid Certification - Recertified 2025**

American Red Cross

**Certified Childcare Provider (CCP) - Active**  
National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA)

**Child Development Associate Certification (CDA) - Active**  
Council for Professional Recognition

**Certified Life Coach, International Coach Federation (ICF) - 2023**  
International Coach Federation (ICF)

**Preschool Certificate (90-Hour Training) - 2012**  
Baltimore City Community College

## **SELECT PRESENTATIONS**

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Panelist, (2024). *The Use of Digital Learning Tools in the Early Childhood Classroom*, Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children (MDAEYC), Baltimore, MN

Panelist, (2023). *Advocating for Early Childhood Resources at the State Level*, Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children (MDAEYC), Baltimore, MN

Burton, J. (2022). *The Foundation for Lifelong Mental Health Starts in Early Childhood*, presented at the annual conference of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Chicago, IL.

## **AFFILIATIONS**

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**Member**  
Kappa Delta Phi, Walden Chapter 2022 - Present

**Member**  
National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) 2016 - Present

- Mentor, (2023-present)
- Event Organizer, (2024 Conference Committee)
- Treasurer, (2022-2024)
- Conference Presenter (2022)

**Member**  
Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children (MDAEYC) 2014 - Present

- Board Member (2024)
- Panel Presenter (2023, 2024)
- Blog Contributor (2022)

**Member**  
Student Life Leadership Council - Walden University 2024

**Member**  
Virtual Fulbright Chapter - Walden University 2023 - 2025

**Member**  
Divine Nine Alliance - Walden University 2022 - 2025