



***Do you know someone who is making a difference in the lives of young children and is dedicated to Early Childhood Education? We want to hear from you!!***

Berkeley County First Steps wants to recognize an outstanding Early Childhood Educator who demonstrates exemplary early childhood education practices, and a commitment to giving children the best possible start in life.

***Who is eligible?***

- Nominees must provide care and education to 0 -4 year old's in Berkeley County.
- Nominees should provide hands-on direct education and care for at least 20 hours per week at a child care home, or center.
- Nominees must have at least 3 years of experience, and still be teaching at the time of the nomination.
- Nominees should demonstrate they have completed training in ECE via a degree, or certificate.

***What do winners receive?***

- The First Place candidate will receive a Fire HD 10 Tablet, a \$100 Visa gift card, and a \$500 scholarship for use towards trainings, or conferences.
- Two honorable mention candidates will receive Fire HD 10 Tablets, and \$50 Visa gift cards.
- All candidates will receive Certificates of Recognition at our Recognition Ceremony.

***Who can nominate?***

Parents, fellow educators, and center directors

***How do I nominate an Early Childhood Educator?***

Complete the attached nomination form, and submit with the supporting documentation to Berkeley County First Steps. All information may be submitted by fax (843-863-3028), email (berkeleyfirststeps@hotmail.com), or by mail: BCFS, Attn: Rm 114, 6215 Murray Drive, Hanahan, SC, 29410. **Nominations must be received no later than: April 27, 2018**

***Announcement of Winners:*** Winners will be notified in May, and awards will be presented at our Recognition Ceremony on June 2, 2018 at the Children's Museum of the Lowcountry.

Berkeley County First Steps Award for Excellence in Early Childhood Education  
2018 Nomination Form

A. Nominee Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact information: (Phone/Email): \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Qualifications: \_\_\_\_\_

Professional affiliations: \_\_\_\_\_

Years of service in preschool:

Name of Center	Position Held	Duration

B. Nominator Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

C. Nomination Text:

Provide a detailed write-up which includes the qualities of the nominee that demonstrate they excel in the following areas:

support of child development, innovation and creativity in addressing each child's unique needs, partnership with families and the community, and professional behavior and leadership in the field  
( A nomination writing tip sheet is attached.)

D. Supporting documents:

In addition to the Nomination Text, please provide at least two other letters of support.

- Letters may come from parents, students, peers, supervisors, or professional associations.
- Letters must be signed by the writer, and include contact information.
- Letters should provide evidence of the nominee's excellence in the above categories.
- Optional: Videos, and photographs may be attached.

E. Signatures:

I, the nominator, hereby affirm that all the information contained in this nomination package is, to the best of my knowledge, complete and correct and that the nominee upholds the highest standards of the ECE profession.

Signature of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Nomination Writing Tips***

You may choose to explain how the educator demonstrates some of the following:

### Support of child development:

- Provides opportunities for authentic learning through quality interactions
- Uses developmentally appropriate best practices
- Captures and maintains children's interest, and explores new of different ideas with them
- Encourages children's participation, and offers warm and caring responses
- Treats all children equitably and with respect

### Innovation and Creativity:

- Recognizes and adapts to children's special needs (including physical, emotional, social, cognitive, and creative needs)
- Recognizes and includes diverse economic, cultural, linguistic and regional perspectives in the learning environment
- Incorporates events and activities occurring in the children's lives into the classroom
- Respects and promotes children's home language and cultural heritage

### Partnership with parents, and the community:

- Has an open, cooperative, and respectful relationship with parents and children
- Engages families in center events, and classroom learning
- Uses community as a resource to enrich children's learning and to support families
- Develops and maintains relationships with others in the early childhood education field such as with colleagues or local organizations

### Leadership and Professionalism:

- Maintains high professional standards and ethics
- Engages in reflective practices
- Remains aware of updated policies and practices
- Fosters the development of a team environment within their own school and promotes respect for all members
- Provides support to other professionals via mentoring, or training
- Is actively involved in a professional organization related to ECE