



Qianna's Corner

ohioaeyc
An Affiliate of **naeyc**

REFLECTIONS ON WHAT MATTERS MOST:
Practicing Gratitude, Not Just Preaching It



Qianna Tidmore
Executive Director, Ohio AEYC

Issue 2: November 2025

November has arrived, and with it the season of thanksgiving. I'm thinking about the community around this work—and I'm thankful beyond words.

Gratitude isn't just an emotion for me; it's a routine. In early childhood education, we teach children to say "thank you," to notice kindness, and to honor those who nurture them. How often do we pause and do the same in our own lives?

This month, I'm taking that pause. 

I'm grateful for the teachers who show up—every day, even on the hard days—with patience, creativity, and love. You see potential in every child. You celebrate tiny victories. You build spaces where young learners feel secure, valued, and capable. Much of your work happens out of sight, but its impact is felt in every life you touch. I'm grateful for families who entrust us with their most valued blessings. Parenting is demanding work. When you partner with early childhood professionals, you invest in your child's future. Thank you for your trust and your collaboration.

I'm grateful for policy and funding champions who push for the systems children and educators deserve. Whether you testify, write, meet, or simply speak from your own experience—you move the needle. Progress doesn't happen without voices like yours.

I'm grateful for my Ohio AEYC team, Chris Risheill, Lisa Mandelert, Laura Richards and Pam Perrino, and our partners across the state. This is not a one-person show. It takes a village—not only to raise a child, but to serve those who devote themselves to raising children. I'm honored to be in that village with you.

And **I'm grateful** for moments like this—time to gather, reflect, and remember why we do what we do. Early childhood education is more than a job. It's a calling. It's a commitment. It's a community. As we make our way through November, I invite you to practice one small act of appreciation. Thank a co-worker who always has your back. Celebrate a child who finally mastered something they've been working toward. Or simply acknowledge this: you're still standing, still showing up, still making a difference.

Whatever your moment is, hold onto it. Let it fill your cup. And know that you are visible, valued, and loved—not only this month, but every day.

Thank you for all that you do. Thank you for walking alongside me and this special association we love so much. And thank you for allowing me to serve alongside you!

With Love and Empowerment,

Qianna