

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Carolyn Eby

Art Educator at Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center

Role as a D.C. Art Educator

Carolyn Eby is the Art Educator at the Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center (SEEC) and works with infants and students up to age four. Her goals as an educator are to expose students to new materials and encourage them to explore how materials work. She likes inspiring “organized chaos” with her students, and she loves that they understand that “it’s okay to get messy, but within a set environment.”

Working Creatively

In addition to being the Art Educator at SEEC, Carolyn is also a practicing artist and has most recently started her own business teaching art classes at parties throughout the DC region. When asked how she balances everything in her professional and personal practice, she acknowledges that it’s tough, but it’s something she works towards every day. She believes that it’s important for her student to know that she is an artist. Carolyn wants to work on fabrics and textiles with her students and is also looking for art classes to enhance her skills. She pulls inspiration from many sources and brings it all into her role at SEEC.

Looking Ahead

Carolyn is fairly new in her role at SEEC but already has a range of developmental goals for her students! Since she works with such a young age-range, her projects challenge their physical and bi-motor skills, as well as their emotional and social development. However, she exercises caution in doing this, as she knows it can be very easy to frustrate a child. She practices keeping her lessons light and flexible because you should always expect the unexpected.



On Seeking Community

As much as Carolyn designs fun activities to motivate and stimulate her students at SEEC, she is also inspired by them, as they engage with and become curious about the touch and feel of art materials. “I feel like a lot of people underestimate this age group. I feel like they can be so inspiring. Because they don’t see mistakes so much.” In bringing this energy to a larger dialogue in the art educator community, she is interested in seeing more support for educators who work with early childhood audiences. As a natural collaborator, she

is eager to brainstorm new ideas and ways to teach to this age group effectively with a larger cohort of art educators.

Fun Fact!

What art supply would Carolyn be if she could choose? Rubber Cement—it has great qualities. It’s very flexible and fun!