



Jen Ross

ELAC Representation: Parent

Occupation: Mom, Active Community Member

City/Region: Spokane, Eastern WA

Getting to know YOU:

What drew you to early learning?

I am drawn to early because of the children and their families. I feel that it is so very important to have all children able and ready to learn when they enter school and for their family to realize how important their education is and that they have the ability to help and encourage their children to succeed. I love that early learning provides the opportunity to learn through play, by simply having fun being a child doing the things that children love most.

How do you hope to influence a stronger early learning system for Washington?

I would love to encourage an environment where all families felt welcome and realized the value and importance of getting their children enrolled in and attending school each day. If families were in situations where they felt comfortable and welcome regardless of their life situation there might be a better opportunity for their children to regularly attend school. I believe the best way to do this is to create a positive experience early, creating success for all involved.

What was your first job?

The first job I held was that of a dog washer. It was in a little house for a kind lady who loved dogs. Although hot, dirty, and a little bit gross, Dairy Queen was just across the street, so lunch was sweet.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

I have always wanted to be involved in social work of some form.

What is your favorite childhood memory?

It's very difficult to pick one favorite memory. When I think of childhood, my grandma was a huge part of my life since my earliest memories. She was very creative, made each of us special cards and decorations, loves to take me on little local outings, and was wonderful at creating fun new lyrics to well-known songs. My favorite childhood memory is my grandma.

