

BeYOUTiful

the *ECE Professional*

the *Family* **YOU** the *Child*

the *Community*

AECA's intention is to recognize that we are BeYOUTiful by

cultivating **EMPATHY**, striving for **EQUITY**,
providing **EFFECTIVE** experiences, and **EMPOWERING** everyone.



AECA will focus on each of these concepts for three months in 2022.

Empathy January – March

- Reflect on people’s experiences and discover the impact those experiences have on individuals’ lives
- Know better, be better, and do better by all children
- Model the empathetic values we want children to emulate



Equity April – June

- Promote equal opportunity for all - regardless of appearance, beliefs, or background (for example, social group, city, or culture)
- Encourage staff, children, and families to embrace their identities, preferences, and complexities
- Shift thinking, close gaps, change practice, remove policies and systems that create barriers, and create policies and procedures that are inclusive



Effective July – September

- Navigate sensitive subjects with children (for example, race, gender, and injustices); listen to them and let them ask questions; be honest when we don’t know the answer; and look for solutions together
- Investigate and present various child-appropriate experiences to effectively support all differences (for example, expose children to diversity through books, special guests, toys, music, and art)
- Establish a pragmatic approach to promote fairness and respect toward others who may be different from oneself



Empower October – December

- Discuss ways to avoid “the fear of getting it wrong,” which stops us from taking action
- Commit to the ongoing, daily practice of celebrating all people and their differences
- Become agents of change by empowering students, parents, colleagues, and the community

