



Laura J. Johns, Ph.D.

Laura J. Johns, Ph.D., is the Project Director for the National Center on Early Child Care Quality Assurance (NCECQA). NCECQA activities, expertise, and resources support the development and enhancement of innovative, research-based solutions and systems that promote progress toward OCC, state, and territory CCDF Plan goals to produce the best possible outcomes for children. This work includes research analysis, information dissemination, expert review, conference presentations, and on-site technical assistance.

Previous to this role, Dr. Johns was the Project Lead for the State Capacity Building Center (SCBC) Infant Toddler Specialist Network. The ITSN was charged with identifying and sharing state, territory practices and approaches for using CCDF funds to support meaningful and effective infant/toddler center-based care, group care, family child care, and provider and teacher quality improvement and supply-building activities.

Previous to her roles at the National Early Childhood Training and Technical Assistance Centers, Laura was the Early Education Empowerment Zone (E³Z) System Architect and the Quality Initiatives Director at the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL). While at DECAL, Laura oversaw the development of the Georgia Program for Infant and Toddler Care and was the lead architect of Quality Rated, Georgia's tiered quality rating and improvement system.