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Ms. Bendl Smith is the Contract Officer's Representative for the National Center for Preschool Development Birth to Five, which provides technical assistance to state grantees. She also managed the development of the federally operated Early Educator Central Website, a one-stop portal to access existing federally funded coursework that leads to degrees and credentials for infant-toddler teachers, and ChildCare.gov, a national website mandated by Child Care and Development Block Grant to connect families to their state's child care consumer education websites.

Prior to joining Office of Child Care (OCC), Ms. Bendl Smith was the Director of Training and Partnerships at NACCRRRA (now Child Care Aware[®] of America) working with community-based child care quality improvement and fee assistance programs for military families. She also served as the Executive Director of Kentucky's Child Care Resource and Referral State Network working in partnership with the CCDF lead agency to stand up coaching, training, professional development counseling, and consumer education programs to support Kentucky's child care quality rating and improvement system.

Ms. Bendl Smith holds a Federal IT Project Management and Contract Officer's Representative Credential, a Master of Science degree in Social Work, and a bachelor's degree in policy analysis from the University of Louisville.