

**Kate  
Center Director**



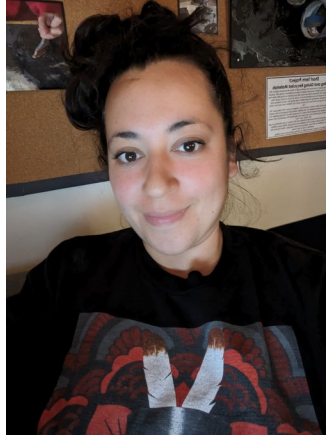
I am the Executive Director but my journey at the World Bank Children's Center began in August 2006 as a Director of Education. I have a master's degree in Pedagogy with a specialization in Early Childhood Education. I have completed extensive studies about educational systems in different parts of the world.

I spent over 20 years working in educational field with children and adults. Coming to the World Bank Children's Center has been an exciting opportunity. As a part of the Pedagogical Team, I direct, guide, act as a resource, and support the educational philosophy and pedagogy of the program. Relationship building is an integral part of my work and building bridges between all our constituents – staff, parents, children, across four sites makes that possible.

**“Why did you choose Early Childhood Education as your career?”**

To observe and learn how a little human being grows and thrives is a beautiful experience. Universal qualities of children, such as purity of mind and perceiving things with non-corrupted eyes, serves as a mirror for me to reflect upon myself and what I have lost as an adult.

## Rachel Gordon



My name is Rachel Gordon and I have been working at the World Bank Children's Center since 2011. I have my BA in English from Virginia Commonwealth University and I have 24 credits in Early Childhood Education from Rasmussen College. I've lived all over the world since I'm a Navy brat, with many great childhood memories in Cheltenham, England and Gaeta, Italy. I have lived in the DC area since elementary school. My dad is American, and my mother is Ojibwe. I'm trying to learn the Ojibwemowin language, even though it's one of the hardest languages to learn in the world! I am married to a funny and talented musician, and we have a beautiful daughter together.

### **Why did you choose early childhood education as your career?**

I have always loved the magic seen through the eyes of children. Little things that we overlook are full of wonder in their perspective. I love the questions, the remarks, and the laughter when it comes to working with children. Early Childhood education is a lot of work, but it is rewarding, and I grow to love each individual child every single year. I have been promoted from Teacher to Program Specialist, and now I am so proud to be the Assistant Director of WBCC!

## Atefeh



My name is Atefeh but everyone calls me Ati. I am originally from Iran. I have one son and a lifetime of experience. Over the course of my life, I pursued many careers. Since 2010, I enjoyed caring for infants, toddlers, two's and three-year-old.

I have completed the 90-hour course and have an associate degree in early childhood education.

Before I joined WBCC, I worked for KinderCare in Maryland and gained valuable experience.

### **Why did I Choose Early Education as my career?**

First and foremost, I am very happy to work at the World Bank Children's Center and I look forward to taking care of children. I chose to be a teacher because I like the field of education. Most importantly, I love children and I enjoy working with them. It is my joy and privilege to be elevated to program specialist at WBCC beginning in June 2023.

## **Carmen Simonovis**



My name is Carmen Ana Simonovis, and I bring over 20 years of dedicated experience in working with children to my role. Prior to embarking on my journey in early childhood education, I pursued studies in medical school in Caracas, Venezuela. Since relocating to Washington DC in 1995, I have found immense fulfillment in the field of education.

Throughout my period, particularly during my 18 years at World Bank Children's Center, I have cultivated a profound appreciation for the virtues of patience, flexibility, and love in nurturing young minds. These qualities have served as the cornerstone of my approach, fostering an environment where each child feels valued, supported, and empowered to flourish. I am particularly excited about my educational journey, having earned an associate degree in early childhood education and currently pursuing a BSED in Early Childhood Education, Pk-3, and a Master's in Curriculum Specialist for diverse learners, Pk-3 from George Mason University. These educational achievements have long been a goal of mine, and I am thrilled to be expanding my knowledge and expertise in the field.

### **Why did you choose early childhood education as your career?**

My years of experience at World Bank Children's Center, coupled with my ongoing education, have equipped me with the skills and dedication necessary to continue making a positive impact on the lives of children and families in our community.

