

## Alumni Survey

### Unedited responses to “How would you describe Erikson’s impact on your career?”

- After 40 years, I continue day by day to utilize the combination of knowledge, experience, and deep appreciation of what makes us human in my work. My experience at Erikson was like being planted in rich & fertile soil that supported both my professional personal growth over a lifetime! As I look back over the many stimulating learning experiences I have had throughout my career, it was the training I received at Erikson that most profoundly shaped my professional life
- After I graduated from Erikson Institute in 2008, I have been able to advance my professional career where I work in a more diverse surroundings not only limited to early childhood education, but education in general. In 2008 - 2009, I worked with children with disabilities and provided training for teachers who work with children with disabilities. Afterwards, I worked with the United Nations specialized agency for getting children involved in child labour to go back to school. Now, I am working at the Office of the Vice President of Indonesia, where I work with the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs to reform the policies and implementation of a National Social Assistance program for the Poor Families and Students. I strongly believe that the experiences I had with Erikson when I was doing my Master degree in Child Development have contributed to the path of careers where I am now - for that I am truly grateful.
- Allowed me to get the necessary credential in early intervention and continued to provide continuing education on timely research and strategies. My emotional connection to Erikson remains strong today even 20 years later. It gave me the license and the confidence to work with infants and young children.
- Almost all of the employers that I had since Erikson were very impressed with the brand name of my graduate degree. It also gave me a stronger grasp on the social, emotional and cognitive growth of the children I was working with, as well as more empathy for the families. I think it also made me encourage more strongly my co-workers and employees to seek further education.

- Although I did not stay in the Early Childhood field per se, I worked with children my entire career and the insights I gained at Erikson prepared me to better understand how kids think, feel, and behave.
- Amazing. It has made me a better teacher by helping me understand children
- As a 1973 graduate of Erikson, I cannot imagine having had my career without the Erikson education and continuing Erikson support (including the 1978 program in which I received 25 post-masters credits in early childhood special education.)
- Best professional decision I have made. Erikson has a strong reputation in the field, and I feel prepared me for the work that I do. When hiring at my hospital Erikson graduates are by far the most prepared to understand and provide support to children and families.
- Best thing I could ever have done for myself professionally! Gave me the "why" for "what" I do with young children. Thank you!
- Big
- Challenged me to think about all children, families and caregivers. Provided me with good research, a broad knowledge of the child development field, a hunger for continued learning, the importance of ego strength in the midst of adversity and so much more.
- Child development theory is very well known now and is utilized a lot in my everyday working environment.
- Completely changed my outlook in the field - gave me the foundation I needed to advocate for the families at my center.
- Confirmed, reaffirmed and provided me with invaluable lessons in the field of Early Childhood Education. Certainly bolstered my convictions and gave me a great platform for advocating for appropriate education models in early childhood.
- Deepened work I was already doing. Connected me to a community of like-minded peers, such that I feel way less isolated than I did before (used to be I was the only one in a very big agency operating from this framework - this is still largely true, but now I know who the other people out there are!)
- Erikson had a tremendous impact. It moved me out of a medical adult setting to working with children
- Erikson helped me understand child development in the context of a family, school and community environment.
- Erikson affirmed and grew my passion for work with children and families.

- Erikson allowed me to achieve leadership roles.
- Erikson allowed me to experiment with different methodologies and interventions that best suited the clients and their families. I was better able to understand the families and children without judgment but with the awareness that any intervention that as proposed had to be sensitive and practical in application.
- Erikson allowed me to gain new experiences and expand my professional network. I would not have my job if it weren't for Erikson.
- Erikson allows me to teach at a selective universtiy with a MS. Also, through my networking with Erikson alum I have gotten my best jobs.
- Erikson completely changed the way I approach my work as a teacher of young children. My coursework at Erikson taught me to look at the child as a part of a whole - family, community, culture - and to realize how inexplicably linked those parts are.
- Erikson education and rigors gave me the disciplined work ethic, confidence, and expansive understanding of our global world within which young children are expected to develop and grow. Erikson's impact was significant.
- Erikson enhanced my knowledge of children which has been very important in my career as a therapist.
- Erikson facilitated the opportunity for me to establish and secure my philosophies on critical issues in the field of children and families and highlighted how I can positively impact the lives of children and families today and tomorrow.
- Erikson gave me a strong foundation of knowledge to build my career upon and confidence in my knowledge and skills. I feel I have a unique and well-rounded perspective because of Erikson.
- Erikson gave me a unique perspective on Social Work that not many others share. But outside of the Erikson community, others in my field don't know how to recognize or understand that unique perspective.
- Erikson gave me an opportunity to broaden my view of family systems and theory. It offered me a vision of how to continue my work with families. Erikson also gave me personal insight and a sense of credibility.
- Erikson gave me the confidence to advocate for children. I gained the knowledge to back up what I already understood about children while growing in my understanding of children. It also shattered the perceptions I had of parents and what it means to "be family." Erikson fueled my passion for working with young children. My studies organized my brain in a way

that I can engage in conversation and practice with children and families, as well as colleagues and professionals in the field.

- Erikson gave me the confidence to assume greater leadership roles and to be comfortable in both academic and operational roles.
- Erikson gave me the educational base that I needed to be a knowledgeable and informed professional.
- Erikson gave me the foundation, knowledge and confidence to break into the field of early childhood development at the beginning of my career. It has also provided many opportunities for continuing education and learning.
- Erikson gave me the knowledge and tools I needed to impact my work with children, families and teachers.
- Erikson gave me the skills to understand my own cultural identity and the role culture has in how we relate to others. By teaching me stronger reflective listening skills I'm able to be more successful working in a community that is very different culturally than my own.
- Erikson gave me tools to improve my individual skills, increase my credibility and to network with like minded colleagues.
- Erikson gave the intellectual ability to develop my own concept about what is early childhood education. It gave me the knowledge I needed in child development and in implementing a curriculum that meets all the developmental abilities a child needs to become a great college student and a great citizen.
- Erikson had a huge impact on my career. I work with many families where a lot of them I am teaching parenting skills and child development information.
- Erikson had a positive impact at the beginning of my educational career in early childhood. I was able to move up the ladder, pursue other creative and interesting positions, initiatives and projects.
- Erikson had a strong impact on the quality of my work pre vs. post graduate studies. I am a much better teacher for having gone through Erikson's graduate program.
- Erikson has been the foundation of my professional career working with young children and their families. It has given me a framework from which to teach, work with parents and my coworkers as well as assess my interaction with all of them.

- Erikson has changed the way I view childcare and the professionals in the field overall.
- Erikson has changed the way I view Early Childhood Education and how I work with young children.
- Erikson has had a huge impact on how I interact with children and their families, especially in the area of advocacy for non-English-speaking families. I feel much more confident about why I do the things I do in the classroom, and I can explain my reasoning to parents and others. Erikson has given me a solid, knowledgeable foundation from which I can continue to teach and learn from my students and their families in the years to come.
- Erikson has had a huge impact on my career, both in helping me understand child development from a wholistic point of view and also what collaborative relationships look and feel like.
- Erikson has had a huge impact on my career. I know that most organizations hire you because you come from Erikson. It is looked at as the most powerful school in the early childhood field other than National Louis University. Its a big thing if you come from Erikson (at least that's what I think).
- Erikson has had a huge impact on my professional career, I focus my practice on working with children and parents. My training through Erikson gave me the knowledge and skills necessary to do this. Also, Erikson's reputation is recognized in my professional community.
- Erikson has had an incredibly positive impact on my career. I live on the West Coast and while located far away being an Alum has strengthened my credibility and opened many doors. I've been able to work with Dr. Alicia Lieberman who since being a graduate student has been one of my mentors. I am a Brazleton Touchpoints Trainer in Oakland, CA and have had an opportunity to travel to Boston and meet Dr. Brazleton. Erikson has allowed me to diversify my work and to become a deep thinker.
- Erikson has helped me fine tune my understanding, beliefs and values in the importance of early childhood education. Though I had already been in the field, Erikson help me strengthen my knowledge base of child development as well as ignite my passion for social change and equality in urban education.
- Erikson has helped me understand, on a deeper level, the connection between a child's development and learning.
- Erikson has impacted my life in the following ways:

1. strengthen my knowledge in child/human development
2. prepared me to teach at the college level
3. helped me become a better writer by having a writing tutor
4. gave me confidence to not only teach, but also conduct workshops in Child Development

(series on the brain has really impacted me by wanting to share this knowledge with others)

- Erikson has made a great impact on my career. It has helped me secure jobs and prepared me to work with children and families.
- Erikson has made me see that each child, family and situation is different and deserves to have a fair chance.
- Erikson has not made much impact on my career. I moved back to California and found that my opportunities were very limited and I was not prepared for the market. While many recognized the Institute it didn't seem to hold the same weight as in IL.
- Erikson help me to be a very confident and resourceful teacher and administrator. A person who was always keeping up with what's new in education.
- Erikson helped broaden my perspective on child development -- thus allowing me to serve children and families in the church better.
- Erikson helped me to increased my knowledge my knowledge in child development and also helped me to incorporate my knowledge of child development with advocacy and social work.
- Erikson highly influenced my career choice and prepared me in many ways
- Erikson Institute gave me the cultural foundation to work with a diverse population of families, parents, and children. The knowledge I aquired gave me a well-rounded perspepective of not only cognitive and physical development, but a social emotional cultral driven view of diverse populations.
- Erikson Institute had a positive impact on my career.
- Erikson Institute helped me to understand child development in a deep and meaningful way.
- Erikson made me look at my work from a different perspective. I probably looked at the "development" of the child previous to my education at Erikson. I now look at the "total package" - child, family, environment, community and even myself to determinehow best to work with the child/family. There is not a day that goes by that I do not reflective on some

aspect of my learning. "What would those at Erikson think of this? is a question I hear in my head all the time!

- Erikson made me more insightful into my work with young children and their families. It also made me more self-aware.
- Erikson not only helped equip me with the child development knowledge needed to be successful in Child Life, but it taught me life skills, such as relationship building, self reflection, taught me how to reserve judgement. Erikson pushed me the and time aain to achieve my potential, thus allowing me to thrive in my professional work.
- Erikson opened up the door for me to actually work as an early childhood social worker (which there are few and far between) with Chicago Public Schools through the Dual Degree Program. It gave me the foundation that partnered with social work prepared meto better serve the children and families I have come across. Even now, having moved on to working with older children in the public school system, I still go back to my foundation in child development. I believe it has made me a more well-rounded social orker and it definitely influences my approach in working with my students.
- Erikson prepared me for the interview process when seeking employment. I felt I had a greater understanding of various concepts (cultural competence, working with families, "it depends", etc.) that have come up multiple times during the course of my emploment.
- Erikson prepared me to successfully meet the many challenges involved in working with diverse children and families in a complex and ever-changing educational environment. It gave me a better understanding of the cultural, political, developmental, and srategical factors involved in various elements of education. At Erikson, I gained strategies for effectively addressing these factors in ways that allow me to partner with families and systems to promote my students' success in the classroom and beyond. Erikson's focus on effective relationship-building is critical.
- Erikson prepared me too look at the overall development of children as I worked closely with them and their families.
- Erikson prepared me well to work in the early childhood preschool classroom. The experiences and classroom lessons changed my teaching and I feel much more confidant in myself as a teacher and colleague.
- Erikson provided a framework for me in a diverse and changeable field. It was a conceptual anchor that gave my career a consistency and constancy

- Erikson provided me with an immense amount of knowledge, but more importantly, with a better ability (and greater tendency) to view a child/family in context and think about the enormous variety of factors that may affect an individual child/family, thus allowing me to better respond to that child/family.
- Erikson provided me with the opportunity to understand the inner life of children and how the field of early childhood can better serve children and their families. Erikson allowed me to have a richer experience as a professional and a sense of community among other students and professors.
- Erikson put me on the trajectory for greatness in the field of early childhood.
- Erikson redefined my idea of what careers I was equipped to seek. And I learned about my own personality, the skills I had, and the skills I needed to sharpen so that I would be able to add new opportunities for work and find satisfaction in that work.
- Erikson refreshed and increased my professional knowledge about working with children and families and gave me the confidence to take on new tasks and goals outside my teaching job (ie. consulting, coaching, etc).
- Erikson staff were mentors and supporters of my continued work in assessment strategies of young children.
- Erikson taught me to think and - perhaps more importantly - ask questions like a clinician. It also connected me to a network of professionals that I am proud to be associated with and have as a resource.
- Erikson took my passion for the field and helped me to build a foundation of knowledge and competencies that I have taken into the field and applied in my daily work and interactions with children, families and co-workers.
- Erikson was a life-changing experience. I truly skated through schooling until Erikson. I loved being challenged and really learning deeply within my field.
- Erikson was a wonderful experience for me. The Program's model (and professors) provided the best education that I had received up to that time. As a result I was fully engaged in the program.
- Erikson was critical to my career and its ongoing advancement.
- Erikson was formative in my career. While I no longer work directly with young children, I am a senior administrator in the highest performing network of charter schools in Washington, DC. My Erikson training directly informs the components of our early childhood program.

- Erikson was invaluable to my career as a preschool and Kindergarten teacher. As a lawyer, the primary benefit has been to serve the community (e.g. as an education committee member of a charter school).
- Erikson was the foundation of my career. I had already completed a degree, but Erikson provided something that no other higher education institution did.
- Erikson was where I finally realized that I really wanted to be a teacher. I had been fighting it a bit thinking about working with children and their families in a different way. However, everything I did and became passionate about seemed to lead me to the classroom. Erikson prepared me to be a teacher and gave me the background in child development that is unique to an Erikson educated teacher.
- Erikson's approach to educating professionals was a good enough fit. I thoroughly appreciate the delicate balance that was held between structure and flexibility.
- Erikson's impact on my career has been incredible. I have such a strong foundation in child development theory, that I am constantly finding myself informing others. I work for an organization that provides inclusive childcare as well as early intervention services. My understanding of the early intervention system and infant/toddler assessments allows me to easily understand and juggle these two aspects of my position. The case studies we did in our seminar class helped to shape the way I conduct reflective supervision meetings with those I supervise. My knowledge of working with people from diverse backgrounds has helped me immensely in my day-to-day interactions with families, the ways in which I support families, and the ways in which I have discussions with those I supervise and those by whom I am supervised. My understanding of and experience with the reflective supervision model has absolutely helped me to be a supportive supervisor.
- Erikson's initial impact on my career was pretty significant. I would not be in the position I'm in today as an Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant--especially my Masters degree is Child Development w/Infant Specialization.
- Erikson's reputation of excellence in the field of child development has made me more reputable to employers. The education and internship experience provided me with a deeper understanding of child development, families, cultural diversity and as well as working with various professionals.

- Eriksson, helped me to feel secure in the knowledge I received. I grew both personally and professionally. I am much better in every aspect of my life, for my time at Erikson.
- Even now that I am no longer in the Chicago metro area my Erikson degree has played an important part in my career. The name alone has landed me interviews and provided me with the confidence in my knowledge as an early childhood educator. I know what I learned at Erikson was in the best interest of children and that we have to constantly ask ourselves if we are doing what is right for each individual child.
- Everyone is always very impressed when they learned I attended Erikson - if they don't know what Erikson is, they are impressed once they learn. Others do expect more of me professionally, and are quick to show confidence in my skills.
- Fantastic aspects on cultural influences
- Fantastic. I loved my time at Erikson.
- Gave me a direction.
- gave me a foundation to build upon for my clinical social work work
- Gave me a more holistic perspective on children and families.
- gave me a strong background in child development; working with at risk and culturally diverse population; prepared me for the PhD program in which I'm enrolled now.
- Gave me confidence in my expertise to work with young children and families
- gave me credibility in an area of specialty
- Gave me cultural perspectives
- Gave me insight and knowledge in development context and working with families
- Gave me the confidence in the field to be able to help children and families.
- Gave me the confidence to earn a doctorate. The combination of the Erikson name and my doctorate has opened doors that could have never happened.
- Gave me the opportunity to increase leadership roles.
- Gave me what I was looking for in order to integrate my beliefs with my practices. I knew what I was experiencing in my education classes and in

my teaching didn't fit what I believed was best practice. I came to Erikson to find out.

- Good
- Has helped me be better prepared to defend my beliefs about early childhood education.
- Having a Masters has helped me find employment.
- Helped facilitate a career change.
- Helped get foot in door due to professional credibility
- Helped me be reflective. Instilled a firm understanding of child development and its interconnectivity to family, culture, and society.
- Helped me develop an identity as an early childhood professional and leader.
- Helped me feel more confident and knowledgeable in my roles working with children, knowing their needs as well as those of parents.
- Helped me move forward intellectually and professionally.
- Helped me understand the new research finding about how children learn
- Helped me understand children and their families better.
- Huge in preparing me for my life's work and giving me a strong foundation in meaningful work with children and families. It has also provided me with a clear lens for thinking about the different children and families' experiences that I encounter and reflecting on my role with each child and family and with my colleagues.
- Huge! Erikson gives me a step up above others in the field. Plus I feel like I have a huge wealth of knowledge regarding the EC field.
- HUGE! Erikson expanded my knowledge of child development and family relations. I could'nt be more satisfied.
- Huge. Along with my first job in teaching at a coop preschool. These two places taught me everything I know about young children.
- I am currently involved with the FCCH Specialist Program. I am satisfied with the educational foundation that Erikson and NLU have provided me, but I am currently underemployed and have received a 10% cut in pay.
- I am currently teaching at the college level. It is important to me that the future educators of Early childhood have the passion to work with children as well as the "book" knowledge. What I have learned at Erikson as a

student and alumni, pass along o my students through lecture, articles and personal experience.

- I am very grateful for the child development base Erikson focused on during school. It provided me with a great understanding on the development of a child and how that affects him/her. I also loved the cultural work I did at Erikson, as well as the reflective nature of the courses and internship. It thoroughly prepared me to work with young children.
- I attended college before the Birth to Three/Infant Studies began. I had wanted to pursue my Masters Degree at Erikson, but I was anxious & impatient, at that time, wanting to begin classes right away, but it was in-between timeframes for classes at Erikson. As a result, I enrolled & obtained my first Masters from (then) National College of Education. The thing is, I was still missing the infant part. So, I decided to re-visit Erikson; did; got into the Infant Studies Program; graduated; & I am very happy knowledgeable about Infants & Toddlers. I am also a Developmental Therapist & I teach ECE classes at a college.
- I came to Erikson with a number of years of previous experience in early childhood. I feel that Erikson enhanced and refined a path that I had already chosen for myself.
- I don't know how anyone can run a center without the preparation I received at Erikson!!
- I entered with a master's degree and completed a doctorate after, so Erikson contributed, but is not my sole formal education.
- I feel it is prestigious school with a wonderful reputation however the master's in child development has not provided me the needed credentials and certificates often needed to be considered for other early childhood professional opportunities. I am limited in my options.
- I feel like I gained an entire network of professionals and research that I can access. Its like an extended family.
- I gained a deep understanding of child development through the lens of culture and context. My internship experiences helped me make a transition in my career to the work I am currently doing. Erikson faculty and staff were instrumental in helping me achieve my career goals.
- I gained more confidence in my abilities which I could apply in my workplace.
- I graduated from Erikson almost 18 years ago. At that time I had been working in the EC field for over 10 years. After Erikson it had a huge impact on my career. My Erikson education in tandem with my work

experiences catapulted my career and within three years of graduation my salary increased over \$20,000. And my work and responsibilities allowed me to have a greater impact on the quality and capacity of early childhood education for low income families in Chicago.

- I graduated from Erikson in 1998. In the Chicago area Erikson is very well known and respected. I felt that having graduated from Erikson helped me get my first job and opened up other professional opportunities. To be frank, when speaking to people in the field they were usually impressed when I said I went to Erikson. In 2007, I moved to the East Bay in California. The field of Early Intervention is a bit different out here. Very few people that I come in contact with know about Erikson or what a great program it is. Therefore, I have had to prove myself professionally (which has been good for me in many ways, made me more confident etc.) I am now in a supervisory position - Erikson prepared me with a very solid foundation of child development and working with families, especially working with a variety of families dealing with many different challenges.
- I have a lot of knowledge but still feel I lacked enough professional experience and leadership experience to get where I wanted.
- I have a very well-rounded background of child development that I put into practice every day.
- I have become much more confident in myself and my work. My knowledge of Child Development is excellent and I am able to work with many diverse cultures. Also, I get complimented on my writing skills.
- I have not used it yet as I am staying home for the first few years with my child, but the knowledge I have gained from Erikson is partly the reason I am staying home until my child goes to school.
- I have used my understanding and knowledge about child development that I learned at Erikson daily since I completed my degree. Often I needed it more for adults than children :)
- I learned a lot at Erikson and my time there helped cultivate my interests, but the degree is not marketable. It did not lead to a salary increase and I have had to go back to school to obtain a more useful degree.
- I learned great teaching strategies working with ESL students.
- I learned not only a lot about child development, but even more so about myself. This self-awareness and cultural awareness that I developed has made me a better professional.

- I left Erikson with a renewed passion for working with children and families. I was prepared to work with diverse communities and learned what to expect from supportive supervision.
- I loved going to Erikson and loved the degree. I feel that I have a wealth of information from the degree, but as a dual degree holder, the Erikson degree did nothing to help me get a job (in fact it created an obstacle about being an "over thinker". My salary is the same as if I only had a MSW degree and my job would be the same as if I only had one degree.
- I loved my experience at Erikson! I tell everyone that if you want to learn everything about child development enroll at Erikson. I was so impressed with all the professors and their knowledge in the field! Erikson was a challenge but well worth it. I feel so prepared as a Director working with teen mothers for the past ten years!
- I loved the knowledge and education I received through Erikson. I felt the staff was very supportive and knowledgeable. The opportunity that I received to get an Erikson education wouldn't have happened if I wouldn't have had the grant through the state of Illinois. Thank you.
- I more often say that Erikson impacted my LIFE, not just my career. I definitely left feeling that I had a greater understanding of children and a good knowledge base in child development, but what I learned about myself and others was the greatest gift.
- I purposefully took a step back from my career while I focused on my work at Erikson while also raising my two babies. I had the pleasure of being able to simply be a student for those years and then return to my chosen field (pediatric PT) with new insight from the work I was able to do at Erikson while on my extended maternity leave. My final internship in a UIC's NICU has directly benefitted my pediatric PT work; however, my other internship was not particularly helpful professionally.
- I received my PhD from Erikson in 1991. I secured professorships at the College of Lake County and Northern Illinois University. Because of the emphasis on culture at Erikson, my research and college teaching has contributed meaningfully to the field of cross-cultural psychology and the education of children of immigrant families.
- I studied ESL when I was at Erikson. I was able to get a job as an ESL teacher after graduating. I love my new job!
- I taught public school kindergarten for 20 years in Tampa, Florida. I was able to move into the classroom without further education, based on the supervised teaching experiences I had as a student at Erikson.

- I think the name of Erikson helped me get my job in terms of adding to my credibility. It has had a positive impact on the way I work with families and understand different cultures.
- I understand children better because of EK. I feel knowledgeable and confident with children, families, teachers, and administration. EK helped build this.
- I use the knowledge that I gained every day. It has shaped and continues to shape my career.
- I was hired based largely on my Early Childhood Education credentials which come from Erikson - MS and IL Teaching Certificate. It also helped me realize I wasn't interested in becoming a teacher...yet.
- I was hired because of my degree from Erikson.
- I went to Erikson in 1972 when I was only 23 years old, so it had a huge impact on all aspects of my career as well as personal development. A wonderful grounding in the field, reflective supervision, great teaching models and lifelong friendships.
- I would say that it provided me the education that I needed to advance my knowledge in Child Development that I was looking for.
- I wouldn't be where I am or have been without it.
- I wouldn't have my career if it weren't for Erikson. I presently work at Erikson and Erikson has hand in all of my professional choices and opportunities since graduating.
- Immeasurable
- Increased confidence and credibility; vast knowledge of development and assessment ability
- Increased knowledge
- Increased my thirst to seek ongoing professional development.
- Intellectually, I gained a lot from Erikson. However, if I had never gone to Erikson, I would probably be further along in a professional career. Outside of Chicago, there is not a good network for getting jobs. Most people have never heard of a Child Development degree. Only an associates degree is needed for the jobs that are available to me. Yes, I am able to apply my knowledge to my work, but I'm not so sure the benefit was worth the cost.
- It assisted in building learning ideas to use with children and their families.
- It better prepared me to work with children and families.

- It changed my entire work life. I was able to work at a community college and impact many many students
- It contributed to a deeper understanding of the "big picture" of child development and how many complex variables it includes. The more I learned, the more I came to realize that Erikson's motto of "it depends" is point on.
- It depends :). My education at Erikson helped increase the tools I have for working with young children and their families.
- It eased the enrollment for Early Intervention and I am more knowledgeable but it hasn't helped in career advancement.
- It enabled me to change careers so that I could work with children and families.
- It fostered an appreciation for the role of policy (and subsequent effects) on the lives of children and their families
- It gave a foundation to stand on. I use my Erikson knowledge almost all the time.
- It gave me a sound and enduring background in development. Set me on my career path.
- It gave me credit. I was able to set up interviews based on my education.
- It gave me more of a foundation for my work.
- It gave me the knowledge I needed in infant development so that I could have more confidence working with this population. It also introduced me to professionals and careers I might not have known.
- It gave me the strong background theoretical knowledge it takes to do my job well. Also, it has linked me to invaluable support within the child life field.
- It has been a tremendous influence on my career. It paved my way into higher education -- as a college faculty and administrator. It gave me immediate credibility in the field of early childhood. So much cache in ECE to have a degree from Erikson.
- It has helped in many ways. Aside from the obvious academic preparation, It has also created a great network for me.
- it has helped me discover my passion and gave me the credentials to get a job in early child hood
- It has helped me get the job interviews and jobs.

- It has helped me to make changes in the lives of many children and their families.
- It has improved my understanding of children and their parents.
- It has taught me to appreciate the social and emotional aspects of child development, as well as embrace different cultural child-rearing practices. Also gave me a basic understanding of key child development concepts.
- It helped me decide to work with low income families.
- It helped me get credentialed as a developmental therapist
- It helped me to be prepared for more opportunities in the early childhood field.
- It improved my ability to think from an infant mental health perspective & communicate this to others.
- It integrated theoretical issues of the day with my daily work experience. It was professionally helpful to be working and taking courses at Erikson. I could work out ideas and theories learned in class immediately. This helped me to form my approach and teaching philosophy in a meaningful way, that fostered my growth professionally.
- It is not a day that I do not use my intense knowledge of child development to give parents and staff an understanding of the work we do.
- It is one of the best moves I have made in my career to date.
- It made me more articulate and a better writer.
- It made me think critically about things I do in the classroom. Taught me about typical childhood development as my undergraduate degree was focused more on atypical childhood development.
- It made me value every aspect of the word "career". It's not only about striving to work with children, it is about all the different pieces that go into building a team that works with children and families. The ideas of reflective supervision and putting the "co" back in with the word "workers". It's about social responsibility, passion and seeing how others in the field care, but sometimes work has to be put into getting all the pieces to work together.
- It made the difference in preparing me to teach at the college level. The seminars, discussions at Maria Piers, and in class helped me process critical thinking skills. We had many opportunities to learn from the Erikson's, Piaget.

- It open doors to other opportunities, opened my mind to other areas in need in my community and provided me with the knowledge and courage to search new jobs.
- It opened lots of doors of opportunity. I am a national presenter and consultant and Erikson has a GREAT repuration nationally
- It prepared me to receive the bilingual / ESL endorsement. I have been more employable since then.
- It prepared me to work with families, specifically in the area of early intervention. However, I left the workforce to so I could stay home with my own children before they started school. I am currently working as a paraeducator for children with autism. While Ericson gave me background knowledge, I feel like some of what I learned is outdated.

However, I am prepared to learn how the field of early childhood is progressing as I continue to advance in the workforce.

- It provided me with the knowledge to be successful. It taught me to believe in myself.
- It provided me with the valuable knowledge of child development that helps me no matter what the circumstance or job. It informs my work everyday and my relationships with my clients. I take pride in my degree from Erikson. It is the basis for my career nd I only hope to have similar opportunities in the future.
- It reaffirmed my passion for working with young children and their families. It also helped me develop a more thorough understanding of child development than what I had learned during my BA and initial teacher education courses(at another university). Ad it also encouraged me to see so many other students and professors working and sharing their knowledge, experience and passion towards the goal of improving early childhood education.
- It set me off on a particular path which I pursued for the whole of my working life..a respect for children from all backgrounds, and a particular concern for those from disadvantagedbackgrounds. Also a degree of politicalawareness.
- It started me on a lengthy successful one.
- It taught me a great deal and gave me access to other professionals.
- It was a major factor in improving my understanding of human development and was invaluable in framing the interdepartmental work I ended up doing at the state level. While I moved out of early childhood into

work related to school-aged children with special needs, my work at Erikson gave me a real leg up in working with people from the fields of mental health, mental retardation, corrections and human services.

- It was a marvelous experience for me. It opened my life to new worlds. I was hired as an Erikson Graduate for a prestigious position at Mundelein College in 1978.
- It was a wise investment that has paid off with a career that not only helps me to help others but I can support my family.
- It was an exciting place to learn. It stretched my knowledge of young children and helped me look deeper into the work. I appreciated how it helped me connect my practical experience w/research and theory.
- It was life-changing and enabled me to be very successful both professionally and in my interactions and understanding of people in general.
- It was positive. Mostly, I learned to network, although I never gained anything from networking with Erikson.
- It was very important and provided a solid foundation for research based approaches.
- It's been long enough that I sometimes take it for granted. Now that I'm in a position of training and mentoring I appreciate the depth of my knowledge of infant/toddler development.
- Launched college teaching which I loved.
- Level of professionalism and validation. Also allowed me to bridge the gap between theory and practice.
- Life changed personally and did not follow through on a career in working with children.
- Life changing
- Lifechanging
- Life-changing. My Erikson experience (MANY years ago...) provided me with a life-long career path and passion for doing the best for young children.
- Made it possible for me to move into administration from classroom work
- Made me a better advocate and spokesperson regarding the importance of quality care for the birth to three age group. Gave me a strong foundation in child development which helps me a great deal in working with parents and other professionals.

- Made me more reflective as a professional and given me greater knowledge to work in the field.
- monumental in moving me from teacher, to director
- My affiliation with Erikson has been a "value added" throughout my over 30 years career in the early care and education field.
- My degree elevated me within the applicant pool. I almost always got an interview for jobs I applied for. I was always questioned about my Erikson degree in interviews. I know it made me much more confident to pursue different positions because I knew I was qualified and my degree would make a difference.
- My education and experiences at Erikson have vastly increased my knowledge and abilities in early childhood. I have been an agent of change and have trained a significant number of our staff.
- My education at Erikson has had a tremendous impact on my career in the sense that it taught me how to think about children and families in a strengths-based, whole-child, and collaborative way.
- My education at Erikson has helped me best understand the needs of a developing child. I currently work with adolescents with Autism and often find myself returning to a developmental approach to inform my multi-disciplinary practice. My theoretical and practical education has helped me to think and ask questions that inform my understanding of a problem/behavior/concern and the appropriate intervention.
- My education at Erikson prepared me to be a leader in my current job
- My Erikson education has given me the knowledge to effectively and successfully work with children and families.
- My Erikson education has made me a more competent professional in every aspect of my work.
- My Erikson experience has one of the biggest impacts on my career choices. The fact that I have real choices in the work I do says a lot about the quality of an Erikson Institute education. Even just being able to put on my resume that I'm an Erikson graduate is highly impressive for employers. With my Erikson degree, I was able to secure not only a teaching job in my field, but was able to quickly move up to the role of Director of Curriculum as well. I've since had to move out of state, but now have fantastic job as an Educational Consultant for a non-profit organization aimed at helping low-income single mothers start their own family child care businesses. I couldn't be happier. This is all thanks to Erikson.

- My Erikson experience validated my belief in the importance of the work I was doing, and connected me with many others who were committed to challenging themselves intellectually and professionally. My internship gave me an opportunity to try something new and challenging with the support I needed to succeed.
- My Erikson experience was life changing and provided me with opportunities for both personal and professional growth!
- My experience at Erikson greatly impacted my choice of career in early childhood intervention—specifically infant mental health. The classes were good but the faculty and opportunities for out-of-class experiences (ex. helped with the World Assoc. of Infant Mental Health conference held in Chicago & got to meet many professionals in the field) exposed me to a broader idea of how to work in the world of early childhood. I have been able to take on leadership roles in the different communities I have lived in over the past 15 years (Europe, military, rural & urban) because of the personal mentorship I received at Erikson. My experience at Erikson was life changing.
- My experience at Erikson Institute open door world wide for me and I've been reaping the benefits ever since. Upon completion of my M.Ed. degree, I served children and families in early intervention and eventually accepted a position with the USA Department of Defense providing EI services for our military families. I have also been involved in several international humanitarian and educational projects impacting children and those who care for and/or teach them.
- My experience at Erikson revitalized me and gave me the background, credibility, skills and enthusiasm that has fueled my career in these last several years.
- My Masters degree from Erikson 43 years ago enabled me to become an Early Childhood consultant and part-time instructor at local community colleges. A few years later I was hired full-time to teach at Oakton Community College. Life-long learning through Erikson seminars, conferences, and meetings and connections with alumni enhanced my career.
- My research internship at Erikson became a 10 year career as a research administrator at Northwestern, Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania. It was an unexpected but important career choice to be able to conduct and manage large qualitative studies of low-income families. Just this year I have decided to switch back to working directly with young children as a Kindergarten teacher in a Waldorf school. Surprisingly or not surprisingly, my Erikson degree matters little to not at all in this position.

The only credentials that matter are Waldorf teacher training. Living in Philadelphia, Erikson is not well recognized and folks don't know where to place an M.S. in Child Development.

- My studies at Erikson have given me such greater depth of knowledge.
- My studies at Erikson helped foster a reflective, informed approach to the work. I've gained the experience, knowledge, and confidence to earn a supervisory position in the field. Erikson molded my skills into a manicured package that ultimately benefits the families and co-workers I support. It's also helped me learn to advocate for my co-workers, children, and families in a tactful, effective way.
- N/A
- None thus far, unfortunately
- None. Outside a 50 mile radius of Chicago very few people, even in the early childhood field, have heard of Erikson Institute. has
- Participated in the dual MSW program, have not graduated yet.
- Pivotal
- positive
- Positive
- Positive, life changing experience, inspired me to found a school, to spend the rest of my life working with young children and their families.
- positive. After teaching in Head Start for two more years, I went on to get my doctorate at University of Michigan. I have a really strong foundation in early childhood education that few other researchers and practitioners I meet have.
- Prepared me to be a teacher
- Professional coursework helped expand/enrich my knowledge base, generated connections in the early childhood/special education.
- Profound! Having an Erikson degree is your calling card in the field - it's like gold.
- Profound.
- Profound. I am a different practitioner because of all that Erikson taught me, not just about children, but about working with families and welcoming each family's story.

- profound: I loved graduate school; I found a perfect job right after graduation using Erikson's "job notebook"; I had/have great respect for Maria Piers, Barbara Bowman, Fran Stott, Joan McLain (sp?) et al.
- Profoundly positive. A large part of my identity.
- provided comprehensive well rounded look @ early childhood, culture, development, parents etc, with outstanding teachers, thoughtful approaches to challenges, reflective practice, network,
- Provided great framework and knowledge to work in the field of early childhood.
- Provided me with a developmental point of view which I applied to clinical interventions
- Provided me with a wonderful internship experience that led me to my first job in Child Life.
- Provided me with knowledge in how children develop, how to assess and screen a child's behavior and development. Enabled me to move forward in my career in that I could start my own business.
- Provided security and confidence in theoretical frameworks with frequent opportunities and modalities to update knowledge.
- Provided strong grounding in infant, child, and family development. Afforded valuable field work experiences. Built career-long professional relationships.
- Really helped in my understanding of theories and stages of development, contributed to my success as a lead teacher/director in the field of early education.
- Really helped me understand cultural differences and their importance in the field of child development...also benefited quite a bit from the year long internship...hands on experience and discussions about it really helped me feel comfortable working in the field
- Reinforced my belief in the necessity for a bridge from research to practice
- Reinforced my desire to work with young children and gave me the skills to do so.
- see answers previous page
- Significant impact
- So many instructors who are passionate about helping teachers grow personally and professionally.

- Strengthened my child development theoretical knowledge and gave me insight into cultural issues in child development. Helped me greatly in professional self-reflection.
- Strong, more influence in Chicago, less in NYC where I live now.
- Studying at Erikson was an excellent experience and I left with life-long friendships and experiences that helped shape me into the professional I am today. Even though I am not in the early childhood field currently, I am actively looking for opportunities to work with young children and their families.
- Supportive in connecting with professional network
- Taught me the background knowledge that I now use within my job to help educate parents and co-workers.
- The biggest and best impact is on the way I work with families. I am able to really partner with families so much more and respect the differences between our beliefs about raising children.
- The courses I took at Erikson filled the gap in knowledge I didn't even know I had until I started taking the courses. My BA / 04 prepared me for preschool, but I learned everything I know about infants and toddlers/families at Erikson.
- The education I received helped me to complete my ESL endorsement
- The Erikson experience was inspiring, and the education has been invaluable. Along with encouraging my passion for working with children and providing me with the necessary skills and expertise, the Erikson approach has made me a more flexible and understanding teacher.
- The Erikson Institute gave me a solid foundation in infant toddler development and assessment. My undergraduate degree was in child development and Erikson continued to build on that foundation. I am able to see the theory that I learned at Erikson in my daily practices in my career.
- The Erikson Institute validated what I wanted to do with my life, to serve children and their families. The importance of reflection is something that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. I'm passing on the importance of reflection to my colleagues and my clients.
- The experience of attending and graduating from Erikson dramatically altered the trajectory of my career, creating a number of improved opportunities. I have a greater wealth of knowledge and experience, and have moved to a higher level of professional life as a result.

- The experience that I received at Erikson changed my life. The education I received has shaped the way that I face challenges and early childhood practice as a whole. I put my Erikson education to work daily and I'm so very proud to be an Erikson graduate.
- The greatest impact my Erikson Education has had on my career was the opportunity to receive my masters degree virtually at no cost b/c of a scholarship. In addition, I was able to move into a position of my choosing.
- The importance of relationships in our work with young children and families
- The internship that Erikson helped me to secure in child life resulted in my current job for the past 10 years. It provided me with a solid background in child development and solidified the importance of reflection.
- The knowledge and experience I gained at Erikson has been invaluable...I doubt if I would have had the level of career success I have attained without the Erikson's impact.
- The knowledge and experiences I've gained through my courses, projects, reflections and internship have shaped the way I view the children and families that I work with on a daily basis. I've learned to become more culturally aware of the development and interactions of working with children as well as with colleagues. Erikson has also granted me the credentials I deserve to represent the knowledge and influence I have on those I work with.
- The knowledge and training that I received gave me the confidence that I was preparing young children in appropriate ways. The do no harm concept allowed me to sleep at night and gave me the confidence to discuss my client's children and their progress in development. My degree gave my clients confidence that I had a basis for my evaluation of their children.
- The knowledge base helped me as I pursued another degree in mental health counseling and marriage and family therapy.
- The single most important and influential experience of my education, training, and career path.
- The strong foundation in child development is invaluable!
- The wealth of knowledge I learned about child development sets me apart from my peers.
- There is immediate recognition of the high caliber of an Erikson education.
- They taught me professionalism and writing in addition to the significance of early childhood development on lifelong functioning.

- tremendous - I talk about Erikson all the time..... with parents, when I lead trainings. I am VERY proud of my Erikson degree. The only bad thing is that my Erikson experience went to fast and I did not want to graduate because I wanted to continue learning..... :)
- Understanding how children develop and learn has made a huge difference in how I supervise teachers and help them address the needs and build on the strengths of their students. It's helped me calm parents' fears and manage their expectations for their children. Child development is a much stronger foundation than just learning pedagogical strategies.
- Understanding of child and adult development.
- Very important!
- Very little name recognition. I was able to secure an internship that led to a job, but this was not a high-status job.
- Very positive - my knowledge basis is very strong and I feel very confident in the child development field.
- Very positive impact - opened new opportunities and provided avenues to network and engage with other leading professionals in the field of early childhood
- Very positive. It was a great experience for me that I fall back on daily in my work.
- Very positive;
- When people see "Erikson" on my resume, they take it seriously - it opens doors to interviews. It gave me a strong grounding in child development.
- Within Chicago Erikson has a reputation for being a great school. Outside of Chicago the name is not as well known, even in the Early Childhood Field. Erikson definitely taught me a lot about myself and helped me in my reflection as I work with children and families.
- Without Erikson I wouldn't have had a career in Early Childhood Education. In the summer of 1966 I had worked as a pre-professional aide in HeadStart in Newark, NJ, which convinced me that I wanted to work in the field. I had had no previous coursework in education and knew that I would need some in order to do so. When I was living in Chicago in 1967 and read about the opening of the CIECE program, I recognized that it was what I wanted to do. It opened a whole new world to me - about child development and about the psychoanalytic perspective. It reinforced my view that in order to reduce poverty one must begin with young children and that working young children must involve the whole family.

- Working in a Chicago Public school has its challenges, one main challenge being that children's developmental needs are often forgotten. Erikson has allowed me to keep a focus on that and work to combine the demands of a public school (standardized testin, etc) in a way that is still appropriate for young children.
- Would not have this job if it wasn't for erikson.
- your staff gave me the energy, purpose and vision to pursue ECE for a late'life career. you encouraged me to think outside the box, engaged me in rigorous learning, and provided me with many memories of hard work, good discussions in class and learning inmany areas!