



Name: Susan Donahoe CESA: CESA# 2  
Email: sdonahoe@cesa2.k12.wi.us Phone: 608-758-6232

Please tell us (in a few sentences) about your path to EC leadership. For example – Where did you go to undergrad- what was your major? Other: What EC jobs have you had; when did you first think about being a PST/leader in EC?

**I attended LaCrosse, and Augustana College in Sioux Falls South Dakota, before graduating from the University of Northern Colorado, in Greeley, with a B.A. in Elementary Education. Subsequently, I had a series of early-childhood-related jobs such as waitressing, shoveling cement for grain elevator construction and data entry for a chemical business. Eventually, I did find some children, but they were in a state institution and it was as grim as you are imagining. I decided that there must be a better way to support children with disabilities. I entered the “Early Childhood: Handicapped” program at the University of Iowa, and then moved on to an early childhood classroom and home visiting. That was great fun with the kids, but the proverbial toy-bag home visit, didn’t quite make it . So, back to school again (UW-Madison, Child & Family Studies), but there were no neat answers, just a myriad of ideas to be blended and individualized, not only to each family, but each situation and time period. Between then and now I’ve been an Educational Evaluator (DD Clinic, Waisman Center), Academic Staff for Dept. of Rehab Psych & Spec Ed at UW-Madison and Education Coordinator for the Transition Project at CESA 5. I would have never decided to be a leader- it just ended up that way!**

Please tell us about your special interests/knowledge in our field which others might contact you about. **Special interests, training and responsibilities that I have include autism consulting, support for community collaborations, including partnerships with families, and developing positive behavioral supports for young children with behavioral/emotional disorders. I am the coordinator for the state Preschool Planning minigrants.**

Is there anything else you’d like other, newer EC leaders to know?

**When in doubt, do the Hokey Pokey.**