



## **NJDOE News**

**For More Information Contact the Public Information Office:**

**Jon Zlock**  
**Kathryn Forsyth, Director**  
**609-292-1126**

**For Release: July 28, 2006**

---

### **Acting Commissioner Davy Appoints New Office of Early Childhood Director**

Dr. Jacqueline Jones has been appointed the new director of the office of early childhood education in the Abbott Division.

"Dr. Jones is an expert in early childhood education research and she is the perfect person to lead the office of early childhood education as it continues to provide the best opportunities for preschool children in our Abbott schools," said acting Commissioner Lucille E. Davy.

Jones worked for the last 15 years at ETS in Princeton as the director of both Early Childhood Research and Development and Initiatives in Early Childhood and Literacy. She was also a senior research scientist.

Her work at ETS focused on the study and implementation of appropriate early childhood assessment systems. Dr. Jones and her colleagues have worked with school districts and Head Start programs in New Jersey and nationally on assessment-related professional development projects.

Dr. Jones also developed the Understanding Early Science Learning program - a set of videotape and print materials to help document the evidence of young children's science understanding. Funded by the National Science Foundation and part of the ETS Pathwise Professional Development Series, the program is for early childhood teachers, staff developers, and university teacher educators.

Dr. Jones said she would like to expand on her research-based analysis to bring the right conditions for learning to all Abbott preschools.

"This is still a relatively new program, and we need to make sure we're providing quality preschool education for every child who walks through the door," Jones said. "I'm excited to join the department and to begin working with the early childhood staff."

Jones' first day with the department was July 10. Her official title is Special Assistant to the Commissioner and Director of the Office of Early Childhood Education. David Joye and Tonya Hall-Coston were the co-acting directors of the office before Jones' appointment.

"I want to continue the good work on which David and Tonya and the staff have been focused," Jones said. "Our real job is to make sure all children are receiving an education that will continue them on the right path in their K-12 experiences."

Jones has a doctorate and master's degree from Northwestern University. Her bachelor's degree is from Hunter College in the Bronx.

For more information, please contact the Department of Education Public Information Office at (609) 292-1126.