



BARC Developmental Services

Noreen Coleman EI Peer Recognition Award

March 2026 Nomination Ballots

Nominee: Andrea Braccio

Nominator: Katie Mill

I would like to nominate Andrea Braccio for the Noreen Coleman EI Peer Recognition Award to honor her dedication, strong work ethic, kind, and caring nature. I have had the privilege of working alongside Andrea for the past two and a half years and during that time, I can confidently say that she has truly had a significant impact on my professional growth as a special instructor and on the children and families that she supports each and every day. Andrea is always willing to pick up the phone and lend a hand, offering me with guidance, support, or even just a listening ear. Her kindness makes me feel supported and confident in my work. Andrea is an amazing speech therapist, she is a thoughtful and hardworking individual who goes above and beyond to support every family in feeling seen and heard. Andrea has many great qualities, some of which include her advocacy for children and families, compassion, patience, collaboration, and positivity.

When I began working for BARC at the end of 2023, I was nervous about starting a new position. Within my first three weeks, I had the opportunity to be on a team with Andrea and I quickly felt welcomed and supported. When working in Early Intervention, collaboration is key. Andrea demonstrates this quality in many ways. Each week, Andrea reaches out checking in to discuss progress and explore new strategies. Andrea consistently follows through with a variety of strategies each week, supports families, therapists, and special instructors on the team. She takes the time to make sure she implements everyone's strategies throughout her own sessions as well. For one family in particular, Andrea primarily provides services at school while I support the child in the home setting. Although we are working in different environments, Andrea reaches out each week to check in, collaborate on strategies, and problem solve on areas where we can overlap to make sure strategies are consistent throughout the home and school. This is a very important piece because consistency builds success.

What stands out about Andrea is her ability to develop and implement effective strategies. She carefully takes each step making sure that she meets each child where they are developmentally. Andrea excels at providing visuals that guide children in communication and finding creative, individualized ways to help families support their child's language growth. She has also shown me the importance of using visuals and how they can significantly benefit a child and support them in many ways such as making requests. Andrea has shared so many amazing resources and links to families of materials that are beneficial for oral motor development such as cups, straws, and chewy tactile tools. Other fun items include food plates, kid placemats, and social story books. The support that Andrea provides each child, allows for them to be able to request, respond, or comment during their daily routines. Through her consistent encouragement and positive approach, you can see each child shine with confidence in their language. She celebrates every milestone with all families along the way.

Not only is Andrea amazing in the speech and language field, she is also highly educated in Early Intervention as a whole. She provides the families with insight and educates them on how to best support their child. During sessions that I have overlapped with Andrea, she consistently demonstrates professionalism with families and takes the time to clearly explain language and oral motor strategies. Andrea is very flexible with families and will take time to ensure that they understand what they will be working on during the week. Whenever the family needs extra support, Andrea stays to demonstrate and guide them until they feel comfortable implementing the strategies independently. I have benefited greatly from overlapping with Andrea by learning fun and functional ways to continue to expand a child's language.

Overall, Andrea is an amazing speech therapist that puts so much dedication into everything she does. Any family would be lucky to have Andrea as their speech therapist. She is one of the best and truly cares about each and every child's successes. Andrea has left such an impact on many that surround her including families, children, therapists, and special instructors. I am pleased to nominate Andrea for the Peer Recognition Award as it is well deserved.

Nominee: Andrea Braccio
Nominator: Joann Kirk

I am honored to nominate Andrea for the EI Peer Recognition Award. Andrea is not only a funny, witty, and deeply caring person, she is an exceptional speech therapist who consistently goes above and beyond for the families she serves. I have had the privilege of working alongside her for over 20 years, and during that time I have witnessed her unwavering dedication firsthand. Andrea takes the time to truly problem solve and understand what each family needs, thoughtfully tailoring her sessions with creative ideas, games, visuals, and individualized speech tools. She often spends her personal time developing new strategies because she is so passionate about helping children communicate. She skillfully integrates multiple disciplines into her approach, incorporating sensory strategies, play based techniques, and visual supports while carefully explaining and modeling them for parents. Even when she is no longer assigned to a case, Andrea willingly offers guidance, answers questions, and provides recommendations to ensure families continue receiving the best support. She collaborates tirelessly whether late at night, on weekends, or even while on vacation across the country always ready to problem-solve and share her expertise. Throughout COVID, she went the extra mile by preparing gift bags for children and personally delivering them to families during the holidays. Andrea pours her heart and soul into helping families feel confident and empowered, and you can visibly see the relief and reassurance parents experience after working with her. The joy families feel when their children begin communicating is a direct reflection of her commitment and skill. Andrea is truly a remarkable therapist, and I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this recognition.

Currently from a family she is working with: *Our family has been working with Andrea for around 6 months. Throughout this time, Andrea has been very communicative, as well as very patient with my husband and I as we ask questions and learn how to best support our daughter's speech development. She listens to our concerns and responds by giving practical examples and allowing us to practice new techniques during in-home visits. She works really well within our daughter's core support team, as they all work together to strategize how to best help our daughter learn new things. She helps us to respond quickly to concerns and celebrates wins with us. We are so glad to have her as part of our daughter's support team!*