

Kidango Names Tena Sloan LMFT, IFECMHS/RPF-II, as Vice President Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation and Training

The role signals Kidango's commitment to the integration of mental health services into early childhood education across its 50 Bay Area centers and throughout California

FREMONT, Calif. (Feb. 11, 2019) – Kidango today announced Tena Sloan LMFT, IFECMHS/RPF-II, as vice president early childhood mental health consultation and training. In the newly-created role, Sloan will take responsibility for shaping and executing an overarching vision and strategic direction for the early childhood mental health consultation (ECMHC) programs across [Kidango](http://www.kidango.org), the Bay Area's largest child care provider.

The importance of ECMHC, and the leading role played by Kidango, was recently given national recognition with an article in [NBC News](http://www.nbcnews.com) and [The Hechinger Report](http://www.thehechingerreport.com). The story took an in-depth look at the work done by Sloan and her team at two Kidango centers.

The creation of the role and hiring of Sloan is the latest move by Kidango to support ECMHC in California. In 2017, Gov. Brown signed into law Kidango-sponsored [Assembly Bill 752](http://www.assembly.ca.gov/bills/2017/752), which prevents state-subsidized preschool programs from expelling children unless an exhaustive process aimed at supporting the child and family is followed first. This was followed in 2018 by the signing-into-law of [Assembly Bill 2698](http://www.assembly.ca.gov/bills/2018/2698), which gives state preschool and child care centers access to existing funds to use for ECMHC.

Sloan is a licensed marriage and family therapist specialized in attachment, trauma, early childhood development, and behavior. Sloan is also a fellow of the University of Massachusetts Infant-Parent Mental Health Post-Graduate Program, and endorsed in California as an infant-family early childhood mental health specialist and reflective practice facilitator II. Sloan has been with Kidango for a total of four years. She moves into the new position from her previous role as clinical supervisor.

"Tena's vast experience in the early childhood mental health field made her an obvious choice for this role. She's already played a key role in our existing programs and we look forward to a successful expansion," said Scott Moore, CEO at Kidango.



*Tena Sloan, Vice President Early Childhood
Mental Health Consultation & Training*

“Supporting the mental health of our youngest learners and the educators who care for them is essential. I’m delighted to be given this opportunity,” said Tena Sloan, vice president of early childhood mental health consultation and training at Kidango. “When we partner with parents, teachers and other caregivers and equip them with the skills to respond to the complex social-emotional needs that arise in this critical period of development, all children benefit. It’s truly a meaningful role to be part of cultivating the best possible early childhood experiences that place California’s young children on a path to success in school and in life.”

In California, newly-elected Governor Gavin Newsom made early childhood education (ECE) a campaign priority and backed that up with \$1.8 billion for ECE in his budget proposal. “With a Governor in place who is committed to early childhood education, we have an opportunity to improve the spectrum of programs and services available to the youngest children across California,” said Scott Moore. “We’re proud that Kidango is at the forefront of the field.”

About Kidango

Kidango is an early learning nonprofit committed to setting every child on a path to thrive in kindergarten and in life. We believe that every child has unlimited potential if we support our children, families, and communities with the right opportunities and resources. As the largest child care provider in the San Francisco Bay Area, we provide 4,000 children with safe, healthy, nurturing environments and relationships, so that every child has the social, emotional, and academic skills they need to learn, grow and realize their potential. For more information, visit www.kidango.org.

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