

Kecia Rorie



My journey in early childhood education began long before my career did — it started when I was just four years old as a Head Start child. That early experience planted the seed for a lifelong passion and purpose: ensuring that every child, regardless of circumstance, has access to high-quality early learning and the opportunity to thrive.

I am an excited mother of 2 young men ages 24 and 28, an honored grandmother of a spirited 9-year-old pit bull, and an avid roller coaster enthusiast!

With bachelor's and master's degrees in social work from Eastern Michigan University, specializing in children and families, and 30 years in the field, I bring both professional expertise and personal commitment to the work I do. I have dedicated my career to advocating for children, supporting families, and building strong systems that create lasting impact.

I officially began my professional journey with Head Start in 2002 as a Family Service Worker with Ann Arbor Public Schools (AAPS). In 2009, I stepped into leadership as Assistant Principal and Head Start Director for the AAPS Preschool and Family Center, where I had the privilege of helping shape programs that empowered children, families, and educators alike.

In 2015, I joined Starfish Family Services as Deputy Director of the Detroit Early Head Start and Thrive by Five programs, further deepening my commitment to innovation, equity, and excellence in early childhood education. Today, I proudly serve as the Director of Early Childhood Education, overseeing all 14 Starfish early childhood education centers. In this role, I lead with purpose, compassion, and a belief that strong leadership, intentional systems, and dedicated teams can truly transform lives.

I am a Head Start Fellow from the Johnson and Johnson Fellows class of 2013, a member of the NHSA/Nike Starting Block class of 2018 and a mentor for the New Directors Mentoring Program at UCLA mentoring new Head Start directors since 2017.

Every step of my journey has reinforced my belief that early childhood education is not just a profession — it is a calling. I am honored to walk this path alongside passionate educators, families, and community partners as we work together to create brighter futures for children.