

RENEE OKAFOR

Preschool Teacher

Lead preschool teacher and mentor with 14 years across NAEYC-accredited and Head Start programs. Build curriculum, supervise classroom teams, and serve as the center's CLASS observer. M.Ed. in Early Childhood and New Mexico Level V licensure.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Lead Preschool Teacher and Mentor, High Desert Children's Center, Albuquerque, NM**
2019 – Present
 - Lead a pre-K classroom of 20 children and direct a team of two assistants and one floater; classroom scored 6.4 of 7 on most recent CLASS Emotional Support domain.
 - Serve as in-house CLASS observer for the center's 8 classrooms; complete 24 formal observations annually and deliver written feedback within five business days.
 - Designed the center's transition-to-kindergarten curriculum, now used across all four pre-K rooms; APS principals report fewer behavior referrals from incoming students.
 - Coach new teachers through their first NAEYC portfolios; 6 of 6 mentees passed accreditation review on first submission.
 - Co-led migration to Teaching Strategies GOLD digital documentation, training 18 staff and cutting paper checkpoint hours significantly.
- **Preschool Teacher, Sandia Foothills Head Start, Albuquerque, NM**
2014 – 2019
 - Taught a Head Start class of 17 four-year-olds with bilingual co-teacher; served families with incomes below federal poverty line.
 - Coordinated home visits for all 17 families twice yearly; achieved 100 percent completion three years in a row.
 - Wrote and ran a STEM grant (\$6,400) that funded a permanent block and engineering center.
 - Served on the program's policy council as a teacher representative for two years.
- **Preschool Teacher, Rio Bosque Early Learning, Santa Fe, NM**
2012 – 2014
 - Taught a Reggio-inspired class of 15 three- to five-year-olds in a private nonprofit setting.
 - Built long-form documentation panels selected for the New Mexico AEYC annual conference.
 - Led monthly family workshops on early literacy and emergent writing.
 - Trained two new assistants on Conscious Discipline and classroom routines.
- **Assistant Preschool Teacher, Pinon Grove Children's Center, Santa Fe, NM**
2010 – 2012
 - Supported lead teacher with a class of 16 children ages 3 to 4.
 - Ran small-group literacy and math activities daily.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION

- M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education, University of New Mexico, 2018
- B.A. in Child and Family Studies, New Mexico State University, 2010
- New Mexico Early Childhood Education License, Level V
- Certified CLASS Observer, Pre-K, current through 2026

KEY SKILLS

- Teacher coaching and mentoring
- NAEYC accreditation portfolios
- CLASS observation and feedback
- Head Start Performance Standards
- Teaching Strategies GOLD
- Reggio Emilia documentation
- Conscious Discipline
- Family engagement and home visits
- ASQ-3 and DECA screeners
- Curriculum design and rollout

- Maintained portfolios and ASQ-3 records for all children.
- Covered as substitute lead 30+ days across two years.