

LIGHTING THE WAY WITH HOPE, WONDER & PLAY

Speaker Bios

KATYA ARMISTEAD

Katya Armistead is Co-Executive Director of Programs at Leading From Within, where she develops and facilitates leadership programs designed to strengthen leaders and communities across the Central Coast. She brings more than three decades of experience in education, leadership development, and community engagement, including 35 years at UC Santa Barbara. Katya serves as a Trustee on the Santa Barbara County Board of Education, and her extensive community involvement includes leadership and board service with numerous local nonprofit organizations, as well as co-creating Youth Making Change, a youth-led grantmaking program of The Fund for Santa Barbara. Katya earned her bachelor's degree in Sociology and doctorate in Educational Leadership from UC Santa Barbara. Her work centers on building a more connected, compassionate, and just community.



KATHY HIRSH-PASEK

Kathy Hirsh-Pasek is the Lefkowitz Faculty Fellow in Psychology at Temple University, a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution, and a Visiting Professor at Oxford University. Her research examines the development of early language and literacy, the role of play in learning, and learning and technology. She is the author of 17 books and hundreds of publications, has won numerous awards in her field including being inducted into the National Academy of Education and the Association of Children's Museum's Best Friend to Kids Award. Vested in translating science for lay and professional audiences, her *Becoming Brilliant*, released in 2016 was on the NYTimes Best Seller List in Education. Her book *Making Schools Work* was released in late Fall of 2022 and *Einstein Never used Flashcards* was re-released in January of 2026.



LORI LANDER GOODMAN

Lori Lander Goodman is the Chief Executive Officer of LEAP: Learn. Engage. Advocate. Partner. LEAP mitigates the effects of poverty, racism and trauma by providing high-quality, trauma informed childcare, comprehensive, culturally sensitive family support, and visionary community leadership. Since 2018, Lori has grown LEAP's reach and impact including expanding infant care to Lompoc and launching the only diaper bank in Santa Barbara County. A dedicated advocate for children and families, she works closely with state legislators on early childhood education policy and funding, and serves on the board of EveryChildCA, a statewide education and advocacy organization. A Jeopardy! champion and trivia lover, she lives in Goleta with her husband, Rabbi Evan Goodman, and her pet cockatiel, Piper.



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ANA TOLENTINO

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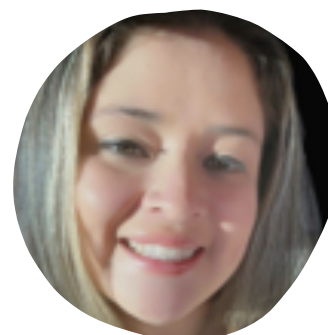
I have served the State of California for 24 years. My experience includes workers' compensation with State Fund. I later joined Community Care Licensing as a bilingual Licensing Program Analyst, and I now serve as a Licensing Program Manager. I believe in our mission to protect the health and safety of children in care. I value building strong partnerships with providers and the childcare community. Every child deserves a safe place to learn and grow, along with caring adults who can be their eyes, ears, and advocates—helping protect their well-being and make sure their needs are met.



JUSTEENE TAMAYO

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I have worked with the State for approximately six years. Prior to becoming a Child Care Advocate for Greater Los Angeles, I served as a Licensing Program Analyst with the Child Care Program at the Palmdale Regional Office. My experience in childcare licensing has provided me with a strong understanding of the licensing process and a commitment to supporting child care providers and the families they serve.



BETH RIZO

Beth was the Director of Orfaleda Early Learning Center at Santa Barbara City College, and part-time instructor for the Early Childhood Education Department. Beth has worked with children, families, students and staff in Santa Barbara for over thirty years, and has been working in the field of Early Childhood Education for 45 years. She is married to her husband of 46 years, Enrique, and has two grown children as well as three grandchildren. Beth is a mentor, coach, consultant and speaker, and she looks forward to what awaits in this new journey!



CALAIS STOREY

Calais Storey is the Executive Director and Parent Education Instructor at Starr King Parent-Child Workshop in Santa Barbara. With 18 years of experience supporting young children, families, and future early childhood educators in Santa Barbara County, she centers her work on strong relationships, play-based learning, and connected communities. She holds a bachelor's degree in Child Development & Education from Antioch University Santa Barbara and a master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Pacific Oaks College. A Santa Barbara local and mother of two, she brings both professional expertise and personal experience to her work.

