

## Easter Seals Blake Foundation Project “Me Too!”

Prepared and presented by Adiba Nelson



Renee Hartje was born and raised in Tucson and has worked in the Early Childhood Education field for over 20 years. Renee received her Bachelor’s of Arts in Social Psychology with a minor in Child Development. Renee is currently the Program Manager for Project “Me Too. Renee currently holds the position of Vice President of Nominations and Awards on the Southern Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children Board. Renee and her husband enjoy spending time with their two children and extended family. They enjoy sporting events, camping and the occasional vacation to cooler San Diego!!



Angie McMurtrie was born and raised in Jackson, MI and has lived in Tucson for more than 34 years. She has worked at Easter Seals Blake Foundation, Project “Me too!” for the past 18 months. Angie holds a degree in Business Management and currently is the Office Manager for the Project “Me too!” program. She also assists in various other programs with Easter Seals Blake Foundation. Angie enjoys nature hikes, gardening and spending time with her grandchildren.



Erin Aguilar is the Inclusion Specialist and Educator for the Easter Seals Blake Foundation. She is the Coordinator for the Inspire Inclusion Community of Practice, part of the United Way of Southern Arizona/First Things First Great Expectations Professional Development Grant, promoting and supporting inclusive practices in early childhood programs. She has a Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education, a Master’s degree in Early Childhood Education and is adjunct faculty at Pima Community College. Erin has worked as a Quality First Coach for Easter Seals Blake Foundation, and as a preschool teacher in California. She is passionate about advocating for children with special needs and supporting teachers in creating classrooms that provide the necessary access, participation and support for full inclusion. Erin and her husband have lived in Tucson for 12 years and have one son.



Gloria E. Osborne is from Mexico City and moved to Tucson, Arizona when she was five years old. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Prescott College, and earned her Master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Northern Arizona University. Gloria worked as a substitute teacher in the Vail School District for a year, and worked as a Spanish Immersion preschool teacher for two years. She came to Easter Seals Blake Foundation in 2012 and worked as a Bilingual Early Childhood Coach for two years, before transitioning to her current role as Child Care Support Specialist in 2014. She is married and has one son. Gloria likes to walk, read, and is passionate about working with the community and supporting Early Childhood Education professionals.



Lourdes Rodriguez was born and raised in Puerto Rico. She has a Bachelor's degree with two majors: Early Childhood Education and History. Before moving to Arizona almost two years ago she was a summer camp Program Coordinator for 15 years, owned a ballet studio (where she taught ballet, jazz and aerobics), and directed a Catholic preschool with 250 children enrolled. She is married and has three daughters, and a lot of pets.



Misty Early has been a Tucson resident for 21 years. She has three wonderful children, and in their leisure time they enjoy watching sports, camping and singing! She currently works for Easter Seals Blake Foundation Project "Me Too!" as a *Child Care Support Specialist*. She works with child care centers in the Tucson community in need of program or individual child resources and support, in addition to planning, preparing and facilitating professional development workshops. Misty has a Bachelor's of Science in Psychology from Grand Canyon University, where she originally enrolled to become a family or marriage counselor. Her career goal (and educational goal) is to complete her Masters of Education with an emphasis in Early Childhood Leadership.