

EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT ON

# Megan Rojo

PRINCIPAL OF SPRINGDALE PRE-K



## **How many years have you worked with children?**

16 years.

## **What brought you to work with children? Have you always wanted to or did it just happen?**

I wanted to become an educator because I have always loved working with kids and being part of their growth. I've always been a helper and a problem solver, and teaching gives me the chance to use those strengths every day. Growing up, I was often the babysitter, and throughout college I worked in childcare and helped with kids at church. Those experiences showed me how much I enjoy supporting and encouraging children.

One of my favorite parts of teaching is watching kids learn and gain confidence in what they know. I love seeing their excitement when something finally “clicks” or when they discover something new. Helping children feel happy, loved, and supported while they grow in their knowledge is incredibly rewarding to me. Their excitement about learning is what keeps me excited about teaching.

## **What are some of your hobbies?**

I love to hang out with my family. We like to do puzzles, sing and dance, and be silly. I really enjoy playing games and planning events.

## **What is your most treasured accomplishment?**

It is hard for me to narrow my most treasured accomplishment down to just one moment because I see it as a bigger picture. My greatest accomplishment has been the journey of living out my calling as an educator. Being given the gift and passion for teaching has allowed me to pursue goals that once felt like dreams—becoming a teacher, earning my master’s degree, writing curriculum, and developing and leading professional development for other educators.

Each of these milestones has built on the one before it and eventually led me to the role of program leader. What makes this accomplishment so meaningful to me is not just the titles or achievements, but the impact behind them. I have the opportunity to help and support educators who in turn help children grow and succeed.

For me, the true accomplishment is being able to live out my passion every day—helping those who help others, and creating opportunities for both educators and students to learn, grow, and thrive.

## **What is your favorite thing about working with children?**

Every day is a gift to show them what being cared for, loved, and encouragement can look like. In turn, every day is different. I never know what funny thing a child will do or say. I never know how my small moment with them will have a lasting effect. That is my favorite thing about working with children. I love getting to be a part of their journey.

## **What has been the most significant or memorable moment in your job?**

One of the most memorable moments in my career was when I had the privilege of looping with a group of students for three years while teaching elementary school. I started with them in Kindergarten, then moved with them to 1st grade, and finally to 2nd grade. Over those years we gained and lost a few students, but we had a core group of 18 children who stayed together the entire time.

Spending those three years together allowed us to build incredibly strong relationships. I was able to watch them grow not only academically, but also socially and emotionally. We shared so many meaningful moments, challenges, and celebrations that created memories I will always treasure.

Now that those students are all beyond high school, I still smile whenever I see them around town or run into their parents and family members. It brings back so many wonderful memories, and I feel incredibly proud of the people they have become and continue to grow into. Knowing I was able to be a small part of their journey is something I will always cherish.

**Do you have any dreams or aspirations you want to share?**

My dream is to see early childhood education across our state and nation recognized for the powerful impact it truly has on shaping the lives of young children. The early years are when the foundation for learning, development, and success is built, and I hope to see our field valued for the critical role it plays in that process.

# Wellness Corner

## *Celebrating National Gardening Month*



April is National Gardening Month—a perfect time to get outside, get your hands in the soil, and grow something meaningful! Gardening is a simple yet powerful way to support both physical and mental wellbeing. For young children, it encourages movement, curiosity, and a connection to where food comes from. For adults, it can reduce stress, boost mood, and create moments of mindfulness on a busy day. In early childhood settings, gardening doesn't have to be complicated. Whether it's planting herbs in a small container, growing lettuce in a raised bed, or simply exploring soil and seeds, every experience helps build lifelong healthy habits.

Interested in taking it further? Join us at the upcoming **Growing Minds, Growing Bodies Farm to ECE Summit** to explore more ways to incorporate gardening, local foods, and hands-on nutrition education into your program!

[Register for the Farm to ECE Summit](#)

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS!

Childcare Provider Call Highlights! We know how busy you are and want to make it a little easier on you! Every month we email out a summary of highlights of the OEC's Childcare Provider Call. Make sure this is getting to you! If not, reach out to Deborah to stay connected!

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**"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."**

**- Nelson Mandela**



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