

Dr. Denisha Jones is the Executive Director of Defending the Early Years and the Founder and CEO of D. Jones Consultant. She has over 20 years of experience as a professor of teacher education, preschool director, and kindergarten teacher. She offers keynotes, workshops, and communities of practice to support early childhood educators in fostering optimal whole-child development grounded in pedagogies of play, joy, and liberation. Her research on the teacher's role in play-led environments, global approaches to play, and fostering healthy identity in the early years informs her scholarship and consulting work. She has published numerous articles and book chapters and is an accessible and highly sought-after public speaker.