

Paola Lopez, a business management professional turned education leader, is the visionary founder and executive director of Kinderoo Children's Academy and the Innovation Center of Ocala, both based in Florida. With over two decades of experience in early childhood education, Paola's passion for advocating children's rights and promoting diversity and innovation has been the cornerstone of her pedagogical journey.

The preschool serves 180 families, and Paola oversees a team of 25 dedicated educators who help bring her vision to life. Her goal is to equip both teachers and children with the skills and mindsets essential in a world of constant innovation. Her dedication to the field has earned her affiliations, awards, and training from organizations like NAEYC, NAREA, and the Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange.

As a recognized leader, Paola serves on several state boards and has presented at international, national, and regional conferences. She was honored with the 2019 NAEYC Play, Practice, and Policy Forum's Patricia Monighan Nourot Award for her commitment to excellence in education.

Paola's philosophy is rooted in child-centered responsive practices, documentation, reflection, and transformation through play and inquiry. She firmly believes that a child-centered approach is key to fostering lifelong autonomous learners and aims to empower educators and children to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

