

# GLADYS MONTES

**Former Group Vice President, United Way  
Early Childhood Education and Care Expert**

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Miami, FL



Born in Puerto Rico. Mother of two and grandmother of six. My educational explorations started in Puerto Rico where I completed my bachelors in Home Economics and Child Development.

Immediately I understood that my passion was the much needed work with very young children. My husband joined the Air Force and our family began a new quest. Our first assignment was Eglin AFB located in the Florida panhandle, where my early childhood experiences provided me the opportunity work as a two year old classroom teacher.

Our next move was to Germany where I had the opportunity to work for the Department of Defense in their Early Childhood Program as an assistant teacher, a teacher and later on, as the Assistant Director of the Vogelweh Child Care Center.

Through the years I have had the opportunity to work with great organizations, such as Catholic Charities, Nova Southeastern University, Miami Dade College, Royal Caribbean, the University of Miami, Western Kentucky University, Head Start and United Way Miami.

My formal and informal education has been influenced by the relationships along the way and by my immense desire to impact the dialogue around the early childhood space. With every change in my career came an opportunity to learn more and develop skills in the work with children, families and the staff that supports them.