

Melody Hartley is a dedicated Texas Rising Star mentor who began her career in childcare in 1991 and brings over 30 years of experience to the field. She started as a teacher and advanced through roles as an assistant director and center director/owner. At age 50, Melody returned to school, earning her associate's in child development, followed by a bachelor's in organizational management from Midland College in 2019. She continued her education and earned a second bachelor's in early childhood and teaching–Child Development from Odessa College, graduating in December 2025. In January 2026, she stepped into her role as a mentor, where she continues to support and guide childcare programs. Melody lives by the motto: *"It is never too late to learn!"*

