



# Ms. Ari

Lead Guide in Casa

### **About Me**

Raised in Houston, TX, Ms. Ari made sunny Grand Cayman her home in 2018. Since living here, she enjoys embracing the Caymanian culture and immersing herself in the warmth of the people and the rich traditions. Ms. Ari looks forward to continuing making connections with the local community and adding meaningful contributions to Grand Cayman.

Her love affair with the Montessori philosophy began in 1998 while working as an aide for an autistic child—a life-changing experience that led her to complete her Montessori Casa training 2002. In 2020, she earned her Lower Elementary certificate, deepening her commitment to this incredible philosophy. Ms. Ari has had the privilege of teaching in Kenya and Ghana and even served as the director of Montessori schools in both Houston and Austin. She is deeply passionate about nurturing social-emotional learning and fostering a strong growth mindset in the children she teaches. She has years of experience teaching children with special and additional needs and firmly believes that every child deserves the opportunity to thrive, flourish, and reach their fullest potential.

Beyond the classroom, Ms. Ari lives life with zest—traveling the world, dancing whenever she can, pedaling her way to fitness at Ryde, devouring good books and podcasts, appreciating the joy of music, and hanging out with her beloved cats.

### **Fun Facts**

- \* I am the oldest of 5 (the rest are all boys)
- \* I was not a "cat lady" until I moved to Grand Cayman
- \* Sunflowers are my favourite flower

#### **Contact Me**



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"I never lose. Either I win or learn."
-Nelson Mandela







# Ms. Blessa

Assistant in Casa

### **About Me**

Ms. Blessa moved to the Cayman Islands in March 2022, but her journey as a teacher started long before that—back when she was a little girl playing "school" with her friends (she was always the teacher, of course!). That childhood dream eventually became reality when she earned her degree in Education, became a Licensed Professional Teacher in the Philippines, and started what is now six years of teaching experience both there and here in Cayman.

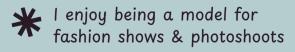
For Ms. Blessa, teaching isn't just about academics—it's about helping children grow in confidence, discover their talents, and believe they can reach their dreams. This passion has inspired her to keep learning, too. She's currently working on her Master's degree in Educational Management, has completed her AMI Montessori Orientation (3–6), and is now on her way to earning her Montessori Diploma for ages 3–6.

When she's not in the classroom, you can usually find Ms. Blessa crafting, climbing mountains, or hunting for the perfect coffee shop. And if you're lucky, you might even catch her doing something bold—like when she jumped off the Stratosphere in Las Vegas, 855 feet up, one of her proudest (and bravest!) achievements.

She believes learning should always be fun—and coffee definitely helps!

### **Fun Facts**





Watching the sunset makes my day 100X better!

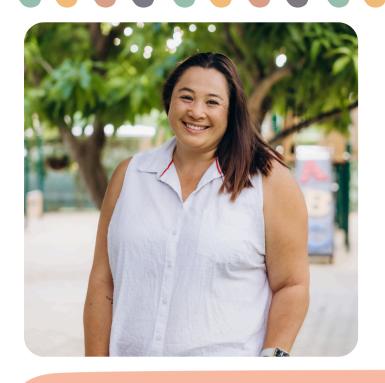


### **Contact Me**



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"Nothing changes if nothing changes"





# Ms. Andrea

Assistant in Casa

### **About Me**

Andrea is from Durban, South Africa and first moved to the Cayman Islands as a swimming coach in 2017. She holds a diploma in Sports coaching and started teaching swimming in 2010. Andrea has been lucky to be able to teach children from the ages of 6 months up to 18 years old and from all cultural backgrounds. She has a great passion working with children and enjoys creating stimulating, safe and active learning environments.

She joined the MSC team in January 2024. She really enjoys being in the Montessori environment and watching the children learn through exploration and play all while they gain their independence. This summer she completed her AMI Montessori Orientation (3-6) and is looking forward to putting everything she learned into her teaching practice in the Casa environment.

In her spare time she enjoys spending time outdoors either snorkeling, scuba diving or her latest obsession, pickleball. When you can't find her in the water or on the court she can be found at any of her favourite spots enjoying good coffee!

### **Fun Facts**

\* My favourite TV show is Friends

**\*** I'm a big Taylor Swift fan!

\* Both my brother and sister are also teachers!

## **Contact Me**



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"Always teach the fundamentals first and everything else will come after"





# Ms. Denise

Assistant in Casa

### **About Me**

Denise was born and raised in Jamaica. From a very young age, she was inspired to become a teacher by her mother, who was an Early Childhood Teacher. She began her teaching career in Jamaica, serving as a class teacher for three years, before relocating to the Cayman Islands, where she continued her educational journey.

Ms. Denise possesses a profound passion for working with young children and derives joy from supporting their growth and development on a daily basis. She holds a Montessori assistant teacher certificate (CGMS) and a certificate in Early Childhood Education. She is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education to further enhance her knowledge and skills. With over nine years of experience in teaching and

guiding young learners, Denise is dedicated to creating meaningful learning experiences that nurture the whole child.

Currently, Denise is joining the Casa Classroom as an assistant teacher, where she will apply her creativity and imagination in collaboration with her teaching team. She designs engaging activities, games, and hands-on experiences that ignite curiosity and promote exploration.

Her teaching philosophy is founded on recognising and celebrating the individuality of each child, while encouraging them to appreciate their unique abilities and the contributions of others within the classroom community. She places a strong emphasis on acceptance, respect, and kindness, helping children understand the value of self-love and the importance of honouring the differences in those around them.

Denise is inspired daily by the laughter, curiosity, and energy that children bring to the classroom. Her greatest joy comes from witnessing the excitement and wonder in children's eyes as they discover new ideas and explore the world around them. Outside of work, she enjoys praying and reading the Bible, meeting new people, and gardening.

#### **Fun Facts**

I enjoy watching action moviesI enjoy listening to Cece WinansFavourite song is 'God will work it out'



### **Contact Me**

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"God brought you to it, he will bring you through it".



