

# DR. DEREK BURKHOLDER

## PALMS CO-FOUNDER & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dr. Derek Burkholder is a dedicated leader committed to creating the best possible educational environment for young learners at Palms Day School. Embodying integrity, hard work, and determination, Derek approaches all facets of his role with diligence and passion.

He began his career as a teacher in early childhood, joining the leadership team years later before becoming the Director of Operations. With over a decade of experience in education, Derek is renowned for his exceptional customer service, consistent communication, and ability to foster joy in the learning journey for educators, families, and children alike.

Born and raised in northeast Ohio with a move to Florida, Derek developed a deep appreciation for the outdoors, which influenced his belief in the power of learning through play and nature.

. His commitment to education is further evidenced by his distinguished academic background, which includes dual Bachelor's degrees in Science and Early Childhood Education, a Master's in Business Administration, and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership.

*Dr. Derek Burkholder*

“Play is the work  
of childhood.”

-Jean Piaget



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