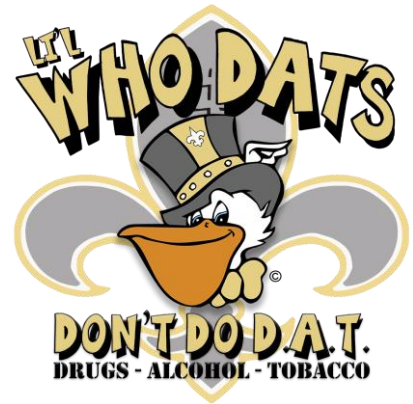


Dara Lemoine-Johnson

Seymore D'Fair Foundation Co-Founder & Director

Professional Overview: Dara Lemoine-Johnson is a seasoned early childhood educator with 37 years of dedicated service. She is known for her steadfast advocacy in education and community service. Throughout her career, Dara has focused on nurturing young minds at Pontchartrain Elementary, where she has been a beloved first-grade teacher. Her teaching philosophy centers on curriculum development, innovative lesson planning, student engagement, and effective classroom management.



Leadership and Advocacy: Beyond her classroom responsibilities, Dara actively contributes to broader educational initiatives. She has served in various capacities within parochial, private, and public school systems, enriching educational practices and policies. Her profound commitment to child welfare and education led her to co-found the Seymore D'Fair Foundation. As its Executive Director, she leads programs that empower children with knowledge and resilience, focusing particularly on substance abuse prevention.

Publications and Contributions: An accomplished author, Dara penned *Seymore Salutes Kiki's Red Ribbon School Celebration* and co-authored *Seymore Says, Don't Be a Bird Brain Avoid Drugs!* Educational tools that focus on imparting critical life skills to children.

Awards and Honors: Dara's exceptional dedication to teaching has been recognized widely. She has been honored as Teacher of the Year at Pontchartrain Elementary. She was acknowledged for establishing a Designated Model Classroom for the Accelerated Reader Program and nominated for the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science. She also received accolades such as the College of Education and Human Development Teacher Education Internship and the WYES-TV12 Teaching That Works Award.

Personal Life: Dara is a devoted wife and mother of two. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education with a minor in Early Childhood Education from the University of New Orleans. Her tireless commitment to education and her community continues to drive positive change and inspire others.