



DR. EL BROWN FULL BIO

Dr. El Brown is a storyteller, thinker, teacher, and mother who transforms moments into movements. Through her signature Top Notch Village framework, she helps families, service providers, agencies, communities, and policymakers create thriving ecosystems that support equitable education and life opportunities for all children. By galvanizing people and resources, she bridges these interconnected groups, fostering collaboration, belonging, and sustainable growth.

Dr. El's solution-oriented nature led her to found KinderJam®, a play-based early education program that began as a way to communicate her observations about her son's development with his service providers. This innovative program quickly grew into a military family support initiative, empowering families and educators across 11 countries and 16 states. Its impact earned Dr. El an invitation to the White House for Michelle Obama's Joining Forces initiative, where KinderJam was recognized for creating mobile, fulfilling careers for military spouses. She was also featured on The Oprah Winfrey Show as the Army Spouse of the Year, showcasing her ability to transform personal challenges into opportunities for widespread impact.

Her Top Notch Village philosophy is rooted in her lived experience as a mother. The mother work she undertook—navigating systems, building connections, and advocating for her son—served as a case study for this framework. Her practical knowledge and academic expertise have shown that a child's village—the people, systems, and relationships that surround them—has the power to transform lives. Her son's journey, from being nonverbal at nearly five years old to an incoming college freshman, is a testament to the power of intentional, collaborative ecosystems. This personal experience fuels her commitment to removing barriers and creating pathways to success for children and families.

With a PhD in Education with a focus on Family Sciences, Dr. El blends academic expertise with lived experience to craft practical tools and strategies that inspire growth and resilience. Her work emphasizes the importance of meso systems—the interconnected relationships between families, schools, and communities—in shaping opportunities and fostering equity.

Through storytelling, training, and speaking engagements, Dr. El delivers insights with authenticity, humor, and purpose. Her mission is to ensure every child feels seen, valued, and supported by a Top Notch Village that is committed to their success. As a woman, mother, thinker, and teacher, Dr. El empowers communities to create environments where children thrive and their potential knows no limits.