

Meet the Teachers at SonShine Preschool!



Mala Calkins, Director. Lead teacher in the Frogs, Bees, Bananas, & Stars classes

Hi, I'm "Miss Mala." I have loved working with young children since I was a child myself, and have been teaching in the early childhood field for 18 years (more than half my life!). I was born in Australia and moved to Colorado when I was five. I have lived in Greeley since 2002. My high school sweetheart, Ty, and I were married in 2004. Our boys are in fifth grade and seventh grade at Dayspring Christian Academy, a school we love and recommend.

I was a teacher's assistant in child care centers from 2000 until 2006 (ABC West Child Development Center in the toddler classrooms from 2002-2006, and Neighborhood Learning Center of Niwot with preschoolers from 2000-2002). While attending UNC, I spent two semesters student teaching in Greeley kindergarten classrooms as part of my training, so I am familiar with kindergarten expectations. I graduated from UNC in 2006 with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education (teaching).

Soon after earning my teaching degree, our first son, Daven, was born. When he was born, I left my job at ABC and started my own small home child care business so that I could stay home with him. Our second son, Tyler, was born in 2008. In April 2009, I acquired my home child care license and took on more child care clients. I taught formal preschool to my children and child care clients in my home for 5 years, and am qualified by the state of Colorado as an "early childhood" (preschool) teacher. I am a Christian, and to me, nothing is more important to teach children than that Jesus is their Savior. I taught the Two-Year-Old Sunday School here from 2004-2017.

I am certified in CPR, First Aid, and Medication Administration. I also complete at least 15 hours of additional professional training per year pertaining to the care of children. I opened SonShine Preschool for our church in the fall of 2012, and feel absolutely blessed to have my dream job! It brings me great joy to get to know each of my students personally and help them grow and develop. Please feel welcome to ask me for a list of client references if you wish. It is important to me that you feel confident entrusting your precious child or children into our care.



Jaime Guerrero, Lead Teacher in the Bears class

Hello, Parents!

My name is Jaime Guerrero, and I am thrilled to be working with your children in the Bear class! To tell you a little about myself, I achieved my Degree in Early Childhood in the summer of 2002 and was employed with Head Start for 11 years. I have also volunteered at several Greeley schools and cared for children at my home childcare.

In 2010, we welcomed our second child, and my husband and I decided it would be best for me to stay at home with our children for a while. God brought us to SonShine Preschool in August of 2013 when our son began attending preschool here. We loved it so much, he attended a second year in 2014 and I was a regular volunteer for both years. I am pleased and excited to be a part of the SonShine Preschool Staff since 2015. In the summer of 2018, we were blessed with another baby girl. I will be returning from maternity leave in November of 2018.

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Cory Burough, Assistant Teacher in the Frogs, Bees, Stars, and Bananas classes

Hi, I'm "Miss Cory," or "Miss Cowey," for most of the kids who can't say their R's yet. 😊 I have been teaching at SonShine Preschool since 2013, and I really have a good time going to work every day.

I grew up in North Dakota, and have lived in Greeley for 25 years. Greeley First has been my home church for that time as well, and is also where I got married 22 years ago. I enjoy singing on the worship team. I also assist my husband, Mark, with his lawn care and snow removal business of 25 years, mostly in the office.

My background starts with 18 years of retail management, beginning with Christopher and Banks, supervising 13 stores with lots of travel and exciting challenges. I then managed Victoria's Secret, earning some of the top awards in the company. After I had my 2nd daughter, I decided to stay home and do home child care, which I enjoyed for 8 years before starting at SonShine Preschool.

My two daughters keep me on the go! My oldest recently graduated high school, and my youngest is in 9th grade at Dayspring Christian Academy. I also love to go on bike rides and do yoga.

I love working with Preschoolers because they say whatever is on their mind and have great senses of humor. I love to have fun with them! Making up rhyming songs for the kids is a favorite of mine. Thank you for letting me have fun and learn with your kids. I love to see them learn things that will continue on with them forever!



Faith Voegeli, Assistant Teacher in the Bears, Bees, Dinosaurs, and Apples Classes

Hello, my name is Faith and I have been teaching the children at SonShine Preschool since 2016. I have been married for 13 years and have been blessed with two children. As a mother, I am very aware of the trust and decision making it takes to select the perfect place for your child.

I have a background in caring for and providing instruction to pre-k children as a self-employed daycare provider. I am passionate about the growth and development of young children and had the opportunity to assist intermittently during the 2014 and 2015 preschool years at SonShine preschool. The time spent with the children and staff was such a positive experience, and now I am pleased to be a part of the incredible team at SonShine. I am committed to demonstrating compassion and professionalism in caring for the students because I know and believe that how children are taught and cared for will last a lifetime.

"Start children off on the Way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6

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Julie Reichard, Lead teacher of Dinosaurs and Apples; Lead Teacher substitute in Bears while Miss Jaime is on maternity leave

Hello, family and friends!

My name is Miss Julie, and I have been working with children for 30 years on & off. I started in 1980 working with children that had many different challenges in their lives. Next, I had my own home daycare. This allowed me to be a stay-at-home mom for my own children.

I went to school for early childhood education, and earned the privilege of being a director of 5 school sites.

My husband, Ron, and I have been married for 34 years! We have two beautiful children, Ryan and Lyndsey. I had a serious injury 10 years ago, which caused me to give up working with children. This broke my heart! I went on to other jobs.

Now that the Lord has healed me in many areas, I am able to return to working with children. I am grateful for this gift given to me by our Lord and Savior!

I love the staff here at SonShine Preschool, and our school's mission. I feel so blessed to be a part of this team. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your family by being able to guide your children.