

Meet the Teachers at SonShine Preschool!



Mala Calkins, Director. 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 20 years (more than half my life!). I was born in Australia and moved to Boulder when I was five, then lived in Dacono and went to Frederick High School. I have lived in Greeley since 2002. My high school sweetheart, Ty, and I were married in 2004. Our boys are in Seventh grade and Ninth 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. On Sunday mornings, I'm the Tiny Tots supervisor for the 9am service over at Christ Community Church.

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.



Cory Burough, Teacher in the Frogs, Apples, 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 is studying aesthetics, and my youngest is in 10th 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, Teacher in the Bears, Bees, Dinosaurs, and Stars 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***



Kim Taylor, Teacher in Apple and Bears

Dear Preschool Families,

My name is Kim Taylor, and I am so happy and excited to be a member of the SonShine Preschool staff and family since late 2018.

I have lived here in Greeley since 1992 and raised my 3 amazing sons here. Jackson is 26, Parker is 24, and Grant is 21. I am excited to be a new Grandma, and love caring for my grandson on my days off. I was born in NY and moved to Fort Collins in 1975. I graduated from Fort Collins High School in 1983, then attended Fort Lewis College where I graduated with a BA in Sociology and Social Work in 1988. I began my teaching career at Jack and Jill Preschool as a lead teacher, and then became an Assistant Director at A Children's Workshop in Fort Collins.

Similar to our other teachers, I started my own licensed in-home daycare after the birth of my first son. Over the next five years, my daycare evolved into my own preschool, "Kim's Adventures in Learning," which I owned and taught at for the next 12 years. I stopped running my own preschool a few years ago and took some extra time with my children, traveling and starting a small furniture refinishing business, but I missed those preschoolers and am thrilled to be back teaching again.

My passion is teaching young children and being able have the privilege of helping to prepare them academically, emotionally, and socially for kindergarten. I have always had wonderful relationships with my preschoolers and their families, and I have been fortunate to see them grow up, attend their high school and college graduations, and even meet some of their young children.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to let me know. Thank you for welcoming me and giving me the chance to be a part of your beautiful children's lives.

Blessings,

Kim Taylor



Debbie Posey, Teacher in the Dinosaur Class

Hi! My name is Debbie Posey, and I am very excited to be with SonShine Preschool for my second year. My husband, Mike, and I have been married for 37 years. We are blessed with three children and 13 grandchildren. We moved to Eaton two years ago and just love it.

My career in education began just after high school graduation. I worked at our church preschool for two years while attending college. I earned my associate degree in Early Childhood Development in 1996. I worked at the Tiny Tots Preschool in Selma, California, as the lead teacher for the next four years.

We moved to Fort Smith, Arkansas, where I worked for 18 years for the Greenwood school district. I spent four year as a substitute teacher and 14 years as a para-professional.

It's a blessing to be a part of the dedicated staff at SonShine Preschool, working to help students grow and make learning fun for your little ones.



Jaime Guerrero, on leave this year but returning next year

Hello, Parents!

My name is Jaime Guerrero, and I am thrilled to be working with your children! 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.