

# CHILDREN'S JOURNEY PRESCHOOL

*Redeemer Lutheran Church*

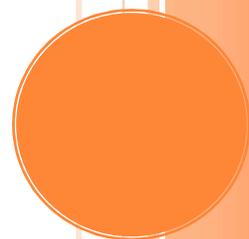


Preschool Staff Biographies

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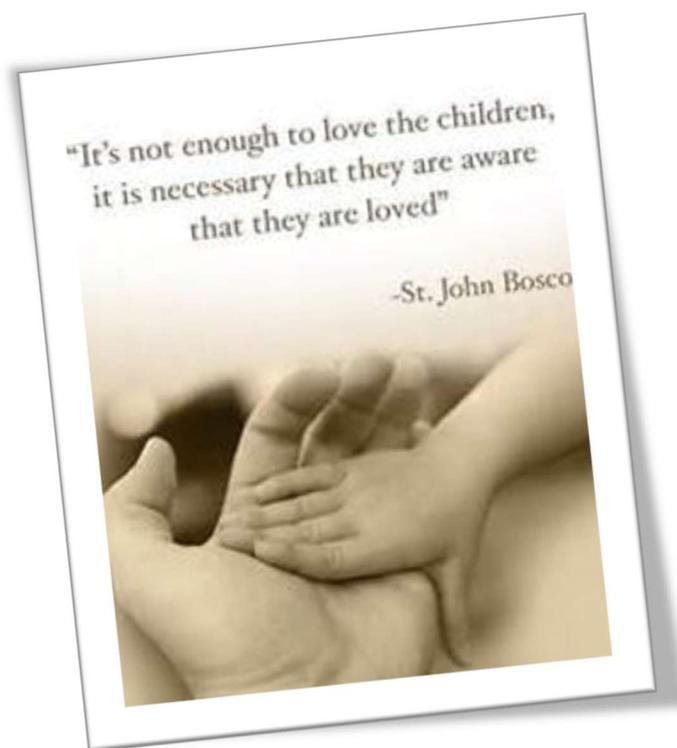


# CHILDREN'S JOURNEY PRESCHOOL

Welcome to Children's Journey Preschool! We are so excited to have your child as part of our church family. Children's Journey Preschool is an exciting milestone in your child's life. Your child is embarking on a journey that will lead them on many roads of discovery and learning. Children's Journey Preschool is a ministry of Redeemer Lutheran Church and we are proud of the many years our school has been in existence.

Children's Journey Preschool and Redeemer Lutheran Church know that high-quality teachers make all the difference in the lives of our children. Our teachers provide classrooms where children feel cared for and safe. Children's Journey Preschool is staffed by fully qualified, enthusiastic and caring professionals all of whom have extensive training and background in the field of child development, possess CPR/ First Aid Certification, and are active participants in professional workshops in order to enhance their knowledge, growth and development as teachers guiding young children and their parents.

We invite you to meet our teachers and read their bios.



## Preschool Director



Hi! My name is **Jennifer Estrada**. I was born and raised in Selma, Al and I moved to Orlando, FL in 2000 with my job. I graduated from Troy State University in 1998 with my Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. I moved to Orlando in 2000 for a promotion with my job. When I had my beautiful daughter Megan I "retired" from my job so I could stay at home with her. I was able to stay at home with Megan for 5 years and during those 5 wonderful years is when I discovered I wanted to work with children. I started substitute teaching at the elementary school that Megan attended for several years and then decided to get a full time job as a preschool teacher. I started off in the Infant room and through the years of teaching I was a Lead teacher from the Infant room to the Pre-K room. I went back to school during that time and received my CDA (Child Development Credential) and that

allowed me to teach up to 5 years of age. I loved being a teacher. I love watching the children learn, they are like little sponges that soak up so much information. To see their face when they learn something new is a wonderful feeling. I had such good relationships with the families and children of my preschool that I really wanted to further my career and become a director. My ultimate goal was to direct a preschool where I could make it my own. I went back to college and received my Director's Credential, VPK endorsed and within 3 months I was promoted to Curriculum Director of a preschool that held 200 families and 47 teachers. I loved my job as a Curriculum Director but my goal was to run my own preschool.

Children's Journey Preschool is a blessing to me. I am so thankful to have found this school. I couldn't have asked for better teachers, church staff, and advisory board. It is exactly where I am supposed to be. I look forward to having a long, healthy relationship with the teachers, students, and families of CJP.

## Preschool Associate Director



Hi! My name is **Trisha Vigo**, and I am from Casselberry, Florida. I was born in Winter Park and lived here until I was nine. When I was nine my family moved to Sarasota, Florida where we lived for ten years. In 2011 I returned to Casselberry with my dad and little brother. I received my Child Development Associate credential and Directors credential from Seminole State College. I am currently attending Seminole State working on my Associates in Science Degree in Early Childhood Education. Once I have completed that I plan to further my education by attending UCF to receive my Bachelor's Degree. I plan to major in Early Childhood Education and perhaps minor in another young child related field.

I have been with Children's Journey Preschool since January of 2012. I started here as an assistant in the infant room before I moved to a lead teacher position in our toddler class in late 2012. In the summer of 2012, I was also promoted to supervising teacher. I held both positions until June of 2014 when I was graciously promoted to Assistant Director. I have worked and helped with all of the age groups at CJP from infant through VPK. In 2016, I became the Associate Director of CJP.

I have known since I was a small child that I wanted to work with children. I truly believe that their education starts with us. I feel great knowing that what I do makes a difference and paves the way for their future development and education. I want all the children in my care to succeed in everything they do, to feel loved, safe, and excited about coming to school. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my son and wonderful fiancé. I also love being in the water whether it's at the beach or at a pool. I love to do DIY projects, take photographs, and spend time with the rest of my family and friends. I look forward to getting to know your child and family, and want to thank you for allowing us to be a part of your child's development.

## Meet Your Young Infant Teachers



Hello, my name is **Yomaris Brito**. I was raised in New York and moved to Orlando, Florida in 2010.

I graduated from high school with honors and attended college to obtain my technical degree in Medical Assisting. When I had my first child I decided that I wanted to teach children. I went back to school and obtained my Child Development Credential in 2013.

I have worked with children for over 11 years now aging from infant – twelve years old. I feel it is very rewarding to work with children. They are the future and being a part of their lives, watching them grow, and watching them learn new things gives me great joy. Going to work every day and being greeted by their warm smiles and cuddles melts my heart. Every day is a new learning experience because every child is unique. I want children to know how important they are as individuals. I want to show them every day how important the things they do are and show them that I believe in them.

Outside of work, my hobbies include bike riding, walks at the park or beach, and making every outing family time. My family is my number 1 priority. I am married to a wonderful man and have 2 beautiful girls. My youngest daughter attends school here at CJP.

I look forward to getting to know your children and your families!



Hi, my name is **Bianca Castro**. I grew up in Mt. Sinai, New York until my family decided to relocate to Florida while I was attending Elementary School. After graduating high school, I attended college courses to become a veterinarian technician, but have since changed my major to Early Childhood Education.

I've worked in childcare for just over a year now. I have worked with children from the infant classroom all the way through assisting in a VPK classroom. I love working with children because when they learn something new it is a very rewarding feeling knowing that I helped them along the way. I hope that I am always able to make learning fun for these precious children and that they have a desire to want to learn more after being with me.

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my family, especially my niece and nephew, participating in Making Strides against Breast Cancer, and watching movies. I look forward to getting to know your family and your child.

## Meet your Older Infant Teachers



Hello, my name is **Sue Dejesus** and I recently moved to Florida from Missouri to be closer to my family that lives here.

I have spent a lot of time around children from working in clinics, to babysitting, working at the YMCA, and raising four children of my own. I have worked with various ages from infant through teenage. I believe that children are our future and they need a good healthy start to their education in order to succeed when they become adults. I love giving them attention, love, and preparing their young minds. I hope that I provide each child I teach with security and all the tools they need to grow and learn.

Outside of work, I enjoy writing, listening to music, and baking with my children. I have four children of my own who are 5, 11, 12, and 14. I love my spouse dearly and together we are a team raising our children. I look forward to spending time with your children!



Hi! My name is **Basant Soliman**. I am from Cairo, Egypt. I moved to Florida in 2013 with my husband.

In Egypt I worked with young children at St. Paul Church for 7 years. I also work Summer Camps with my church St. Anthony in Maitland. I love working with children. To see them grow and develop makes me happy. To be a part of that growth process is very important to me.

Outside of work I enjoy watching lots of movies and reading books.

I look forward to getting to know your family and your children



Hi, my name is **Marie Mello** and I am originally from Cleveland, Ohio. I came to Florida to continue my education.

I graduated from high school in 2005 and proceeded to take some college courses in the medical field and have since obtained a few certificates in that field. My true passion though is working with young children. I have worked in Preschools serving children from infant through 3 years old. I love working with children because it makes me feel good knowing that I taught them and I love putting a smile on their faces. Ultimately, I want children to have fun while learning and to gain knowledge they can use for years to come. My mother also works in the Early Childhood Education field and I look up to her and all she has accomplished in her years of experience.

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my family, going to the beach, and being active through singing and dancing. I play the violin and absolutely love animals. I also have a 3-year-old daughter who is my life. She is so spunky, energetic, and such a great daughter. Thank you for letting me be a part of your child's life.

## Meet your Toddler Teachers



Hi! My name is **Samantha McLeod** and I was born and raised in Orlando, Florida. I am currently attending Orlando Technical Institute and I am enrolled in the Child Development Apprenticeship Program obtaining my CDA.

I have been teaching children for the last 8 years. I love working with all age groups and have spent most of my time working with the toddlers and early preschoolers. I love working with children because they are our future. I want to make sure children have the skills they need to become happy and successful adults who can make the world a better place.

Outside of work, I love kayaking, camping, going to the beach, and taking my daughter to the park. My daughter is 1 now and she has changed my entire view of the world. I am happy to have my daughter and myself here at CJP in a faith-based environment with warm and friendly people. I look forward to getting to know your family and your children!



Hi, my name is **Heather Ray** and I am originally from Michigan. I moved to Florida with my family in 2004. I graduated with honors from Lincoln Consolidated High School and took some general education classes at the college level. I recently decided that I wanted to work with young children, which was when I decided to complete my childcare training through DCF.

I have taken care of young children in various settings since I was a young adult. I have cared for children as young as one week all the way through 12 years old. I love to see kids laugh and play. It is amazing to watch them discover something new or figure out how something works. When I work with young children, I want to help them grow and learn new and exciting things.

Outside of work, I love to craft. I can make many things! I also enjoy painting and spending time with my husband. We hope to have children of our own soon.

I look forward to getting to know you and your child!



Hi! My name is **Janette Naguib**. I am from Egypt. I moved to Florida in 2009.

In Egypt, I worked with children in my church for 7 years. I loved every minute of it. I also grew up with lots of family around me so I was always taking care of the children in my family. I love working with children because I genuinely love them. I love to cuddle them and make them feel loved. They always put a smile on my face. I want to help the children in my class meet the developmental skills they need to move forward.

Outside of work I love to draw, sing, and spend time with my family. I have been married for 10 years and have 2 beautiful children ages 9 and 4.

I look forward to getting to know you and your family!

## Meet your Early Preschool 1 (EP1) Teachers



Hello, my name is **Tiffany Griffis** and I was born and raised in Central Florida. After graduating high school I enrolled as a student at Seminole State College where I earned my Associate's in Arts Degree with a focus on early childhood education. I am now enrolled at UCF to obtain my Bachelor's Degree.

I started working with young children in 2011 and have since then worked with various age groups as an assistant teacher and a lead teacher. I love working with young children because I enjoy watching them learn and explore. I hope to be a positive influence on the children in my care by teaching them how to be compassionate.

Outside of work, my husband and I spend our time outdoors with our two dogs.

I look forward to getting to know your child and your family. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of their development.



My name is **Arlene Ortiz** and I am from Puerto Rico. I received my Bachelor's Degree in Speech and language pathology from the Caribbean University in Puerto Rico. I spent 3 years working as a Speech and Language Therapist mostly working with children and so far 2 months as an Assistant teacher.

I love working with children. I love their curiosity and innocence. I love knowing that I contribute in their development, and education in a friendly and happy atmosphere.

Outside of work, I like to read books, watch TV series, movies, and travel to new places.

## Meet your Early Preschool 2 (EP2) Teachers



Hi! My name is **Jacie Alvarado**. I am originally from New York. I moved to Florida in 2007 and attended college at Seminole State obtaining my Associates Degree. I am now completing my CDA and Director's credential at Seminole State.

I have been working with children for 2 years now and will make my career in Childcare. I love working with children and want to make each child feel special, nurtured, and make sure they get the developmental skills they need to succeed in Elementary and higher.

Outside of work I spend quality time with my fiancé, family, dogs, and friends.

I look forward to getting to know each of you and your children here at CJP!



Hello, my name is **Tiffany Tyler** and I have lived in Orlando, FL. My whole life.

I have over 20 years of experience in the Early Childhood Education field and have taken many college level courses to obtain certificates specific for working with young children. I feel like I have spent my whole life working with young children and I wouldn't change it for the world. Working with young children gives me joy and satisfaction knowing I can be a huge influence on their lives. I want children I teach to know that I am here to love, teach, and nurture them while they are away from home.

In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my 3 beautiful children. I have a 15-year-old daughter, a 17-year-old son, and another daughter who is 23 years old. My teenagers are very active with baseball and dance. In our additional time we enjoy going to the beach, cooking, and watching good movies. I look forward to getting to know you and your child.



Hi, my name is **Cynthia Chavez**. My parents moved to Florida from Mexico before I was born and raised me right here in Orlando. I am currently a student at Valencia College working toward obtaining my degree.

I have worked in childcare for over 3 years now, working mainly with 1-year-old children through 3 years old in a local Preschool. I love working with young children because I believe they teach us patience, value of friendship, peace, and value of precious time. I want to make sure every child I teach knows that they are capable of doing anything they set their mind to and that I supported them and care about them a great deal.

Outside of work and attending classes, I enjoy shopping and spending time with my friends and family. I look forward to getting to know your family and your child. Thank you for letting me be a part of their development.

## Meet your Preschool Teachers



Hi, my name **Sonia Cosme**. I recently relocated to Orlando, Florida from Reading Pennsylvania. I graduated high school in 2007 and I went to B.T.I for early childhood education.

I've worked with children for 5 years now. I have worked with all age groups from infant through school age. Children bring me so much joy. I love making children laugh, and watching them grow and play. I hope that every child I teach knows they have had a teacher who really cares about them.

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my friends, family, and boyfriend. I am also very excited about living in a new place and exploring the area and attending Church every Sunday morning.

I look forward to getting to know the CJP families and their children!



Hello, my name is **Nell Silva** and I am originally from San Juan, Puerto Rico. I moved to Florida 4 years ago. While I lived in Puerto Rico I received my Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Arts and Humanities from the University of Puerto Rico.

I have taught children in all grade levels for over 20 years now and have worked as an Early Childhood Educator for 3 years. For the last 2 years I have spent my time working with 1 year olds. I love working with children because I have always loved children and believe they are a blessing. When I work with children I want to make sure they feel loved, accepted, and safe at all times.

Outside of work I am an Ordained Minister and I enjoy going to hospitals to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. I have three beautiful children, a 25-year-old daughter, a 20-year-old daughter, and a 10-year-old son. I am a vegetarian, I run every day, and I adore my job working with young children.

## Meet your Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) Teachers



Hi! My name is **Mary Greene**. I was born in St. Pete, Fl. I moved to Orlando to attend the University of Central Florida. I obtained my Bachelors in Art from UCF and in 2014 I received my Teaching Certificate from Valencia.

I have been working at CJP for over 1 year now and I have taught in all of the classrooms from Infant - VPK. I have always wanted a job where I felt I could help children and make a difference in their life. Working with children to me is such an important job and I get to have fun at the same time. I want to provide a warm and loving environment for children that helps them learn and grow.

Outside of work, I love trivia, arts and crafts, reading, and going to Starbucks. I have a dog named Boggie that is a Maltese Shitzu mix and is like a child to me.

I look forward to getting to know your children and family.



Hi, my name is **Shannon Gill**. I was born in Queens, New York and moved to Bradenton, FL when I was 8 years old. I lived there until 2 years ago when I moved to Orlando for college. I completed high school with honors in community service and then continued my education at Valencia where I received my Associate's Degree. Currently, I am enrolled at UCF working toward my Bachelor's Degree in elementary education.

I started working when I was a freshman in high school and have always believed in having a job and working towards goals. For the past 5 years I've worked full time in a Preschool setting with all ages from infant through 4 years old. I've also spent a lot of time working with children in volunteer roles. I love working with children! It is my truest passion in life and I feel that I understand children extremely well. I love connecting with their learning styles and seeing them succeed. I want to ensure that children fall in love with learning. I want to make it fun! I look forward

to working with the VPK children and preparing them for kindergarten.

Outside of work, I enjoy scrapbooking, working out, and going to school. Occasionally, I enjoy shopping and watching Netflix.

I look forward to getting to know your child and your family!

## Meet your Floating Classroom Teacher



Hi! My name is **Madison Hernandez**. I am from North Miami, Florida and I was born and raised in Florida. I graduated from Cooper City High School in 2014 after completing the 3-year childcare program. I am currently enrolled at University of Central Florida and hope to one day be an Elementary School teacher. My last job was with Broward County Schools where I worked at my High school's childcare center for a year as a student teacher. I've also worked at a JCC summer camp with children ages 3 to 5. Outside of work, I volunteered at a children's hospital for 3 years.

I want to make sure the children I teach fall in love with education. I want them to feel loved, safe, and secure in my care. I love putting a smile on their face and helping them learn!

Outside of work, I love to dance, play music, do art projects, and read. I have a baby sister, who I adore, that lives in Miami with our family. I have traveled to 5 different countries in Europe as well as Fiji, New Zealand, and Australia! I look forward to getting to know each of you and your children here at CJP!



Hello,

My name is Jennifer Wilson and I am originally from New Jersey. I moved to Florida with my husband so that we could be closer to family and enjoy the beautiful weather.

I obtained my Associate's degree in Special Education and have since then spent my time working as a swim instructor, camp counselor, and even as a legal assistant.

I love working with children because they are all unique in their own way. They are our future and really need a good role model to follow. I hope that while I work with these children I am able to create a foundation for the kids to build upon. I want them to enjoy learning and always do their best.

Outside of work, I enjoy swimming and playing golf with my husband. We are currently saving right now to buy a house and start a family of our own.

I look forward to getting to know you and your children.