

CHILDREN'S JOURNEY PRESCHOOL

Redeemer Lutheran Church

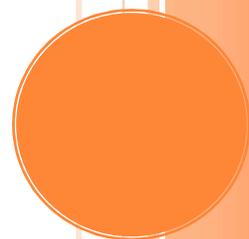


Preschool Staff Biographies

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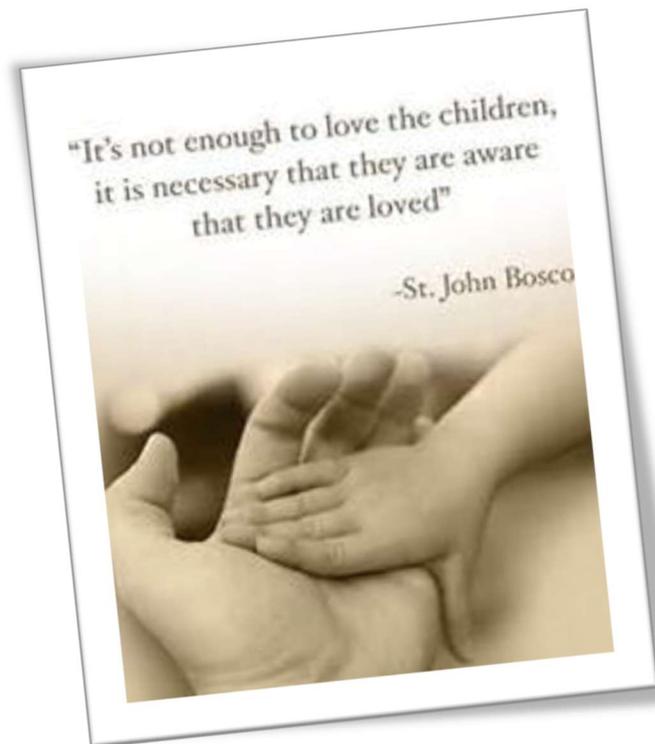


CHILDREN'S JOURNEY PRESCHOOL

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 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



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.



Hi everyone, my name is **Mercedes Paredes**. I am originally from Venezuela and relocated to Florida with my family. I have my bachelor's degree in government with a minor in social work, sociology, and liberal arts.

I have worked with young children and their families in a variety of settings and entered the early childhood field a year ago. I love working with children because I love to watch them grow and develop different personalities, meet challenges, and achieve accomplishments from day to day. I hope that while the children are in my care I can teach many things while providing them with love, safety, and security.

In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my grandchildren and my family. I am a mother of two and a grandmother to two children as well. I look forward to getting to know your child and your family!

Meet your Older Infant Teachers



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 **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. I am currently enrolled in school to obtain my CDA (Child Development Credential). 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.



Hi, my name is **Sheila Mojica**. My family is originally from Puerto Rico and I was born in Rochester, New York. I moved to Orlando with my family when I was 9 years old. I graduated from High School in 2010 and obtained my Medical Assistant degree after that. I am currently enrolled at Adventist University of Health Science working toward my Master's Degree and would eventually like to obtain my degree in child development.

I have worked with all age groups since I was 14 years old. In high school, I took classes toward child development and early childhood education. I have volunteered in many Preschools and provided Bible study classes to children at my church. Additionally, I've worked as a nanny and worked at a resort providing care to children.

I have always loved working with children. I enjoy watching them learn, grow, and become successful in life. I love working with children because they put a smile on my face, make me laugh, and help me to see things in a whole new perspective. Children

are our future, so with love, patience, teaching, and dedication they will turn into wonderful adults.

In my free time, I love to spend time with my family and friends. I also enjoy shopping, going to church, going to the beach, and playing volleyball. I look forward to getting to know your children and your family. Thank you for letting me be a part of your child's life!

Meet your Toddler Teachers



Hello, my name is **Tianna Richardson** and I am from Boston, Ma. I moved to Orlando, FL my senior year in high school and received my Early Education Certificate.

I have been working with children since my high school days, as it is my passion. I love being around children because they are so sweet, innocent, and they always put a smile on my face. I take pride in knowing I can impact a child's life with my teachings. I want them to learn and grow to their fullest potential.

Outside of work, I love to write music, read books, sing, work out but mostly hang with my 5-year-old son, Gio and our 2-year-old cat, Riggs!



Hi! My name is **Janette Seleman**. 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!



Hi! My name is **Jordan Morris**. I am from Chattanooga, Tennessee and moved here twelve years ago when my parents were transferred with their jobs. I received my high school diploma from Timber Creek High and then I attended University of South Florida where I obtained by Associate's in Sciences Degree. Currently, I am enrolled at Adventist University working toward my Bachelor's Degree in Nuclear Medicine Technology.

I've worked with children in various settings for a few years now, and I am delighted to add this experience at Children's Journey Preschool! I have my CDA (Child Development Credential). I love working with children because I get to be a crucial part of a child's development and I get to make a difference in each of their lives. I

want to know that I made a difference not only in their education, but also in their daily lives by always seeing the good in everything.

Outside of work, I love to spend my time outdoors. Going to the beach or going out on a boat are some of my favorite things to do! I also have 3 dachshunds (the hotdog puppies) that I love and a younger brother who I am very close to!

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 three 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.



Hi, my name is **Liz Quintero-Gonzalez**. My family is from Puerto Rico and I was raised in New York until I turned 12 and my family moved to Florida. I graduated from Lake Howell High School in 2009 and have since then taken classes at Valencia Community College. Currently, I am enrolled at Seminole State College working toward obtaining my Child Development Credential.

Most of my work experience has been with children. I have worked with children from the newborn age through school age. It has always been important to me that I provide a fun, safe, and loving environment. I love working with children because I enjoy watching them learn and grow. I take pride in helping children blossom and ensuring they have a bright future. While children are in my care, I want to make sure they know they are special and loved.

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my beautiful daughter as much as possible and I also enjoy dancing.

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

Meet your Early Preschool 2 (EP2) Teachers



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 would not 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.

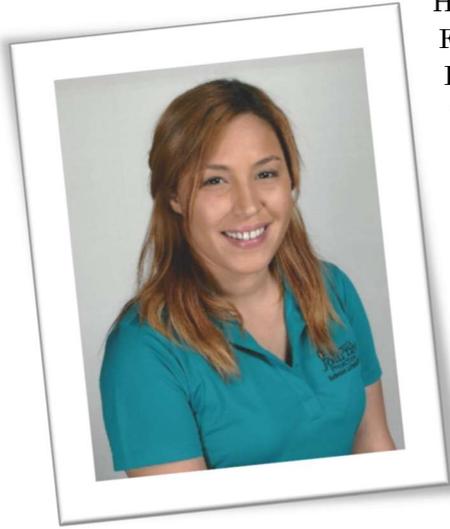


Hi Everyone, my name is **Brianna Robinson**. I am originally from Raleigh, North Carolina where I went to school at East Carolina University in Greenville. I have my bachelors of science degree in family and community services with a concentration in family studies. I also minored in psychology and have my credentials in early childhood education.

I have spent time working with children as a nanny and interning while I was in school. I love working with children because children are always growing and changing. Working with children offers me a new experience every day. I enjoy watching them develop their own personalities as well as watching them grow into "little adults" as I like to call them. I hope that while children are in my care I am able to help them develop into productive students who love to learn.

In my free time, I enjoy biking, longboarding, going on walks, and spending time with my fiancé and our dog. I also enjoy relaxing and tending to my garden. I am one of six children, so I value family and consider them very close. I look forward to getting to know your child and your family.

Meet your Preschool 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 over 3 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 **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. I have my CDA (Child Development Credential) and my Director's Credential. 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 4 year's 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 **Leya Oppenheim**. I was born and raised in Winter Park, Florida and currently reside in Oviedo. I graduated from Oviedo High School and then attended Seminole State College where I studied both Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education. I have my CDA (Child Development Credential).

I have over twelve years of experience working with children in Preschool and VPK. Teaching is the only career choice I have ever wanted for myself. I love teaching children new things and see the looks on their faces when they grasp a new concept. I hope to teach children that they are strong and confident learners capable of anything they set their minds to.

In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my husband and our two wonderful daughters. I also enjoy boating, doing crafts, and reading.

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

Meet your Floating Classroom Teacher



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.



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!