

## Jennifer Wirkman, Operations Manager



- Certified Licensed Nurse, Magna Cum Laude Graduate from Lake Washington Technical College 2004
- Owner of Jennifer Wirkman Consulting
- Event Coordinator & Administrator for Kirkland Preschool since 2006
- Event Coordinator for the SOVREN Guild of Seattle Children's Hospital since 2008

"...Teacher Carolyn, baby Jenny is crying!...' I have heard stories of soon after I was born my mother, Carolyn, went back to teaching and I went along too. So to say that I was nearly born and raised at Kirkland Preschool is a true statement.

I am not only an alumni student, having enjoyed all of my preschool years at Kirkland Preschool, I am also a parent alum. Both of my children also having had the wonderful educational opportunities which Kirkland Preschool provides.

Looking back upon my memories of being a student, I still recall the engaging activities in each class, all taught through play. At the time, little did I know that through the play, which I recall so fondly, I was also learning about math and reading concepts, writing, art, music, science, and social interactions. What a joy it was for me to get to experience that all over again with my own children attending. It brought me back to my childhood when my children would learn songs I still recall. I treasured the projects that proudly came home and were displayed on the fridge, then eventually carefully stored away, as I am sure my mother did when I was young.

Now, as an adult, the different "hats" I wear at Kirkland Preschool vary quite a bit. From being the school's consulting nurse and developing our health policies and procedures, to coordinating the school's annual fundraising events, and also working on the administration, operations and marketing ends of the business. I enjoy helping Kirkland Preschool grow.

Often times when sitting in the office working, it is challenging for me to get work done, because I hear the children in their small groups, doing yoga, dancing, or having indoor play on a rainy day. I find myself getting up to go and have fun with them instead!

When I am not working on Preschool related projects, you might find me volunteering at our local elementary school where I LOVE reading Junie B. Jones stories to the kindergartners and make the main character, Junie B. come to life. I also might be working on projects for my own consulting company that handles event coordination, project management, employee moral events and private parties. You may also find me during the fall and winter in my natural habitat, the mountain. As a clinical instructor for Powderpigs Ski School at Snoqualmie Pass, I enjoy facilitating our Instructor Training Program as well as helping to oversee our preschool program at the ski school. Having been a ski instructor for over 15 years, I love that every year not only do I get to enjoy watching a new batch of beginning skiers learn to love the sport and the mountain, but then each year I get to watch them grow and flourish and succeed even more!

My family and I love everything outdoors- skiing, hiking, camping, the beach, the pool, or laying in a hammock. We love the coziness of a warm fire, a blanket and a good book and also sitting down to enjoy a movie and popcorn. Having our extended family over for dinner, and enjoying each other's company is another family favorite."