

## Patrice Bahnsen, Teacher

Patrice brings a wide array of experiences to Kirkland Preschool. Her educational history includes Chemical Dependency Counseling at Shoreline Community College; Medical Office Assistant from Arizona Computer Institute; Child Development Associate Program at Renton Technical College and Child Care Manager Program at Lake Washington Technical College. In addition Patrice has over 140 hours of Early Childhood Training!



Prior to Kirkland Preschool, Patrice was a co-teacher at Little Sprouts in Yuma Arizona, and was a Lead Teacher at Kirkland Children's School from 1997 to 2007. Patrice has been with Kirkland Preschool since 2007.

When asked what her favorite in-class activity was, Patrice says:

*"My favorite thing to do in class is find the one activity that captivates each class and turns on their creative light. Sometimes it is dressing up in fabulous fabric and moving to dramatic music; or gathering boxes, cardboard, tubes, tape, scissors, sheets and building big creations. Sometimes it is finding the right combination of paint supplies that brings out the Picasso in everyone; or creating a science corner that captivates the children's imaginations."*

We also asked Patrice what her favorite field trip is and her reply is:

*"All of our field trips are my favorite because I get to spend time with family members I don't always get to see. Each one adds something new for me or the children. Saltwater State Park is the one I always say, "You really gotta go to this one". There is sea life, a sense of community because the whole school is there picnicking and chatting. Even years when the weather doesn't cooperate and we are all cold and wet, we are determined to have a good time!"*

When Patrice isn't in the classroom she enjoys being outdoors- whether on a walk, or on a hike, she loves to be one with nature. Patrice is also a outgoing people-person and loves meeting new folks. Patrice also loves exploring second hand stores finding not only treasures for herself, but also for her classroom. You may also find her happily gardening, or reading.

Patrice is happily married to her best friend, Tom, who is a carpenter, and they reside in the Juanita neighborhood. They have two grown sons, Nelson and Justin, as well as two cats, Max and Isadora. Patrice and Tom also enjoy volunteering to help fundraise and build sets for the Driftwood Inn Players in Edmonds.