

## Childswork Kindergarten: Our Teaching Team

### Marlie Killen

*“Teaching is in my blood. Before I graduated from The College of Idaho in Caldwell with a BA in Elementary Education, I knew I wanted to teach. My senior year, I student-taught at Van Buren Elementary School where my grandmother had been a teacher and later was principal.*

*My first years of teaching were in Boise, teaching first grade. Shortly after John and I married, we moved to Lewiston, Idaho, where I continued teaching in the public school system. I have also taken graduate classes at Boise State University, University of Idaho and Portland State University.*

*We were blessed with three healthy sons and I became aware of the need for alternatives in preschool education as our children grew. So, after visiting several preschools and doing some research, I became the owner-operator of my own preschool. I loved the autonomy but missed working with colleagues.*

*When we moved to Portland in 1988, I was given the name of the director of Childswork. I interviewed and was hired. I have been here ever since. Childswork's philosophy matches mine and is a place where children and adults are lifelong learners.”*

### Leah Schoonover

*“I have enjoyed working with young children for as long as I can remember. Over the years I have found my passion working in collaboration with children to experience the wonders of the world around us. Engaging in meaningful and integrated projects, thinking deeper about what makes a worm wiggle, taking a seventy second look at a favorite book and experiencing a wild game of tag on a windy sunny day brings me joy. I look forward to the new adventures that teaching Kindergarten will bring my way! Before teaching preschool at Childswork these past 4 years, I worked with special needs children at a non-profit elementary school in Central California and with elementary age children and teachers at the YMCA of Stanislaus County. I am originally from Grand Rapids, Michigan where I graduated from Calvin College with a Bachelors of Arts in Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education. I studied and worked within the elementary school setting there and in Chicago, IL where I spent the majority of my time teaching in preschool and Kindergarten classrooms. I currently hold an Oregon elementary teaching license and look forward to continuing my education in the future. I am from a family of artists and educators who find joy in and model dedication to the important work they do within their communities everyday. I too am excited and dedicated to learning and working within the Childswork Kindergarten community this coming school year.”*

### Garrett Riggs

*“I grew up in a big family outside Buffalo, NY. I was number four of ten, and during my teenage years had younger siblings of all different ages. I helped my mother watch the kids, read to them, and play games. I knew well before I started college that I was going to be a teacher and enrolled in Green Mountain College's Elementary Education Program. After I graduated I stayed in the same small Vermont town I went to school in and started working in the local history museum as their educator. Living in a small town is such an educational experience. When there are only 1500 people in town, the sense of community spirit and involvement is huge. I truly felt connected to my work, the people, and my sense of contribution. Moving to Portland didn't change that. Working with the Children's Museum and now working at Childswork, I feel connected to my community. I feel like I am contributing. And I am able to continue doing what I love and what I am best at, working to provide young children with opportunities to grow and develop at their pace in a loving, engaging, community environment.”*