



Meet our stellar team of teachers at Little Lambs Academy! Each one was hand-selected to serve at LLA



Debbie Shiroda (4K Lead Teacher) received a B.S. degree in education from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and is certified to teach pre-kindergarten through grade 6. She recently earned her Certification for Lutheran educators through Concordia University - WI. Her teaching experiences include teaching 3rd and 5th grade in Greendale as well as child care for several ages at the University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee Child Care Center. She lives in New Berlin, is married, and has two daughters, one in college and the other in high school. When she is not at school, she enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, and going to Door County. This is her 13th year at Little Lambs.



Jennifer Lehmann (4K Lead teacher) started at Little Lambs Academy in 2012, but has been teaching since 2003. She has a B.S. in Education from the University Of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and recently completed her Certification for Lutheran educators through Concordia University - WI. She is married, and has two school-age sons, both LLA graduates! Her whole family is committed to volunteering for (and playing with) the New Berlin Soccer Club, and when she is not cheering the boys on in soccer or basketball, you will find her running. She is an avid marathoner, ultra-runner, & swimmer.



Stacy Abraham (3K Lead Teacher) was born and raised in Minnesota where she earned her Bachelor degree from Augsburg College in Minneapolis. She has lived in Wisconsin since 2000 with her husband, Chris, and two sons - both LLA Grads! Stacy earned her Master's in Education from Cardinal Stritch University in 2007, then taught 1st and 3rd grade in Milwaukee before staying at home with her boys. She has been teaching at Little Lambs Academy since 2013, and in 2017 completed her Certification for Lutheran educators through Concordia University - WI. When not at LLA, Stacy volunteers at her boys' school and Scouting programs, and loves to read, bike and camp.



Kim Ritter (3K Lead Teacher) has loved teaching preschool age children since she graduated from UW-Milwaukee with a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education in 1989. She has been teaching at Little Lambs since 2014. She lives in Muskego with her husband, and has two grown sons, one at UW-Madison and the other is in the US Navy and resides in Pensacola FL. Kim enjoys traveling, gardening and reading.



Debbie Hoepfner (Teaching Assistant) has been teaching at Little Lambs Academy since 2002, and has taught in every grade level we offer! She earned her Early Childhood Certification as well as her Certification for Lutheran educators through Concordia University-WI, and taught at Hales Corners Lutheran before coming to Little Lambs. She is married with one grown son, and in her free time she enjoys traveling and hanging out with her friends.



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Laurie Kieliszewski (2T, Pre-3K & Little Explorers) has been teaching at Little Lambs Academy since 2007. She loves the excitement of being part of children's first school experience, teaching toddlers and Pre-3K students. She also guides her Little Explorers through rainforest, ocean, and pre-historic explorations, just to name just a few. Laurie is a Certified Early Childhood Educator, and earned her Certification for Lutheran educators through Concordia University - WI. She is married with two children - both in college. She loves to travel, bake, swim, go ATV-ing and she is quite crafty!



Shelley Bonin (Infant Class teacher) has been teaching at Little Lambs Academy since 2012 and she really enjoys her time with the babies and their parents/caregivers. She loves seeing how the children grow and develop a love for music. Shelley earned her Bachelor's degree from UW-Milwaukee, and she shares her time between LLA and Hales Corners Lutheran. She has a wonderful husband and 3 beautiful children - two in college and the other in high school. She has always been an active church member, serving as a Sunday school teacher, confirmation teacher, brownie leader and volleyball coach. In her free time, she enjoys playing volleyball, biking and walking her dog.



Lora Pelzek (Wrap-Around Care teacher) loves working with all ages in early childhood education! She earned her Bachelor's degree in Education from Concordia University-WI, and taught at Hales Corners Lutheran before coming to LLA. She teaches children ages 2-5 in wrap-around care, and her favorite thing is helping the children learn as they grow! She has two teenage children of her own, and loves to volunteer at church and her kids' schools. She is well-known for running the Upward Basketball program!



Mary Balistreri (Wrap-Around Care teacher) started teaching at Little Lambs in 2011, and has taught 3K, Lunch Bunch, Little Explorers and Wrap-Around care. Her gentle spirit and kind demeanor are a perfect fit for serving the children and families at LLA! She has a degree in Early Childhood Education from MATC, and her expertise and years of experience are an asset to LLA. She and her husband have three grown daughters, and they love to spend time with their family. In her spare time, Mary owns a L'Bri business, and enjoys connecting with her customers.



Jayne Lunsford (Infant/Toddler Child Care teacher) specializes in teaching the precious little infants and toddlers, and is a leader in our expansion effort as we offer full and part time child care. She is a loving, caring, nurturing, organized, faith-filled educator who brings her passion for teaching to the classroom every day! Jayne has earned her degree in Child Care Development, and has many years of valuable experience running an Air Force Base in-home child care center. She is married with three children, and her family recently moved to the area from New Jersey. We welcome her to Wisconsin and we are thrilled to have her on our teaching team.



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Dana Jaeger (Infant/Toddler Child Care teacher) has been a professional early childhood educator since earning her degree in Early Childhood Education in 2008. We know and love Dana, as she used to work at Little Lambs years ago, and we are absolutely thrilled to have her back on our teaching staff! She has many years of experience working with all ages in early childhood, but has a special gift for babies and toddler. Her calm, gentle, nurturing spirit reassures babies as well as parents that everything is going to be OK. She and her husband love to travel and go to the zoo in their spare time.



Sara Henson (Floater) is brand new to the area and to Little Lambs. She has her B.S. in Education from UW-Madison, and has been traveling all over the U.S. with her husband, who is a pilot in the Air Force. They are back home now, and Sara is excited to put down roots both with her family and as a teacher here at Little Lambs. She has extensive experience teaching the early childhood grades, and is ready to jump in wherever she is needed. She will get to know all the families in all the classes as a floater! Look for her in 2T, Little Explorers, Wrap-around care, the infant classroom, and subbing in 3K and 4K.



Brianne Tesch (Book Club Coordinator) is a Certified Early Childhood educator, and has been with Little Lambs since 2014. She has taught in 3K, 2T, Little Explorers and Extended Care over the years, as well as creating and planning all of our Book Club events. She loves children so much that even when she is home, she offers respite child care for families with special needs children. Brianne is married and has 3 children, all Little Lambs graduates. In her free time, she enjoys spending quality time with her children and thinking up lots of kid-friendly activities. Brianne is very crafty and creative, and loves the outdoors!



Joanne Webb (Preschool Director) has been teaching at Little Lambs since 2001. She taught 3K for 13 years, and accepted the Director position in 2011. She earned her Bachelor's in Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, she completed the Certification for Lutheran Educators from Concordia University-WI, and is currently working on her Master's in Early Childhood Education at Concordia. She humbly accepted the Lumen Christi Award for the Professional Educator of the Year in 2016, and her favorite part of her job is connecting with children and families as they navigate the early childhood years. Joanne is married with three grown children, all of whom are Little Lambs graduates, and enjoys reading, hiking and camping in her free time.