



Bottom LtoR: Angela, Shannon, Ashley, Gerda, Jackie, Heidi, Maria
 Top LtoR: Mara, Lorri, Carol, Kimberly, Lauren, Francisca, Jodi, Peggy, Heather, Jillian, Vicki, Anna, Mandy,

Gerda Moul: I have been director and a teacher at Noah's Ark Preschool for the past 23 years. Prior to that, I taught preschool at the Mushroom Family Learning Center in Mt. Lebanon. Before our children arrived, I taught fourth grade in the Bethel Park School District and kindergarten in Jefferson Hills. I have a B.S. in Early Childhood/Elementary Education and completed post-graduate work in Early Childhood Education.

My family includes my husband, Larry, daughter Allyson and her husband Michael and their son Kyle, son Darren and his wife Holly and their children, Gavin and Avery, daughter Lauren and her husband David, and daughters Gretchen and Erika. We have lived in Peters Twp. for 39 years. I enjoy reading, gardening, and playing with my grandchildren! I hope to serve the changing needs of our children and their families while supporting and inspiring the needs of our awesome staff.

Jodi Newman: This is my second year as financial administrator at Noah's Ark. I have a BA in Business/Accounting from Pitt and I was an auditor for Ernst & Young, LLP for 5 years. I then worked for Consol Energy in their Corporate Accounting & Financial Reporting department for a little over two years until my daughter was born. I continue to work part time for them on various special projects.

My family includes my husband, Dan, my daughter Bella (7 years) and Brady (3 years-who attends NAP). I enjoy baking and watching sports. In addition, I like to play with my kids.

Heather Burtch: This is my thirteenth year teaching at Noah's Ark. I am teaching a 4's and a 5's class. I have a teaching certificate in early childhood education from the University of Pittsburgh and a B.A. in Religion. I have previously taught in several different child care centers and was director of a child care-preschool program. I have also tutored conversational English and am a professional storyteller.

My family includes my husband, Gary, my daughter Kelly (21), who is a senior in college and my son Luke (19), who is a freshman in college. I enjoy reading, walking, fun on the computer and having lunch with friends.

Peggy Barczak: This is my tenth year at Noah's Ark. I have lived in Peters for twenty years. I teach AM and PM 4's. I have a B.S. in Nursing from Penn State and am a certified personal trainer/aerobics instructor. Before having my children, I was a psychiatric nurse at St. Francis Hospital.

My husband Tom and I have two children, Sarah (17) and Nora (14). I enjoy sewing, crafts and spending time with my girls.

Vicki Tomastik: This is my fifteenth year at Noah's Ark. I will be teaching two 3's classes and Mommy & Me. I have a B.S. in Early Childhood education from University of Pittsburgh and A.S. in Child Care and Development. Previously, I have taught at Bethany Nursery School and Mushroom Family Learning Center.

My husband, Bill, and I have two sons: Mark is 27 and Adam is 24. I enjoy gardening and baking.

Jackie Smith: This is my eighth year at Noah's Ark. I teach the AM and PM 3's classes. My previous preschool experience was at Christian Play Day Preschool in Indiana, PA. I taught there for five years and directed for 15 years. I have a Bachelor of Science in Speech Pathology and Audiology from Indiana University of PA.

My family includes my husband David, our daughter Stacey and her husband Dave, son Andy and his wife Bekie and our four grandchildren, Ethan, Micah, Noah and Caleb. I enjoy gardening and walking.

Maria E. Lester: This is my seventh year teaching at Noah's Ark Preschool. This is my second year teaching Friday Workshop. I'm from Ecuador, South America, and have lived in the United States for about 15 years. My husband Olof and our two children Niki (12) and Christian (9) have resided in Peters Twp. since June of 2003. My educational background is in accounting and bilingual studies in Ecuador. I have previous experience teaching Spanish to kindergarteners at St. Thomas School in Ann Arbor, Michigan. I enjoy painting, cooking and dancing.

Shannon Mincin: This is my sixth year with Noah's Ark. I will be teaching AM and PM 4's. I have a B.S. in Early Childhood Education from IUP. I have previously worked at Southminster Preschool and for AIU with Head Start.

My husband, John, and I have two children: Kimberly (11) and Samantha (9). We have lived in Peters Township since 2004. I enjoy spending time with my children, reading, watching Steeler football, and being with friends and family.

Anna Cooper: This is my fifth year with Noah's Ark. I am teaching the Tots. I have a B.S. in Education from Clarion University and Special Education endorsements from Old Dominion University. I previously taught students with autism in a Virginia Beach for 12 years and I taught preschool in State College, PA for 18 months.

My husband Tom and I have four children: Nicholas (13), Alaina (10), Ethan (8) and Joey (2). In my spare time, I enjoy scrapbooking and walking.

Lorri Kroboth: This is my fourth year at Noah's Ark. I am teaching the Tots. I have a B.A. in Marketing from Penn State. Previously, I worked for Hecht's and Kaufmann's Department store in advertising and buying. I've also worked at Nextel and Management Recruiters as an account executive.

My husband, John, and I have two sons: Kyle (10) and Brett (7). I enjoy gardening, walking and time with my family.

Mandy Turek: This is my fourth year at Noah's Ark. I am teaching Friday Workshop. I have a B.A. in music therapy with a minor in psychology. I am board certified. Previously I worked as a music therapist at Country Meadows, Allegheny Valley School and worked with autistic children.

My husband John and I have four children: Lindsay (11), Noah (9), John Paul (3) and a baby named Rebecca. I enjoy knitting, cooking

and watching cheesy horror films.

Ashley Pappel: This is my second year at Noah's Ark and I will be teaching Music. I have a Bachelor of Music (Performance Flute & Piano) and am a MusikGarten Certified Early Childhood Music Educator. I am the pianist and choral accompanist at West Hempfield Presbyterian Church and was formerly Music Director at Port Vue United Methodist Church. For 11 years I have maintained an active private piano and flute studio in the Greater Pittsburgh Area. In addition to teaching, I perform regularly on flute and piano in recitals and for community engagements.

My family includes my husband, Brian and an elderly dog, an endlessly curious Schnauzer named Cody. My favorite hobby is my profession. I also enjoy reading, cooking, running and hiking.

Mara Lestitian: This is my second year teaching at Noah's Ark. I am teaching a fours class and the fives class. I have a BA in French from Bethany College and Certificate of Studies from LA Sorbonne, Paris, France. I previously taught at Mt. Lebanon Montessori, Carnegie Mellon Childcare and Carlow University Children's Center.

My family includes my husband Jim, daughter Caroline (11), son James (9), son Luke (7) and son Jack (4 and attends NAP). I enjoy photography, art, reading, and cooking.

Kimberly Smith: This is my second year at Noah's Ark. I teach two 3 year old classes. I hold a BA in English/Education from W&J College. I previously worked as an English teacher at Chartiers Valley School District and taught at Huntington Learning Center, Happy Face Learning Center and Center Church Preschool.

My family includes my husband Scott and daughters MaKenna (10) and Calissa (8). I enjoy outdoor activities with my family and kickboxing.

Francisca Sureda-Truyois: This is my second year teaching Spanish at Noah's Ark. I'm from Mallorca, Spain and have lived in the USA for 8 years. I volunteer to read Spanish language books at the library and have also taught private Spanish lessons.

My family includes my husband Ken and our daughter Clara (6). I love cooking Spanish recipes, enjoy yoga and fitness, and like reading.

Lauren Hraber: This is my first full year teaching Music at Noah's Ark. I taught music at the end of last school year. I have MED in Special Education from Pitt and a BFA in Piano Performance from CMU. I am also the founder/teacher of Piano Tots Preschool Music classes. I have also taught General Elementary Music in Baldwin – Whitehall, Woodland Hills and Canton City Schools. I was the Assistant Director of Education at the Pittsburgh Symphony.

My husband includes my husband Zachary and our children, Maddy (10) and Jackson (7). I enjoy running, yoga and piano.

Trina Pfanstiel: This is my first year teaching Stay and Play at Noah's Ark. This will be my second year leading lunch bunch at Noah's Ark. I have a BA in psychology and a BA in European Studies (Spanish) and a minor in Gender Studies from CMU. I also work at Barber National Institute as a Residential Manager of a group home.

My family includes my daughter Ruthie (4 and attends NAP) and Caleb (2). I enjoy spending time with my children.

Heidi Garner: This is my first year teaching at Noah's Ark. I will be teaching Stay and Play. I have a degree in early childhood education. I have taught preschool and grades K, 1 and 2 in Tennessee and in Texas.

My family includes my husband Brian and our three children: Reagan (8), Davis (5) and Campbell (2). I enjoy selling 31 bags, scrapbooking and cooking.

Jillian Shanley: This is my first year teaching at Noah's Ark. I will be teaching art. I have a BA in Fine Arts Education. I was previously a middle school art teacher in Waldwick, NJ.

My family includes my husband Kevin and our children Ava(6) and Matt (3). I enjoy scrapbooking and art.

Carol Locher: This is my fifth year as a paraprofessional at Noah's Ark. I help where I am needed. I have spent a lot of time in the three's classroom but this year I will be helping with the fives and the tots.

My family includes my husband Jim, my son Benjamin (26) and his wife Elizabeth, my son Tyler (24) and my son Geoffrey (21). I enjoy swimming, crafts, and roller blading.

Angela Rossi: This is my first year as a paraprofessional at Noah's Ark. I will be helping in the Tots class. I have previously worked with children ages 6 weeks to 12 years in a child care center.

My family includes my mom Linda, my sister Jodi, and my brother Mark. I enjoy reading and playing with my nieces and nephews.