

Acorn Staff

The staff is composed of a head teacher, teachers, and specialists in other areas. The staff participates as teachers of the school curriculum and as resources for parent education. Some are also parents of Acorn students. They are committed to the philosophy of Acorn Learning Center and to the ideals it represents.

Chris Mannen—Head Teacher—Primary

Chris grew up in Ohio and graduated with a degree in Elementary Education from Eastern Kentucky University. She taught 4th, 5th, and 6th grades in Lexington, Kentucky and in Greeley, Colorado while her husband Tony attended graduate school. They came to Idaho in 1975 for Tony to teach Speech and Drama at CSI. She then taught kindergarten in Kimberly until their twin sons, Josh and Dan, were born in 1977. When they began preschool in 1980, Chris became involved as an aide and then as a teacher at Horizon Learning Center. Chris, Diana Westermann, and Bernice Roesler started Acorn when Horizon closed. Chris has taught preschool, kindergarten, primary, and advance students. Chris says she has loved watching Acorn grow.

Terri Swensen—Kindergarten

Terri graduated from Brigham Young University with a BS in Elementary Education, after finishing her student teaching in China. She taught 4th grade in Utah for two years and then moved to California with her husband, Andrew, who worked as a civil engineer. While in California, Terri spent time as a substitute for various elementary schools until their first son was born in California. Two and a half years later, they moved back to their hometown of Twin Falls, and eventually, three more boys joined the family, along with a dog and horse. Terri has been actively involved in her boys' learning, classrooms and PTA. She enjoys spending time with her family, reading, camping, and learning how to be a "cowgirl!" She is excited to teach Kindergarten and grow along with her students!

Kellie Carson—Primary Aide

Kellie grew up in Chubbuck. She is currently a student at CSI, working on a degree as an Educational Assistant. She has worked at Progressive Behavior Systems with children and as a secretary. She enjoys working with children the most. Kellie loves reading, knitting, and bowls in a league and in tournaments. She and her husband have 2 children, 14 year old Aubrey and 11 year old David.