

# **Iris Koltuniak**

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Passionate early childhood educator with demonstrated experience working with multilingual students in diverse environments. Intentional experience in applied Waldorf and Montessori methods, neurodivergent curriculum-building, and ESL lesson planning. Dedicated to prioritizing social emotional development through play, curriculum design, and the creation of safe and inclusive environments. Demonstrated commitment to cultivating justice and fostering joy in the life of every child through their experience of education.

## **Education**

- The Evergreen State College - Undergraduate (September 2021-June 2024)
- Jefferson County International Baccalaureate (August 2017-May 2021)

## **Relevant Coursework at Evergreen**

- What is Education for at This Moment in Time and Place? - Fall 2023-Winter 2024
- Foundations of Healing-Centered Practice - Winter 2024
- Arts & the Child: Early Childhood - Winter 2024
- Children, Curriculum, and the Clinical View: Childhood Development and Psychopathology in the Education System - Spring 2023
- Teaching English Language Learners: Culture, Theory, & Methods - Fall 2022-Winter 2023

## **Professional Experience**

- Early Childhood Development Nanny - For Neurodivergent 3 y.o.
  - Develop Montessori-based and sensory-oriented curriculum with weekly themes focused on nature, music, holidays, numbers, colors, shapes, seasons, and emotions
  - Teach emotional regulation skills such as deep-breathing, age-appropriate grounding, and taking alone time
  - Teach social emotional awareness, including body awareness, treating other bodies with respect, and identifying emotions
  - Facilitate and plan sensory activities, crafts, and games
  - Execute daily schedule, including transitions, body care, food preparation, and nap
  - Teach age-appropriate, justice-oriented concepts such as care for the earth, respect for all people, care for animals, and celebrating differences
  - Model and assist chores such as laundry, sweeping, vacuuming, taking out the trash, preparing food, and putting away groceries
- Olympia Farmers Market Vendor - Blue Heron Bakery (March 2023-December 2023)
  - Maintain professionalism and skill in high-pressure and fast-paced customer service environment
  - Set up and tear down vendor stand without assistance

- Facilitate preparation of products and sales hardware in advance of market days, often the prior evening
- Arrive promptly and consistently at early hours of the morning
- Cultivate a pleasant experience for customers and maintain positive relationships with weekly regulars
- Manage payment transactions courteously and professionally
- Track sales and manage inventory meticulously
- Library & Archives Paraprofessional 1 – Daniel J. Evans Library (September 2021–March 2023)
  - Organize library materials according to Library of Congress Classification
  - Assist patrons in locating materials using online database
  - Maintain existing collections and library records
  - Conduct check-in and check-out of library materials

### Assistant Teacher Experience

- Assistant Teacher in Dual–Language (Spanish/English) Kindergarten Classroom  
Lydia Hawk Elementary School, Lacey, WA (September 2022–March 2023)
  - Assemble learning centers and work with students in the centers
  - Engage students in discussing/explaining what they are doing (in Spanish)
  - Observe teaching methods used for students learning new language
  - Practice writing letters with students
- Assistant Teacher in First/Second Grade Classroom  
Alabama Waldorf School, Birmingham, AL (September 2019–March 2020)
  - Teach letter sounds and vocabulary through fairy tale and nature stories
  - Assemble craft stations and be present with children as they work on crafts
  - Play with children during outside time

### Social Justice & Community Engagement Experience

- Olympia Kiwanis Garden & Food Bank Volunteer  
Thurston County Food Bank (January 2024–June 2024)
  - Turn and transport compost
  - Construct hoop houses
  - Prepare seed trays
  - Transport and deliver produce
- Attendee at the Northwest Teachers for Social Justice Conference  
(October 21, 2023)
  - Attended “Storying Environmental Justice in the Places We Teach”
  - Attended “Classrooms as Connective Ecosystems”

### References

- Emily O’Donnell–Pazderka (current employer): [eodonell123@gmail.com](mailto:eodonell123@gmail.com)
- Sonja Wiedenhaupt (current professor): [wiedenhs@evergreen.edu](mailto:wiedenhs@evergreen.edu)

- Leslie Flemmer (previous professor): [flemmerl@evergreen.edu](mailto:flemmerl@evergreen.edu)
- Jason Mock (Daniel J. Evans Library circulation manager): [mockj@evergreen.edu](mailto:mockj@evergreen.edu)
- Cristina Charney (Lydia Hawk Elementary School teacher):  
[ccharney@nthurston.k12.wa.us](mailto:ccharney@nthurston.k12.wa.us)
- Jodie Bradley (Alabama Waldorf School teacher): [jbrad@alabamawaldorf.org](mailto:jbrad@alabamawaldorf.org)