

Kristi Pikiewicz, Ph.D. candidate in Clinical Psychology

For a number of years I taught hands on science labs in Idyllwild California, during this time I spent every free moment rock climbing in Joshua Tree National Park. Before long, I was working as a mountaineering and rock climbing guide during the summers. Working for Colorado Outward Bound was an excellent introduction to counseling, I learned that the best teachers/counselors get out of the way and let the person learn. I went back to school in Bellingham Washington for an elementary education teaching certification, and after completing the program I got a job in Marin County working as a middle school reading specialist. I left Marin and headed back to the mountains of Bozeman Montana where I worked as a 6th grade teacher for 5 years. I found myself drawn to finding ways to support my students and their families outside the classroom, so when I had my son, Leif, I went back to school to pursue a Masters in Mental Health Counseling. After two years, I left to start a PhD in Clinical Psychology at Pacifica Graduate Institute. I have finished my classes for my PhD and I am working on my dissertation. My focus for my dissertation is helping families with children who have experienced trauma or who have children with chronic illness. I have been fortunate enough to have the opportunity to present my research work at several conferences such as the 2010 APA conference in San Diego, the 2010 ISTSS conference in Montreal and the 2011 APA conference in Washington DC. I work from a psychodynamic model and I am certified to do EMDR through EMDRIA and the EMDR institute.