

Shawn Sidelinger  
K-2 Teacher  
Midnight Sun Family Learning Center

Themes: Our class' school year is based around themes. Each month we explore themes such as Space, Trees, Dinosaurs, Life Cycles, and authors like Eric Carle, Robert Munsch, and Jan Brett. Along with theme studies we celebrate many holidays throughout the year with class parties, literature, art, science, social studies, field trips and food.

Mathematics: The Primary grades do group math students by grade level and ability. A teacher and aide generally have all the New Friends (Kindergarten), another the Old Friends (1st graders), and another the Seniors (2nd graders). The math curriculum is primarily Everyday Math.

Literacy: I organize between five and seven separate Reading Groups in my class. Reading is taught whole language and as many books related to that month's theme, author, and holiday are used as possible. Students are assigned developmentally appropriate writing assignments in the form of writing journals and Writer's Workshop.

Parent Involvement: I have the expectation that parents will be involved in their child's education at home by going over nightly homework assignments. Parent Involvement with the school inside and outside the classroom is encouraged and often called upon. I rely on parents to aide in the daily cleaning of the classroom and common areas, lead a cooking activity weekly, drive on field trips, assist in classroom art projects, performances, celebrations, and parties. This involvement on the parent's part provides so many opportunities for the students beyond what they may receive in the traditional public school.

I earned a B.A. in Geography/Anthropology from the University of Southern Maine. Gained Alaska State teacher's certification through the University of Alaska-Southeast and will complete my Masters in the Art of Teaching this autumn from the same. I am a 16 year resident of the Mat-Su Valley, recently celebrated 10 years of marriage, and am a four time finisher of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.