



sponsor spotlight

## ATLAS IMMERSION ACADEMY, *Meet Owners Dory and Jarod Hobbs*

The *West Linn Living* magazine is so excited to introduce to you a very warm and loving family owned business; Atlas Immersion Academy. The academy is a multi-site operation that strives to offer the very best in language immersion education for young children, all while providing a valuable service (child care) to the communities it serves. They aim to provide education for the whole child, including developmentally appropriate curriculum, nourishing meals and snacks (primarily organic, whole foods), and kindergarten readiness. Owners Dory and Jarod Hobbs share their story here. We hope you enjoy learning all about them and show them some West Linn love as they open up their school to care for and teach your kids!

**Tell us about the team at Atlas Immersion Academy at your West Linn location:**

**Carole Bunce**, Multi-Site Coordinator (Manages all locations, maternity leave through Dec. 2017). Carole is native to France, speaks French, English, and Spanish. Lives in SE Portland with husband and infant son. Worked for Atlas since 2014. She holds degrees in marketing, theatre performance, and early childhood

education. Additionally, she has taught in the immersion environment since coming to the US in 2011. She loves the outdoors and crafting.

**Tia Linneman**, Director (West Linn) Tia is a native Oregonian and an avid Ducks fan (her alma mater). She has a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education and comes to Atlas after many years working with Head Start and Volunteers of America. She's excited to step into a language immersion focus in early childhood education, and in particular, enjoys coaching teachers and playing with toddlers! She is married to her college sweetheart and lives in Milwaukie with their two cats.

**Jackie**, Teacher Jackie is native to Honduras and moved to Oregon two years ago. She lives with her husband and two daughters in the Happy Valley area, where her daughters attend a dual language Spanish-English immersion elementary program. Jackie taught infants through preschool children previously in Honduras, in an international school setting. She loves teaching all ages, but especially loves preschoolers!

**Carla**, Teacher Carla is native to Venezuela and moved to Oregon just 18 months ago. She has



two sons, ages 14 and 7, and lives in Tualatin. Prior to beginning with Atlas in October, Carla taught at another child care center in the area. She is thrilled to share her native language in an immersion setting, and loves toddlers and babies!

**Stef**, Teacher

Stef grew up in Mexico and Oregon and maintains ties to her family's Mexican heritage. She is a lover of babies and, in particular, enjoys singing and reading to them. Stef worked at another child care center in the area prior to leading up our infant room, and loves that at Atlas she gets to focus more on the babies in a 1:3 teacher-to-child ratio! Stef lives with her brother and sister in Tigard.

**Where did you grow up? Tell us about your family.**

Dory grew up in the Portland area both in the Alameda neighborhood and then in Raleigh Hills. She spent a year abroad in France as a high school student, which was a very impactful experience that helped shape her adult life, career path, and the way she raises her family! After graduated from Beaverton high school in 2000, Dory completed undergrad in both Montreal, Canada (McGill U.) and Colorado State University (Fort Collins, CO), where she met her husband Jarod.

Jarod and Dory met in French literature class, and both completed B.A.s in French. Dory went on to do an M.A. in French and Women's Studies as well, after which time the couple decided to take a year to teach English in France. They spent the year of 2006-07 teaching English in the South of France, near Cannes, and then came back to settle in Portland. Upon returning to Oregon and after the birth of their son, Ronan, in September 2007, Dory began teaching French at Portland Community College (Sylvania & Rock Creek campuses). Meanwhile, Jarod got a job with Liberty Mutual Insurance managing Workers Compensation claims. Dory had to decide what childcare Ronan would need while she was at work and given that they had chosen to immerse Ronan in the French language at home, Dory explains, "As non-native, but fluent, speakers of the language, we felt that the gift of bilingualism was one we wanted and were able to give him,



it was natural that we sought out both French-speaking nannies and immersion childcare. Unable to find a French immersion child care center, and with the cost of a French au pair proving to be out of our budget, I started investigating the viability of opening up my own French immersion child care center. "As fate would have it, Dory had taken enough coursework in college that fell into the realm of early childhood education, and she was deemed eligible by the State of Oregon to open a child care center, and achieved a Step 10 on the Oregon Registry.

While putting things in place for the launch of Atlas Immersion Academy, Jarod and Dory also formed a non-profit board of directors to help lay the groundwork for what is now Le Monde French Immersion Public Charter School in Portland. While unrelated to their private business, the couple knew that they wanted a long-term viable French Immersion educational choice for their growing family Dory shares "At that point, in 2010, I had given birth to our second son, August." Jarod is currently the President of Le Monde Immersion, and Dory serves as the Vice President.

Atlas Immersion Academy opened its doors in the Gabriel Park/Multnomah Village area of Southwest Portland in 2011, and to start off, there were 30 toddlers and preschoolers in a certified

childcare center. Over the next four years, the business grew to serve a larger age range (infants through after-school elementary age) and they were able to take over the whole building they started out in. Dory explains, "Jarod also came on full-time at Atlas in late 2014, as we'd grown to a point where I needed his help! When Jarod came on, our third and final son, Remington, was 12 months old. We currently serve about 150 children in SW Portland and have as many as 117 at any given point in time, with some children attending part-time. In 2015 we opened another French immersion location in the Hawthorne/Sunnyside neighborhood of Southeast Portland. Although much smaller and located in a residential space, the Certified Family child care filled quickly and led us to open a second Certified Family Child Care in the same neighborhood this past summer. Both Southeast Portland

locations are now full for January 2018 (approximately 40 children, with some full and some part-time) and our wait lists are growing."

Atlas Immersion Academy West Linn, an all-Spanish immersion child care center, opened on October 16, after a lengthy remodel. "We are very happy with the final result of the long months of hard work! I should mention that Jarod is also a licensed contractor, and as such, performed much of the remodel himself. Atlas is licensed for a capacity of 88 children, and serves infants through preschool currently, with plans to expand

to include an after-school program in the fall of 2018."

The Hobbs live in the Hillsdale/Bridlemile neighborhood of Southwest Portland with their four children.

"Don't miss the opportunity to offer your child a leg up in life with a second language from the youngest age possible (Atlas enrolls at age 3 months). Infancy is the most crucial time to be exposed to more than one language, the time at which the brain is most receptive to acquiring different sounds, rhythms and nuances. If you are going to work and putting your child in child care, you should feel confident that you're giving your child the very best possible while you can't be with them!" - Dory Hobbs

**Phone 971-238-9838**  
[www.atlasimmersionacademy.com](http://www.atlasimmersionacademy.com),  
[dory@atlasimmersionacademy.com](mailto:dory@atlasimmersionacademy.com),  
[jarod@atlasimmersionacademy.com](mailto:jarod@atlasimmersionacademy.com)  
**4975 Willamette Falls Drive West Linn, OR 97068**