

# Featured Alumni - Lisa Dengerink (PLC '98)

## December 2017



*Early Literacy Librarian  
Denver Public Libraries*

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**N**inety percent of the brain is already developed before a child reaches the age of five. Because of this fact PLC alumna, Lisa Dengerink (Chipouras) ('98), works each day to give children the best start that they possibly can have through early childhood education. As the Early Literacy Librarian at Denver Public Library, Lisa provides training and conducts observations for eighty staff members that do Storytime inside and outside the library. She works with programs throughout the city to create reading programming for infant to five-year-old early learning and provides trainings at conferences for educators, parents, and professionals. There is no one typical day for Lisa

as her work varies weekly if not daily, but her favorite part of the job is training staff, educators, and parents on fun things they can do with their kids to help them get ready for kindergarten.

Known for her love for children, Lisa has worked with youth in every job that she has had over the last twenty-five years. In her first job after graduating from the University of Colorado with a B.A. in Psychology, Lisa worked as a kindergarten teacher for four years in Highlands Ranch. She went back to school at the University of Denver to get her Masters of Library Information Sciences and worked at Douglas County Libraries as a service librarian. In this role, she worked with all ages, implementing various activities and programs from Storytime to teen programming. In all of these experiences throughout her career, Lisa has remained focused on early learning. Her favorite parts from each of these jobs culminated into the work that she does now.

Lisa felt that her time in the PLC program helped her find friends that had similar interests and mentalities. She advises current students to, “put yourself out there and whenever you are in a job ask as many questions as you need in order to do things right.”

The importance of continual learning is evident through both the actions and words of Lisa Dengerink. This year alone, Lisa has read a thousand children’s books and she continues to be energized by the inspiration she receives from trying to help parents and caregivers do what is best for their children. She loves to be around the careless nature of children that are just “happy being who they are”. This is her favorite thing about her daughter, who is likely no stranger to Storytime.

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