



# MARIA DESJARLAIT

## Preschool 4

### **About Me:**

I am Maria Desjarlait. I am originally from Fort Berthold reservation in ND. I am married to my best friend, Joel and we have two super daughters. I graduated from Northeastern, IL University of Chicago with my BA in Early Childhood Education and an endorsement in ESL. I have taught and have education administration experience for over 15 years. I am on the Illinois State Board of Education indigenous curriculum group, as well as a children's author for "Atika's Medicine" and "I'm Not a Costume" with two new books being released this year with Medicine Wheel Publishing. You can also find more info on my website [www.atikasmedicine.com](http://www.atikasmedicine.com).

### **Religion:**

I am Catholic and Indigenous traditional. My late grandmother is a founding member of St. Kateri Tekawitha Catholic Church of Chicago, which is an indigenous Catholic church.

### **Special Units & Projects:**

We have 4 week units that are from our play-based curriculum, such as reduce, reuse & recycle and multicultural fairy tales.

### **Field Trips:**

- Fall- All Seasons Orchard
- Spring

### **About St. Thomas of Villanova School:**

To summarize STV staff with a quote, "It takes a big heart to help shape little minds."