

I began my career in education as an Estonian teacher in Finland in 1991. I gained experience in teaching Estonian as a second language overseas in a multicultural environment of foreign language tutoring. In Finland I taught Estonian for employees of Finnish Public Administration, diplomats, private sector clients, students in university and at community college level.

I hold an MA in Estonian language and literature from the University of Tartu, Estonia. I built another career working for the media corporation Äripäev as a project manager and a senior editor of business handbooks. While moving with my family to the United States of America, I went through another transition and worked as a translation editor for the National Geographic Magazine.

I value lifelong learning and I am open to new experiences in life.

Diverse professional and learning experiences and carrying my own children in different cultures and school systems has taught me the important role a teacher can hold in a student's life. I believe that the secret of education lies in respecting the pupil, as R.W. Emerson has put it. Each student should be recognized, welcomed and supported, especially through the transition period in the new school environment. Respecting individual needs and allowing everyone to develop at their own pace boosts enthusiasm and participation. Having experiences of accomplishments at school breeds confidence and leads to a balanced and happy life. Above all, I believe that learning is a cooperative effort between a teacher and a student that bears fruit only when you hear what their eyes are telling you.