

## **Ms. Jennifer DeCristoforo**

Author, illustrator, teacher and crafter  
Maine

Jennifer DeCristoforo is an author, illustrator, teacher and crafter living in a beautiful village on the Maine coast. Although China is across the globe from her home, it is always in her heart. When she adopted her baby daughter in 2003 from Jiangxi Province she became increasingly fascinated with Chinese culture and thinking of how to integrate it into her family life.

Even though Jen had traveled to Asia for business, she now saw China through new eyes and on a deeply personal level. As her daughter has grown, Jen has applied her ideas and artwork inspired by Chinese culture to all sorts of projects, teaching opportunities and celebrations. Then one day she realized all this material could be the start of a book that others could enjoy and use as a resource to bring more Chinese culture into their own children's lives.

Jen holds a B.F.A. in Illustration from California College of Arts and Crafts and an M.A. in Art Education from Rhode Island School of Design. She has also been a certified art teacher in the Maine public schools. Her artwork has been used for educational textbooks, gift products and stationery. As an accomplished illustrator, Jen often whipped up just what she wanted for this book when she couldn't find or take the perfect photo!

When she is not knee-deep in creating Chinese crafts, Jen enjoys going on adventures with her daughter (both local and international), cooking (with a huge learning curve), sharing her daughter's passion for books, and just being outdoors enjoying the natural wonders of Maine.