

Yalda Modabber – Co-Founder & Executive Director, Golestan School, CA



Yalda, is a former molecular immunologist, and later consultant to for-profit and non-profit organizations. Born in Boston, Massachusetts, Yalda moved to Iran as a kindergartener and returned to the U.S. at the age of 9 years. As an undergraduate, she majored in Psychology, with an emphasis on Child and Developmental Psychology, finishing a dual degree in Experimental Psychology and Human Biology.

Yalda went on to pursue a career in biomedical research and spent 8 years at Harvard Medical School, first as a research associate and later as a graduate student. In 2000, she changed career paths and became a consultant for startups, Fortune 50+ corporations, and non-profit organizations strategist and evaluator.

In 2005, Yalda posted an ad on a local listserv in Berkeley, in search of a Persian language immersion program for her first-born son Kian, then two years old. She received a response from another mother that led to a weekly parent playgroup and eventually became Golestan School. Yalda was hired as Golestan's full-time Executive Director in 2008 and continues to work on projects with other non-profit organizations.

To learn more about Yalda's current projects, visit <http://www.golestankids.com/>