

2009 Workshops

Alphabetical Listing with Workshop Descriptions

Big Science for the Littlest Scientists—Learn amazing and irresistible hands-on activities to nurture the natural curiosity of young learners for the physical sciences. Discover how to do memorable, age-appropriate science with low-cost, readily-available and easy-to-organize materials. Transform your classroom science into colorful, fun, magical, surprising and unforgettable experiences. Jay Gluckman, Science Unlimited—Room 3103—Session A

Broccoli Is On The Menu, But What Is Quinoa?—Take a journey with broccoli, the beloved green vegetable of children! We will follow the pathway of this nutrient-dense vegetable from seed in the farmer's field and harvest, to the produce company who distributes this superfood, to the chef who includes this ingredient in food for their small charges and then shares the meal table side with them—modeling healthy eating with friends and teachers. Katrina Morkner, Chef and Founder of the Children's Food Connection and Bon Appetite sous chef to Google Children's Centers—Room 3303—Session C

Children, Nature and You: Sowing the Seeds of Learning—A growing body of research, including an important 2007 report from the American Academy of Pediatrics, tells us that young children need simple, hands-on nature experiences with caring adults if they are to thrive physically, emotionally, intellectually, socially and creatively. In this interactive, hands-on workshop we will discover how a connection with Nature positively impacts the young child, and explore simple everyday Nature Experiences that are accessible to all children. Participants will leave this workshop with developmental resource materials and suggestions for nature experiences that are appropriate for educators, parents and grandparents. Roy and Diane Gordon, Director, Children, Nature and You Programs, Hooked on Nature—Room 3201—Session A

Comprehension Strategies That Work: Thought-Provoking, Exciting & Fun!—Engage children's bodies as well as their minds and imaginations to increase comprehension in science, literature, social studies, math and character development. Use dramatization, music and comprehension strategies, such as creating questions, making connections and predictions, to increase comprehension. This is a repeat of last year's presentation, plus a few new activities. Ruth Wachob, Director/Teacher, Sedgwick State Preschool, Cupertino Union School District—Room 3303—Session A

Creating the Globasaurus!—Conditioning children to be pluralistic makes them accept rather than tolerate different perspectives as truly global citizens. Innovative hands-on activities and exercises can teach children the real meaning of assimilation: not to become similar but to appreciate our similarities. For the Globasaurus, 'culture' must be that prism which illuminates all the colors that pass through it. Mona Vijaykar, Director, India in Classrooms and the Globasaurus Enrichment Program—Room 3206—Session B

Creativity and Play: Addressing the Needs of The Whole Child In the Early

Childhood Classroom—This is a hands on interactive workshop designed for parents and educators working with young children. Holding on to thoughts such as 'play is a window into the child's world' and 'play is the work of childhood' the workshop will address the need to understand the importance of play-based learning experiences in the 'Early Childhood Classroom'. This workshop brings about the importance of play as a valuable learning tool. The creative process and the connection between play based multi-sensory experiences and brain development will be explored in depth. The major focus of this workshop will be to educate the whole child, through a variety of well-planned play experiences. Ranjana Bhatnagar, Adjunct Faculty, Mission College and San Jose City College—Room 3203—Session C

Education in the Context of Home Child Care—Importance of Communication & How to Start a Home Child Care—Home child care contributes to the foundation of education through consistency, attachment and goal-setting for children with an emphasis on on-going open communication with parents. Mali Chekeni and Rava Chekeni, Thumbling Child Care, Inc.—Room 3305—Session A

Establishing Your Home Preschool Program in 90 Days—How to create your dream home based program using the best practices for play-based and family style learning. From start to finish you can do it in less than 4 months with limited funding. Come hear and learn about the Edgewood House School model; maximizing a fee-based budget to provide worthy wages for teachers, low ratio high quality learning for children and creatively utilizing your home to make beautiful learning spaces. We are a play-based, constructivist and constructivist-inspired large family home preschool and after school program. Tanya Stabinsky, Janessa Granillo, & Mallory Brown, Edgewood House School and Consulting—Room 3307—Session C

Family Partnerships—We are always looking for ways to enhance our understanding of families and children. Take away a book of unique ways to develop connections with parents that develop better understanding of their needs and values and help teachers become more effective in the classroom. Ella Mayon, Director of Children's House of Los Altos—Hearthside Lounge, Room 2313 (downstairs next to Bookstore)—Session A

Gossip and Your Early Childhood Staff—This interactive workshop will inform participants about gossip, the characteristics of gossip, and what we gossip about. An emphasis will be put on both the values and dangers of gossip. Participants will leave this workshop prepared to manage gossip in their early childhood program. Sherrie Rose Maleson, Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program Director—Room 3305—Session B

How Not to be a Victim: Laugh Yourself Safe—This fast paced and very educational workshop will help you in learning how to identify "red flag" behaviors, how criminals pick victims and how to avoid looking like one, how to keep your families safer at home, on the street and in the car, what every woman should know--ways to incapacitate a criminal, the #1 thing burglars say will keep them out of your home, what to yell to get help in a street crime, what to do if your car breaks down on the freeway, what to do if a criminal points a gun at you and says, "get in the car," and how to avoid car jacking and ATM crimes. Rick Strauss, Crime Stop USA—Room 3301—Sessions A, B and C

I Want It My Way! Guiding Children in Social Problem-Solving—Sally says, “I had it first!” but Sammy says, “No way!” Change negative quarrels into positive opportunities to help children reflect feelings, clarify desires, brainstorm win-win solutions for classroom quarrels. A few examples from participants will be used to analyze and look at strategies. Sue Dinwiddie, Consultant, Parent Programs & Staff Development—Room 3106—Session A

Make Learning the Alphabet Fun & Meaningful—Alphabet knowledge is a good predictor of success in beginning reading, but distinguishing between letters and learning their names is not all there is to “learning the alphabet.” This workshop will focus on helping teachers provide a range of activities that are authentic, fun, and meaningful to help 3-5 year olds learn the alphabet. Irene Freiberg, Owner/Director of Growing Years Preschool, Santa Cruz, and Christina Banuelos, Master Teacher, Growing Years Preschool—Room 3015—Session A

Multiple Intelligences of Howard Gardner—This is an interactive workshop designed for parents and educators working with young children. All children have different learning styles; Gardner’s concept of Multiple Intelligences suggests that there are several intelligences not just one or two. Exploring the eight intelligences as described by Howard Gardner, the workshop will discuss strategies as to how parents and educators can use the concept of multiple intelligences to create an optimum learning environment for young children. Ranjana Bhatnagar, Adjunct Faculty, Mission College and San Jose City College—Room 3203—Session B

Music and Movement and Interactive Sing-a-long—Come sing and sign with Juliette McDonald and the McDonald Girls with their interactive original music for 18 months to 12 year olds. Get ideas for props and movements along with songs for the preschool classroom. Children's Music Award Winning Singer/Songwriter: Juliette McDonald, formerly Program Coordinator for the Early Childhood Education at Community School of Music & Arts, Owner of Juliette’s Music and Arts Studio—“Heritage Music and Arts,” Montessori Music Specialist, Family Concerts/Workshops with daughters, Alainah McDonald and Yvette McDonald—Room 1401—Session A

Nature vs. Nurture—Understanding and Managing Children’s Behaviors—Managing challenging behavior in the classroom begins with an understanding of the relationship between biology (a child’s inborn temperament) and the environment (the classroom environment, routines, and schedule). Learning about brain development, the goodness of fit between child and teacher, and the valuable interaction between play and learning can help teachers create supportive environments in which all children can reach their full potential. Heidi Emberling, Parenting Educator, Early Childhood Specialist, Parents Place—Room 3308—Session A

Peace Education & Play—Support for Social/Emotional Development—Participants will explore strategies to support social and emotional development through activities that promote natural play and the creation of a peaceful classroom community. We will cover how to develop physical and social environments and curriculum that stimulate child initiated play, creative problem solving, cooperation, empathy and thinking skills. We will also discuss how natural play and peace education will support children with challenging behavior. Wilma Gold, Early Childhood Education Faculty, Cabrillo College—Room 3308—Session B

Play is Learning: Cognitive Development and the PITC (Program for Infant Toddler Care) Discoveries of Infancy—95% of intellectual development of a young child’s first two years of life occurs using the six discoveries of infancy. This workshop will offer participants a chance to play and observe as they learn more about cognitive development specific to infants, birth to 24 months. Supportive effects of relationships, environments, materials, individual differences and culture will also be explored through dialogue and reflection. Chris Carducci, Instructor, Foothill/DeAnza College and Infant Teacher, Presidio CDC (SFUSD)—Room 3206—Session A

Practical Life Education in a Montessori Classroom—Do children use and experience “kitchen toys” differently in a Montessori classroom? How are children guided in “practical life” curriculum areas? In this workshop you will get the above questions answered, in addition to having a hands-on experience with practical life materials/activities in a Montessori way. So come with a sense of curiosity and a list of questions. Mei Wang and Sophie Yeh, AppleSeed Montessori School—Room 3103—Session B

Preschool Learning Foundations: Social Emotional Development with a Focus on Self Regulation—Join us in understanding the relationship of children’s social emotional development beginning in the early years and how it affects behaviors and learning abilities in the toddler and preschool years. We will discuss what teachers and parents can do and say that support social development from ages 0- 5 years. Gayle Mayekawa, Special Education Lead, California Preschool Instructional Network (CPIN)—Room 3304—Session A

Redefining Play: Building Bridges to Parents—Through a variety of hands on activities and small/large group discussions, participants will learn to re-think their own perceptions about young children and play. Particularly, the group will see that adults outside the field of Early Care and Education do not view play the same as those within the field and that our own thoughts and feelings may be holding us back as we try to explain the value of play. We will have an opportunity to examine the common adult perception of play as frivolous and begin the work of building a bridge of understanding to the other adults involved in the lives of children. Libby Galt, Google Children’s Center, The Wetlands and Mimi Reggiardo—Room 3015—Session B

Reflective Mentoring: How to Help Teachers and Parents Make Choices Regarding Teaching and Parenting Practices—Mentors need to talk and reflect so mentees can listen and learn. This workshop will provide different techniques to build rapport with the teachers and parents we coach, to increase the likelihood they can develop teaching and parenting practices that better reflect developmentally appropriate practice. Seeing is believing, reflecting is starting to understand, sharing the process with each other is building the relationships we need to sustain quality programming and interactions. Tanya Stabinsky, Janessa Granillo, & Mallory Brown, Edgewood House School and Consulting—Room 3307—Session B

Re-introducing Young Children to the Joy and Wonder of Nature: A Round-table Discussion

--There was a time when unstructured outdoor play in and with nature was a natural and important part of early childhood, but for so many of today's children and parents nature has become like a strange and foreign country, to be viewed and approached with great caution! Fortunately, a substantial body of recent work and research reaffirms the developmental importance of connecting children with nature. If you support this approach and have already created ways to re-introduce children to Nature that you would like to share, or if you would like to hear how it has worked for others and be inspired to do the same, please join this informal peer round-table discussion and sharing of ideas and resources. Roy and Diane Gordon, Director, Children, Nature and You Programs, Hooked on Nature—Room 3201—Session C

SENSEsational SENSORY!—Come join in the fun and experience simple sensory play at its best. Learn why sensory play is a crucial learning tool for later cognitive development, develop a wide variety sensory play activities, see how to use materials to their best advantage, discover how to communicate with parents on the importance of sensory play and recognize the importance it plays in de-stressing children in today's unpredictable world and leads to secure social/emotional well being. Cherida Gruenfeldt, former educator from The Lake School, Oakland, CA, Enhanced Mentor with the California Mentor Program, CalSAC Trainer and ECE Consultant—Toyon Room 2020—Session A

Sharing Nature through Stories, Songs & Nature Awareness Games—This workshop is designed for parents and teachers/care providers of the preschool child. Participants will have an opportunity to deepen their connection to the natural world and discover ways to connect children more deeply to nature. Stories, songs, games and lecture are used. Wendolyn Bird, Hooked on Nature—Room 3201—Session B

Stress and Life's Virtues—Come and explore how stress is linked to all that we think, say and do. How do our individual and community virtues work with stressors? How can we limit "bad" stressors? Theresa Stewart, Bay Area Director, Sunny Days Early Childhood Developmental Services, Inc.—Room 3304—Session C

Stronger Together: Exploring Ways to Involve Families in Your Program—The well-being of children is tied to the well-being of families. This workshop is about building strong partnerships amongst families, teacher, home and school. Increased parent involvement means engaged families, greater staff satisfaction and more supportive learning environments for children. Betsy Nikolchev, Foothill College, Non-credit Parenting Instructor and Claire Koukoutsakis, Director, Mountain View Parent Nursery School and Adjunct Faculty, Foothill College—Conference Room—Session A

Teachers In Motion—Making music fun for yourself and students without having to know how to play an instrument or have a musical background. Join this interactive workshop and be ready to move. Craig Ward, Teaching Artist—Room 1401—Sessions B & C

That Makes Me So Mad! Exploring Child Anger—Are angry children driving you mad? We will examine children's anger, investigate what works and what doesn't, and discover some effective coping strategies. A few examples from participants will be used to analyze and look at strategies. Sue Dinwiddie, Consultant, Parent Programs & Staff Development—Room 3106—Session B

The Art of Inner Peace—Stress Management for the Educator—In this interactive, hands-on workshop will demonstrate personally tested relaxation techniques such as breathing, yoga, Tai Chi Chuan, meditation, visualizations, senses awareness and simple exercises. Learn how you can easily incorporate stress relief into your work day in one to five minutes. Come and join in the fun for a relaxing interlude from the hectic world! Cherida Gruenfeldt, former educator from The Lake School, Oakland, CA, Enhanced Mentor with the California Mentor Program, CalSAC Trainer and ECE Consultant—Toyon Room 2020—Session B

The Early Childhood Leadership Institute of Foothill College—Directors RoundTable—Join others who are currently directing children’s programs for a support session designed to provide networking and information sharing opportunities. Discussion topics will be related to administrative issues and staffing challenges. Jeanne Thomas, Department Chair, Foothill Child Development Department—Hearthside Lounge, Room 2313 (downstairs next to Bookstore)—Session B

Thinking BIG, Learning BIG: Connecting Science, Math, Literacy and Language in Early Childhood—Learn how the excitement of large-scale (yet practical) activities can energize your whole curriculum. Use inquiry-based science to integrate math, literacy, art, drama and movement. Learn innovative techniques to introduce vocabulary and explore math concepts. You will experience arms-on, legs-on, whole child learning that you can try in your classroom right away, using low-cost materials. Marie Faust Evitt and Tim Dobbins, Mountain View Parent Nursery School—Room 1601—Sessions A and B

This Staff Must Go! How Do You Decide Which Ones are Keepers and Which Ones Must Go?—In this workshop new and experienced supervisors will explore the decision to keep an employee or to fire them. What are some of the things a supervisor must keep in mind when deciding to let go an employee and what do you do with those that you see have potential. Lorna Knight, Regional Director, Kidango—Room 3103—Session C

What is Happening with Santa Clara CARES?—This workshop will be presented by a Santa Clara CARES staff member who will be discussing what has been happening with the CARES program. Learn why the Round 8 stipends were reduced and what will be happening with the CARES program in 2009-2010. The session will include a lot of time for participants to ask questions. Room3403—Sessions A & C

Who Has Inspired You? Are You Ready to Inspire Others?—Join us as we discuss mentoring in Early Childhood Education. You will be given information about the California Early Childhood Mentor Program and a panel of mentor teachers will share ways they help other teachers grow in their profession. Claire Kouokoutsakis, Foothill College Child Development Instructor and California Early Childhood Mentor College Coordinator & Annie Deckert, San Jose City College Child Development Instructor and Early Childhood Mentor College Coordinator for West Valley College & Stephanie Antoni, Santa Clara Tri Campus Mentor Teacher at BeanSprouts Family Child Care Home--Room 3308—Session C

Working with Children & Families Coming from Diverse Backgrounds—This workshop addresses the issues of cultural diversity, with a focus on understanding culture. Using families as an important resource this workshop will bring out the importance of promoting the home culture and language in the classroom. The workshop will reflect on the process of educating and valuing each child in the classroom. By addressing our own biases and stereotypes we, as educators, will be better able to understand the children and families we serve. Ranjana Bhatnagar, Adjunct Faculty, Mission College and San Jose City College—Room 3203—Session A

Yum! Yum! Yum!—Healthy Snack Ideas for Children--We will explore easy to make nutritious snacks and why healthy eating is important for young children. Darcy Howard and Lynda Annison, Children's Creative Learning Centers—Conference Room—Session B