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# The Preschool Enrichment Team, Inc.

## Presents... Our 30th Annual Early Childhood Conference



### CONFERENCE

**When:** Friday, March 12, 2010  
8:15 A.M. – 3:45 P.M.

**For Whom:** Early Education and Care Professionals

**Sponsored By:** Preschool Enrichment Team, Inc.  
293 Bridge Street, Suite 322  
Springfield, MA 01103

**Coordinators:** Carol Venancio & Laura Stinnette

**Where:** Sheraton Hotel, Springfield  
One Monarch Place, Boland Way



### PROGRAM

**8:15 – 1:45** Vendor Area

**8:15 – 9:00** Registration and Coffee

**9:00 – 10:00** Welcome and Introduction of Keynote Speaker  
Keynote Address: "Development + Experience = A Foundation For Best Practice"  
Lesley Koplow, Director, Center for Emotionally Responsive Practice, Bank Street College, NY

**10:00** Coffee and Vendor Area

**10:15 – 12:15** Morning Session

**12:15 – 1:45** Lunch and Vendor Area

**1:45 – 3:45** Afternoon Session



### REGISTRATION, FEES, EDUCATIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

*Look for 2 NEW discount rates this year!*

The \$95.00 registration fee includes morning refreshment, lunch, conference materials, keynote, workshops, EEC training certificate and Continuing Education Units (CEUs). .5 CEUs (approval pending) will be awarded to participants who attend the keynote and workshops. The workshop sessions are also approved for CDA areas of study or CDA renewals. Deadline for registration is Friday, March 5, 2010.

The mission of the **Preschool Enrichment Team** is to improve the lives of young children through our work with early childhood educators. We do this by providing early childhood training and professional development, consultation, mentoring, career counseling and advancement and advocacy.

**Phone** (413) 736.3900    **Toll Free** (877) 478.7727  
**Fax** (413) 734.6848  
**Web** www.preschoolenrichmentteam.org



### KEYNOTE PRESENTER



Lesley Koplow, LCSW, is the Director of the Center for Emotionally Responsive Practice at Bank Street College, and the former director of the Karen Horney Therapeutic Nursery. She is the author of several books on promoting child mental health in the school setting. Her books include "Unsmiling Faces: How Preschools Can Heal", "Creating Schools That Heal", and "Bears, Bears Everywhere: Supporting Children's Emotional Health in the Classroom". She is

a teacher and clinical social worker and a psychotherapist in private practice. She lives in Manhattan with her daughter and their two cats.



### SANDRA GAINES LOPES MEMORIAL FUND SCHOLARSHIP

In June 2008 we lost our dear colleague and friend, Sandra. In her memory we would like to extend two full conference scholarships. Any early education and care professional who may otherwise be unable to attend the conference may apply. Send name, address, phone, place of employment, position, and why the scholarship is requested (50 words or less) to Scholarship Committee, P.E.T., 293 Bridge St., Suite 322, Springfield, MA. 01103-1435. Request must be received by February 20, 2010. Recipient/s will be notified by March 1, 2010. **We invite any of you who knew Sandra to help us sustain this fund in honor of her work and memory. Please send your donation to the address listed above.**



### DIRECTIONS TO SHERATON HOTEL, SPRINGFIELD

**Traveling North on I-91:** Take Exit 6, (Springfield Center). Continue on Columbus Ave. to the third set of lights. Turn right onto Boland Way. The hotel entrance will be on your right.

**Traveling South on I-91:** Take Exit 7. After the exit, turn left at the traffic light. Go straight through the next light, and the hotel entrance is on the right.

**Traveling East or West on Rt. 90/MassPike:** Take Exit 4. Proceed onto I-91 South. Take Exit 7. After the exit, turn left at the traffic light. Go straight through the next light, and the hotel entrance is on the right.

**Parking:** P.E.T. conference attendees have access to two parking lots/garages: the Sheraton Hotel garage, located through the driveway at hotel, or, the 91 South lot, located across Columbus Avenue and which requires additional walking across the airwalk. Park at top level to access airwalk. Parking will be validated at a reduced rate of \$4.00 for both these locations. Bring your parking stub or token to the conference registration table for validation.

### Thanks to Our Conference Sponsors



Special thanks to the  
Irene E.  
and  
George A. Davis Foundation



**PreschoolEnrichmentTeam**  
Enriching early care & education



**30th Annual Early Childhood Conference**  
Friday, March 12, 2010



**PreschoolEnrichmentTeam**  
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293 Bridge Street, Suite 322  
Springfield, MA 01103-1435



**Workshops 10:15 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.**

**A. Teddy Bears Come to School: Using Transitional Objects in Early Childhood Classrooms**

*Lesley Koplow, LCSW, Director, Center for Emotionally Responsive Practice at Bank Street College, NY*

This workshop will give participants a deep understanding of the way that children use transitional objects in the early years, and introduce the practice of integrating transitional objects into curriculum and caregiving routines in early childhood classrooms. We will detail how teachers can use Teddy Bears to support and promote children’s healthy development and capacity to learn: socially and emotionally as well as intellectually. You will discover a simple, practical, and powerful set of ideas and practices.

**B. Environment Matters!**

*Jeanine Fitzgerald, Certified Human Behavior Consultant, Author, Hubbardston, MA*

It is time we expand our thinking beyond the traditional concept of classroom arrangement. We must embrace a vision that transforms program environments from commercial settings to ones that enrich human potential. While our environments must be safe, and orderly, they also have to be designed as a home away from home. This session will expand your vision to create a place that nurtures logical, imaginative, analytical and creative minds, and will help every child climb their own mountains!

**C. Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention 101**

*Arianwen Hedgecock, Health Educator, Massachusetts Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, Massachusetts Department of Public Health’s Bureau of Environmental Health, Boston, MA, Kelly Kelly, Community Health Care Worker, Western Mass Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, HCS Head Start, Holyoke, MA*

Early childhood educators can play an important role in preventing lead poisoning in young children. Come and learn about the Massachusetts Lead Laws regarding childhood lead screening and many prevention tips that can be shared with your families. Participants will leave prepared to meet the new child care regulation #7.07 that requires providers to give written information to parents about the risks and sources of lead poisoning.

**D. Let’s Do A Poem! Language Arts and Literacy Booster**

*Denise Fontaine-Pincince, M.F.A., Author and Artist, Thorndike, MA*

Rhyme, rhythm and repetition, the poet’s favorite tools, are already a vital part of your preschool day. Through poetry published, or off-the-cuff-created, we’ll explore a variety of ways to build a child’s pre-reading skills while enriching your language arts curriculum. Get ready to read, write, sing, and sway!

**E. Toward a Healthier Future: Nutrition, Gardening & Healthy Lifelong Habits**

*Sarah Patton, Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant, Holistic Health Counselor, Shutesbury, MA, Ellen Ellsberg Edge, Director, Karen Gutierrez, Early Childhood Teacher, Child Development Center, Keene State College, Keene, NH*

This workshop will focus on current health trends in early childhood, such as obesity, diabetes, autism, ADHD and their impact on learning, behavior, overall health and well being of young children. Through exploration of the Early Sprouts Curriculum, a guided 24-week ‘seed-to-table’ experience, educators will learn about the impact of this innovative program on these current health issues and will leave with concrete steps and tools to use with the children and families they serve as well as in their own lives.

**F. An Insight Into Autism**

*Jason Litto, Autism Specialist, Community Resources for People with Autism, Easthampton, MA*

This workshop will offer an overview of autism. Participants will learn about the characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorders and how they may be manifested, common learning styles, the social challenges facing children on the spectrum, and practical teaching techniques that will enhance the learning of children with autism. There will be opportunity for discussion. Bring your questions!

**G. De-mystifying Staff Qualifications: Do You Know Where You’re Going?**

*Marcia Farris, Executive Director, Massachusetts Association for the Education of Young Children, Lowell, MA*

Research tells us advanced education improves quality of education and care for children, but what option is right for you and your staff? Let’s look at some of the current federal and statewide initiatives designed to support advanced education and teacher competence. What factors do we consider as we make personal professional development plans? We will explore programs/initiatives such as CDA, Building Careers, NAEYC Accreditation, QRIS and the recommendations from the statewide Work Force Development Task Force.

**H. Farm To Preschool Project**

*Jessica Collins, M.S., Director, Special Initiatives; Frank Martinez Nocito, M.S., Project Manager, Partners for a Healthier Community; Kelley Erwin, MA Farm to School Project; Sara Teece, A.S., Director, Food Service, Square One, Springfield, MA*

Come learn about an innovative project that will have preschoolers eating sautéed spinach! Participants will learn how a preschool organization can purchase fresh produce from a local farmer through the currently working Farm-to-Preschool system; how providing fresh local produce supports quality nutritional meals at low cost; and how being part of a system like this can save an organization money. The panel will address the need for the farm-to-preschool model, what is involved in implementing it at various sized organizations, how you can participate, and how to sustain the effort through organizational policy changes.

**Workshops 1:45 – 3:45 P.M.**

**I. Mental Health Issues in the Family**

*Jeanine Fitzgerald, Certified Human Behavior Consultant, Author, Hubbardston, MA*

Parents with young children and who also have mental health issues have the same hopes and aspirations as all parents, yet experience many barriers to achieving those hopes. This session explores how mental health issues affect parenting and what we as professionals can do to support children in our care. We will look at the destructive forces of depression, anxiety and schizophrenia.

**J. Which Lens Do You Use? Viewing Challenging Behaviors in the Classroom and Their Relationship to Sensory Experiences**

*Mary Grunfeld, M.Ed., OTR/L, Licensed Registered Occupational Therapist, Lisa Holland, M.S., Behavioral Consultant, Behavioral Health Network, Springfield Early Education and Care Council, and the Community Health Team, Springfield, MA*

Do you have concerns about some behaviors in your program? Do you stop to evaluate a child’s sensory processing development? In this workshop, participants will gain further understanding of the relationships between problematic behaviors and the sensory processing system. This will be done through hands on activities and interactive discussion relating to your specific program needs.

**K. Planning a Curriculum for Mixed-age Groups**

*Mahera Chiarizio, M.H.S, Owner, Sophia’s Friends Childcare and Learning Center, Inc., Springfield, MA*

It is never easy planning effective curriculum that will capture and excite all the children in your care. Creating a curriculum for a variety of age levels in your program adds to the difficulty. In this workshop session, educators will learn effective ways for planning a developmentally appropriate curriculum that is engaging and exciting for mixed age groups.

**L. Drum Dee-Dum Dum**

*Denise Fontaine-Pincince, M.F.A., Author and Artist, Thorndike, MA*

Children are naturally drawn to drumming. Learn how to facilitate classroom drum circles while placing the emphasis on play rather than performance. Discover why group drumming appeals to all types of learners and nurtures a child’s growth in all areas of development. Instruments provided.

**M. Let’s Get Physical! Active Science In the Classroom!**

*Wendy Sherry, B.F.A., Mad Science of Western New England, Northampton, MA*

This workshop is based on the premise that science is an active process. It’s designed to assist early childhood educators to extend the exploration of science into the entire classroom. Through a variety of entertaining and highly motivating hands-on activities, this session facilitates learning about States of Matter, Forms of Energy, and Light and Sound.

**N. Playing with Mud and Catching Bugs: An Inquiry into Nature-Deficit Disorder**

*Ruthie Ireland, Pre-school Teacher, Arcadia Nature Nursery School, Easthampton, MA*

This workshop will explore the work of Richard Louv, author of “Last Child In the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder” and his research linking direct exposure to nature with healthy human development and the physical and emotional health of children. We will look at ways to incorporate nature discovery into even the most urban settings. Curriculum ideas, activities, and resources will be explored and discussed.

**O. Open Wide! BEST Oral Health Program = Bringing Early Education, Screening and Treatment to Children and Families**

*Joan Lowbridge, RDH, B.S., BEST Oral Health Project, Community Health Education Specialist, Partners for a Healthier Community; Lela Hobby-Burns, M.S.N., RN, Baystate Health Pediatric Endocrinology “Fit for the Future” General Pediatric; Nancy Johnson RDH Tufts Community Dental Program; Vicky Danio, Preschool Teacher, Square One, Springfield, MA*

BEST strategically eliminates the substantial barriers to dental care services by providing care during the school day and on-site at the preschool program. Embedding BEST within school settings connects infants, toddlers and preschool children to necessary oral health education, related preventive dental measures, in a place, and in ways that are convenient and accessible to families. Come to this lively training to learn more about who is involved, how you can be part of this innovative initiative and to be better prepared to meet the new oral health child care regulations that require daily teeth brushing for children in care more than 4 hours.

**30th Annual Early Childhood Conference**

**Register Online: [www.preschoolenrichmentteam.org](http://www.preschoolenrichmentteam.org)**

**Registration Form** *(One person per form – Please photocopy)*

(Print) Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Check type of program *(only one)*  Family Child Care  Infant/Toddler

Preschool  School Age  Public School  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please use the workshop letters to indicate 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice.

Morning session 1<sup>st</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

Afternoon session 1<sup>st</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

Payment must accompany registration form. Postmark Deadline: March 5, 2010.

*(No split fees or telephone registrations)*

Purchase Orders accepted, include P.O. number: \_\_\_\_\_

**New! Early bird and large group rates:**

\$90 on or before 2/14

\$95 after 2/14

<p><b>Additional Discount</b> Receive \$5 off each registration if registering 10-19 people. Receive \$10 off each registration if registering 20 or more!!</p>
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**WMAEYC Members** deduct \$10 from fee.  
One deduction per member. Include member number \_\_\_\_\_

Deductions: Check all that apply

\$5/Early Bird  \$10/WMAEYC  \$5/10-19 People  \$10/20+ People

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Checks payable to: Preschool Enrichment Team, Inc., 293 Bridge Street, Suite 322, Springfield, MA 01103-1435.** No refunds after February 26, 2010.

**To charge:** complete all items below. No phone registrations accepted.

Am. Express  Discover  MasterCard  Visa

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Expiration \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(FOR OFFICE USE ONLY)

Check No. \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received \_\_\_\_\_

TMS entry by \_\_\_\_\_ Purchase Order # \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Agency/Payer \_\_\_\_\_