

Final Workshops

Session A – 10:30AM-12:00PM

Connecting Preschoolers to Nature through Stories, Songs & Nature Games: Through stories, songs and nature games the participants will be given hands-on experiences and suggestions that aid the young child into a deeper and more wholesome connection to the natural world. This workshop is presented by Wendolyn Bird, Director of Tender Tracks Tales and Trails.

Start Storytelling Today with Japanese Paper Theater: Award-winning author Hazuki Kataoka demonstrates how the traditional Japanese storytelling format called kamishibai (paper theater) transforms storytime into an interactive, multicultural experience. Teacher Julie Schmidlen shows how her 6th grade students created their own kamishibai to tell their personal stories about assimilating into American culture. The workshop features historical photos, original video clips and live performance. This workshop is presented by Hazuki Kataoka, Leaf Moon Arts and Julie Schmidlen.

Family Engagement in Early Childhood Programs; Strengthening the Home-School Connection: Examine family engagement tools and strategies that have been successfully implemented in an existing early childhood program. Stretch to Kindergarten has partnered with the Family Engagement Institute to strengthen the capacity of families, communities and schools to support the success of all children by welcoming parents, connecting to affordable and accessible resources and providing hands-on activities to promote the home-school connection. Walk away with ideas on how to best support the family as a child's most powerful advocate! This workshop is presented by Betsy Nikolchev, Executive Director of the Family Engagement Institute at Foothill College and Carmen Ponce, Associate Director, Stretch to Kindergarten.

Meeting the English Language Needs of Child Care Providers and Parents: Is English a barrier for a child care provider or parent you know? Examine the curriculum one college offers to teach the language and academic skills necessary for communication with and about children. Participants will learn about the development and components of this effective ESL for Child Care programs. This workshop is presented by Julaine Rosner and Marsha Chan. Julaine is an ESL Instructor at Mission College.

Urgent Curriculum: Thinking BIG to Meet Teaching Challenges: Discover how large-scale activities help teachers meet urgent needs for creative, exciting and thoughtful curriculum. See how super-sized explorations engage all types of children, thereby improving focus and behavior while boosting learning. "Urgent" curriculum addresses increasing demands to strengthen both social and academic skills through activities using low-cost and recycled materials that energize the whole curriculum. This workshop is presented by Marie Faust Evitt & Tim Dobbins from Mountain View Parent Nursery School.

Ouch! He/She Bit Me: Help for Coping with Biting in Your Program: Are you stressing out over biting? Come to explore the biting syndrome in young children. Analyze motives and responses and leave with some successful coping strategies for children as well as guidance in helping their parents understand the problem. This workshop is presented by Sue Dinwiddie, Parent Educator and Staff Trainer.

The Power of Friendship & Creating a Bully Free Zone: This presentation focuses on helping children understand friendship and dealing with bullying. Join Anita Volta for an interactive session as she shares Patulous, and The Power of Friendship. There will be time for discussion as well as networking with workshop attendees. You can find out more about the author and presenter at <http://www.anitavolta.com>.

Strategies that Support Learning for Children with Special Needs: Creating a motivating learning environment for children for teachers, parents and pediatric therapists is a critical element for a child's development. Join us and discover how to build skills for all children including those with special needs by creating a learning environment with inexpensive materials. This workshop is presented by Gayle Mayekawa and Lisa Shaanan. This workshop is located in the Make-It & Take-It area.

Session B - 1:15-2:45 PM

Natural Wonders: Using Nature to Create Art: In this interactive workshop participants will begin to gain a working knowledge of how to use nature and natural materials to develop an appreciation for nature and art and at the same time see how it supports cognitive development. We will be using Andy Goldsworthy's nature art as a guide. This workshop is presented by Cherida Gruenfeldt, Independent Early Childhood Coach and Consultant.

Integrating the Arts to Foster Development: Our team addresses the importance of the arts in fostering development. We use current research to illustrate how the arts support development. This interactive workshop helps participants assess their individual programs for opportunities for integrating the arts and maximizing teachable moments. This workshop is presented by Tamara Barrett from Kidango Head Start and Andrea Burnett, City of Oakland Head Start.

Mother Nature's Child: Join us in viewing this important film "Mother Nature's Child," which explores nature's powerful role in children's health and development through the experience of toddlers and preschoolers, as well as children of all ages. The film introduces important issues such as why children need unstructured time outside, what is the place of risk-taking in healthy child development, how is play a form of learning, and how can today's children connect with nature? The film will be followed by group discussion and an opportunity for participants to discuss their own experiences in introducing children to the world of nature. This workshop is presented by Diane and Roy Gordon, Director, Children, Nature and You.

When Just Positive Guidance Doesn't Work: In this workshop, teachers will be introduced to the Pyramid Model for Teachers from the Center on the Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL). We will explore the Social-Emotional Teaching Strategies that are available to teachers. And when child's behaviors continue to be a concern, teachers will learn how to create Individualize Intensive Interventions that can be created specifically for the child. This workshop is presented by Lorna Knight, Regional Director, Kidango.

Strategies for Dealing with Challenging Behavior: Come and experience engaging hands-on activities that will reshape your thinking about the challenging students in your classroom. While building the social/emotional skills they need to express themselves. This workshop is presented by Tanisha Thomas, Early Childhood Instructor, City of Oakland Head Start and Ilynsdra Jordan.

Understanding the Value of Play based Learning in a Brain-Compatible, Creative Environment: The key focus of this workshop is to discuss the importance of creating a child-centered play based interactive learning environment. The connection between play based creative experiences and brain development will be discussed through open dialogue and discussion. The workshop emphasizes the role of teachers as facilitators and brings out the importance of parent's and teacher's roles as advocates for young children. This workshop is presented by Ranjana Bhatnagar, Adjunct Faculty at San Jose City College & Mission College and an Educational Consultant.

Hold on to your People! Transcend Staff and Family Turnover with Reflective Practice: Mentoring ECE professionals and parents is the number one way to prevent staff turnover, avoid attrition and support the ongoing refinement of best practices. Join us in exploring up-to-date reflective practice theory while participating in meaningful and relevant individual and group exercises inspiring ideas to work with even your most challenging mentee. Participants will leave with an introduction to reflective practice and inspiration for mentoring parent and teacher protégés. This workshop is presented by Tanya Stabinsky, Founder/Director, Edgewood House School LLC and Rachel Talamantez, Private Psychotherapy and Reflective Facilitation Practice.

Sprouting Food Memories in Early Learning: From Garden to Outdoor Kitchen: Learn how to identify twelve edibles to grow in your own early learning garden that represent the children and their families, the faculty and the community. I will lead you through an illustrated example of how I created food curriculum for Step One School from garden to outdoor kitchen. As the children plant the seeds and care for the plants they can learn about life cycles, reciprocity, patience, the scientific process, beauty, nature, and seasons. As they prepare and cook the vegetables they have grown they can learn: to hone math skills from simple counting to basic addition and subtraction of fractions; to make simple food science observations and predictions that will be made and tested; to develop an awareness of seasonal produce from the garden; to develop hand-eye coordination as they master basic mixing and measuring skills; to work cooperatively in small groups. When we create hands-on-learning from garden to kitchen we give early learners the foundational knowledge of nutrient-dense eating that will help them to live healthier lives. This workshop is presented by Katrina Morkner.

Music & Movement for Children using Traditional and Original Music, Props, Books and Fun Classroom Ideas: This is an interactive fun music workshop. We will sing, sign, move and play with music, songs, props, singing books and more. Please come ready to participate and have fun! This workshop is presented by Juliette McDonald and her daughter Yvette McDonald, Heritage Music & Arts. Juliette will also spend time in the Make-It & Take-It Room sharing her love for making instruments.

Celebrating Fatherhood/Male Engagement: Fathers and Men can no longer be considered optional in the lives of children, families and communities. Men need definition of their role, positive reinforcement and an embracing of their importance and potential. They also need to know how to positively reinforce and inspire potential in the lives of their children and families. Men and Women are invited and welcomed as we learn to tap into the power that exists inside of each of us to empower the fathers/men in your lives, family and community to empower the child(ren) in their lives. This session will discuss a system of self-empowerment and positive reinforcement that will become the core of any effective Fatherhood Male Involvement family structure. This workshop is presented by Kent Williams, Executive Director/CEO, SJB Child Development Centers.

Check out the Make-It & Take-It Workshops During Sessions A and B in
Room 2020 (Toyon Room)

Three Steps to Connect: Turning Moments of Conflict into Teachable Moments: In this workshop, we discuss three steps to connect with children during moments of conflict, focusing on long-term effective strategies instead of quick fix behavioral “band-aids.” We will apply these steps (validating, describing, teaching skills) to real-world examples provided by participants. This workshop is presented by Heidi Emberling, Parenting Educator & Early Childhood Specialist.

Building Connections Between Children and Nature: Participants will explore and reflect on the importance of child interactions with nature and natural materials. Participants will have hands-on opportunities with natural materials and recycled materials. Participants will explore how they can build curriculum using natural materials and integrate nature related learning in all areas of the classroom while incorporating appropriate practices, the DRDP and ECERS. This workshop is presented by Carolyn Flores and Chris Pederson, Pacific Oaks College.

Science Gone Wild: Bring science to your classroom with wild and creative hands-on experiments. This workshop is presented by Erin Parkes and Mimi LaCorte, Stratford Schools.

Looking at Curriculum through a New Lens: Learn to use every area of the classroom to create learning opportunities and strengthen the developmental domains of preschoolers. This workshop is presented by Tyiesha Maryland, Director/Owner of Live, Laugh, & Learn Preschool and Tanisha Thomas, Early Childhood Instructor, City of Oakland Head Start.

Exercise Your Body: Explore creative ways to encourage young children and staff to exercise their bodies through music and movement activities. The workshop is presented by Craig Ward, Teacher/Director of the Heffalump Preschool. Craig will also spend time in the Make-It & Take-It Room sharing his love for making instruments.

How to Teach to the Soul of Every Child While Enriching Your Life: Do you have any difficult children in your classroom? How about a shy, hard to get to talk child? Behavior problems? This presentation will help you develop skills to reach each and every child and help them to join you in a great learning experience that will guide them the rest of their lives and change yours forever. This workshop is presented by Teri Stewart, Director of Empire Montessori Preschool.

Powerful Positive Discipline: Teaching Children What to Do: At a loss for what to do with those few truly difficult children? Learn how to: use Evidence of Success to foster specific character traits (responsibility, self control, etc.), write individualized Social Stories that help a child envision himself doing the desired behaviors, and utilize Behavior Contracts, a tool for children to monitor their own behavior and make better choices. This workshop is designed for teachers and parents of older 3s, 4s and Kindergarteners. This workshop is presented by Ruth Wachob, Cupertino Union School District.