

opening minds

2015

**The Opening Minds Early Education,
Child Care, and School Age Conference
and Expo, Chicago**

**January 21–24, 2015
Hyatt Regency
McCormick Place
Chicago, IL**

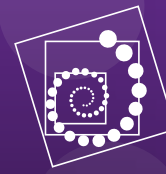


Opening Minds
**INNOVATION
AWARDS™**
*WHO'S GONNA BE THE GAME
CHANGER THIS YEAR?
Submit today ... Details inside!*



REGISTER NOW AND SAVE! www.OpeningMindsUSA.org

Feel the
PASSION!



opening
minds 2015

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31
Innovation Award
Applications Due

Advance Badge Pick-Up & Receptions

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 19 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Opening Minds Office
30 East Adams, 10th Floor, Chicago, IL

(Note: no badges will be mailed in advance. You may pick up badges in advance to avoid the lines, or on site at conference)

Conference Week!

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Registration

9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Workshops

6:00 p.m.

Lifetime Achievement

Award

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Registration

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Innovation Showcase

9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Workshops

12 Noon – 5:00 p.m.

Expo

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Registration

7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Expo

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Innovation Showcase

9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Workshops

7:00 p.m.

Opening Minds

Innovation Awards™

Reception tickets available beginning December 15, 2014

Service to

Young Children Award

Reception tickets available beginning December 15, 2014

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Registration

8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Expo

9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Workshops

OPENING MINDS 2015!

Feel the passion of thousands of professionals who come, together, annually, for four days in Chicago for the most dynamic learning experience in the nation.

Meet the top people in the field of early care and education from all industries: education, administration, health & wellness, medicine, nursing, justice, social service, policy, government, parks & recreation, tech, business, library science, and more.

Hear the latest developments in research. Get proven ideas to return to your job with renewed enthusiasm and the practical edge you need to create results.

04 Days 15 Content Areas 24 Credit Hours

PROFESSIONAL CREDITS

At Opening Minds you can earn:

- Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDUs)
- Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for Licensed Social Workers
- Early Intervention Credits
- Continuing Education Credits for Advanced Nurse, Registered Nurse, and Licensed Practical Nurse
- Continuing Education Credits for Licensed Dietitians/Nutritionists
- Child Care In-Service Training Certificates
- Child Development Associate (CDA) Hours
- **NEW! Illinois Only: Opening Minds is a Registry-verified Conference.** All sessions count toward Registry Credit (Section 4 of your Professional Development Record), and ExceleRate Illinois Registry-Approved training for the Staff Development Standard Gold

Don't wait until last minute to plan your days at Opening Minds!

With Opening Minds' Interactive Conference Planner, you can:

- **Create and print your custom schedule.**
- **Search by workshop title, description, presenter or day.**
- **See full descriptions of workshops.**

Visit

www.openingmindsusa.org
for the most up-to-date workshop schedule.

**FOR UP-TO-DATE WORKSHOP LISTINGS,
VISIT WWW.OPENINGMINDSUSA.ORG**

WORKSHOPS LISTED IN THIS PRELIMINARY PROGRAM ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, PENDING ADDITIONS AND CANCELLATIONS. FULL DESCRIPTIONS AND LOCATIONS WILL APPEAR IN THE FINAL PROGRAM.

Special MEETINGS

Full listings of activities, meetings, sessions and schedules will be available in December.

NURSE & CHILD CARE HEALTH CONSULTANTS 1ST NATIONAL DIALOGUE

Advancing Early Care and Education

Nurse & Child Care Health Consultants from around the nation are coming together Thursday, January 22 to develop a plan of action to:

- Maintain services and get paid once grant and/or public funding disappears
- Create a national database of the best resources for Consultants
- Identify and strengthen the connections between Consultants to reduce working in isolation
- Solidify nurse consultation as an officially recognized nursing specialty

Plan to take advantage of all the conference offerings and events.

Fortify your knowledge and skills in the nursing specialty of child care health, and in child development, community relations, health & wellness and hundreds of other topics.

Questions? Email us at info@openingmindsusa.org

HANDS-ON PRACTICE, APPS AND RESOURCES TO SHARE!
Tina Childress, Illinois School for the Deaf

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER-BRAIN-DAMAGED CHILDREN
Dr. Todd Ochs, M.D., FAAP, Pediatrician, Ravenswood Pediatrics and Ajeet Charate, Program Director, MA Clinical Psychology: LCPC, CADC, BCN, The Neurofeedback, Counseling and FASD Institute

FUNCTIONAL VISION AND HEARING SCREENING FOR YOUNG CHILDREN
Kristen Schraml, Hearing and Vision Early Intervention Outreach and Jane Redmon, NBCT, Orientation and Mobility Specialist, Franklin-Jefferson Special Education District

Jane Stewart Redmon has been working in the field for 30 years. Jane received her MA in Education of the Visually Impaired and Orientation and Mobility from the University of Northern Colorado. She is a certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS) and a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) in the area of Exceptional Needs.

Kristen Schraml, M.S. Special Education, is an early interventionist working with children with hearing loss and their families. Kristen worked for several years in Fairfax, Virginia as an Early Childhood Special Educator for Fairfax County Public Schools and the Infant & Toddler Connection before providing independent Aural Rehabilitation services as a Developmental Therapist-Hearing Specialist.

A LITTLE HEARING LOSS IS A BIG THING
Tina Childress, Illinois School for the Deaf, is the 2014 Cheryl DeConde Johnson Award by Phonak for outstanding achievement in Educational and Pediatric Audiology

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES TO COVERAGE: HOW CHILD CARE PROVIDERS CAN HELP FAMILIES ACCESS NEW HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE OPTIONS UNDER THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.
Rachel Sacks, Manager, Early Childhood Development Initiatives, American Academy of Pediatrics, IL.

STEWARDS OF CHILDREN
Stewards of Children is an evidence based child sexual abuse prevention training program for adults, particularly youth serving organizations, school personnel, and parents.
Jennifer Samartano, Prevention Specialist, Prevent Child Abuse Illinois

EARLY CHILDHOOD NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION FORUM

How are QRIS and Standard Requirements Changing Your Departments and Programs?

- Create synergy across systems
- Statewide Initiatives in Higher Ed Early Childhood Program ReDesign
- Receive open source courses that make the grade!



Featured Guest:
Gail Joseph, University of Washington

Director of Early Childhood & Family Studies and Associate Professor of Educational Psychology, University of Washington College of Education

Gail Joseph has extensive experience as a Head Start teacher, teacher trainer, mental health specialist and national consultant in promoting evidence-based, social-emotional practices with young children. Joseph is the principal investigator on two projects: the Head Start Center for Inclusion and the Childcare Quality and Early Learning Center for Research and Training, which is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. She has presented at more than 100 conferences and workshops devoted to social-emotional practices and has authored numerous articles and books related to young children's social, emotional and behavioral health.

Take it to the Next Level

ADMINISTRATION

STANDARDS & REQUIREMENTS OVERVIEW CHART – AT-A-GLANCE SCHEDULE

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ExceleRate Illinois: Fundamentals of Child Assessment Required for Bronze - Program Administrator/Silver - Program Administrator and at least one teacher in each classroom. <i>Capacity 50</i>	9-12noon			
ExceleRate™ Illinois Orientation Required for Program Administrator/All Quality Levels. <i>Capacity 100</i>	9-11am	2-4pm		
ExceleRate Illinois: Finding a Curriculum That Works for You Required for Bronze - Program Administrator and at least one teacher per classroom. <i>Capacity 50</i>	1-5:15pm			
ExceleRate Illinois: Creating Individual Professional Development Plans Required for Bronze - Program Administrator or the staff member responsible for professional development. <i>Capacity 50</i>		9-12noon		
ExceleRate Illinois: Understanding and Planning for Continuous Quality Improvement Required for Bronze - Program Administrator. <i>Capacity 50</i>		2-5pm		
ExceleRate Illinois: Basics of Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Practice Required for Bronze - Program Administrator and at least one teacher per classroom. <i>Capacity 50</i>			9-12noon	
ExceleRate Illinois: Family and Community: Partners in Learning Required for Bronze - Program Administrator. <i>Capacity 50</i>			2-5pm	
ExceleRate Illinois: Introduction to Developmental Screening Tools Required for Bronze - Program Administrator. <i>Capacity 50</i>				9-12noon
ExceleRate Illinois: An Introduction to Transitions Required for Bronze - Program Administrator. <i>Capacity 50</i>				2-5pm
CLASS: The CLASS Measure: Infants, Toddlers, and Effective Interactions Erika Flores				9-12noon
CLASS: Data: Collect it and Use it in Classrooms, organizations and systems Erika Flores		11am-12:30pm	11am-12:30pm	
CLASS: The Power of Effective Feedback by Teachstone Sara Beach		2-3:30pm		
CLASS: Instructional Support: An Introduction to Improvement Strategies by Teachstone Sara Beach			2-3:30pm	

& PROGRAM OPERATIONS



Back By Popular Demand!

COUNTRY FINANCIAL, PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE SPONSOR

COUNTRY Financial serves about 1 million households and businesses throughout the United States. COUNTRY helps individuals and families build a secure future with a full range of financial products and services.

Sessions Include:

Back to Basics: Building your financial house starts with a solid foundation

Learn the basics about financial security for you and your family. Put the wheels in motion to save for a rainy day or something special on your wish list.

Ladies, Take Control of your Finances

Women face greater financial risk than men, but aren't as prepared. Are you having trouble making ends meet, wondering if you will ever have enough money to stop working someday and retire, or send kids to college? We will show you how to take control of your finances right now and prepare for a brighter future.

Lunch and Learn with the Experts

Ask the experts...anything! Join us for small group discussions led by experts who can cover all of your financial questions. Your burning questions will be answered such as how to build your financial foundation, the right insurance, investments, retirement and much more! **Bring your lunch and we will talk about the topics that matter to you. No time for lunch? Visit us at booth# 304 in the EXPO when it's convenient for you to talk.**

NEW THIS YEAR! Financial Education in the Classroom



Educating young people about money is important for their financial future and the future of our communities. Our new, free classroom materials focus on Kindergarten through early college and will help kids and young adults make more informed choices and be better able to pursue their dreams. If you are passionate about sharing financial literacy in the classroom then join us to get an overview of the materials, classroom tips and sample workbooks.

"The information provided was life changing."
"Excellent Workshops!"
~ quotes from past workshop attendees



No time to join a session? Visit them at BOOTH# 304 in the marketplace when it's convenient for you to talk.

TECHNOLOGY

Whether you are seeking the basics, experimenting with coding, redesigning your school for blended learning and individualized instruction, or on the lookout for advancements in technology for 21st Century Learning, this year's Opening Minds conference has something for your digital world!

- **Today's Technology 101:** Checking your email and browsing the internet
- **iPads to Support Literacy and/or Social Emotional Development**
- **Using your iPad 101:** Email, Internet, and iTunes OH MY!
- **Coding and Programming**
- **Maker Culture and Makerspaces**
- **Redesigning your School** for Blended Learning
- And so many more!

Blended Learning in Early Childhood Classrooms

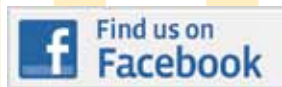
What might blended learning look, sound, and feel like in an early childhood classroom? Develop a deeper understanding of blended learning implementation models. Topics will include device and digital content selection, device security, acceptable use, screen time, repairs and replacement, professional development and parent involvement.



Dr. Harry Walker is the School Leader of the newly founded Carolina Voyager Charter School in downtown Charleston, South Carolina. Dr. Walker brings 33 years of public education experience into his first venture in charter schools. He also served as a Senior Education Consultant with Education Elements, a leading technology consulting firm based in San Carlos, California. His Masters and Doctorate degrees were awarded from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

In their inaugural year, Carolina Voyager is educating children in kindergarten, first and second grades. The school focuses on social emotional development and using blended learning to develop personalized learning paths for each of its students. The school employs a classroom rotation BL model, a one-to-one iPad initiative, and a number of digital platforms to enhance classroom instruction. Carolina Voyager plans to add a grade each year, growing to a K-8 school by 2020 and educating 400 students.

A full schedule of listings will be available online in December.



YOUNG CHILDREN AND STEM: A NATURAL FIT

Presented by Karen Worth

This session will focus on the nature of science, technology, and engineering curriculum and instruction in early childhood classrooms. It will explore the ways in which these areas of the curriculum can fit naturally into a child-centered and play based environment. The session also will address the issue of standards and the role they can play in guiding curriculum not instruction.

Karen Worth, Chair, Elementary Department, Wheelock College. Ms. Worth has worked as a senior research scientist at Education Development Center, Inc. for more than 25 years leading a range of programs focused on

science curriculum development, professional development, and systemic reform. She has also served as a consultant and advisor to numerous institutions including the Boston Children's Museum, the Chicago Children's Museum, public television stations WGBH and PBH, and community organizations across the country and internationally, and has authored numerous articles and book chapters. Awards include the Exploratorium's Outstanding Educator Award for her work in science education, the international Purkwa Prize for the scientific literacy of the children of the planet, and the NSTA Distinguished Service Award.

ENHANCE DEVELOPMENT & LEARNING

• Relationships as Environment

This session will underline the relationships surrounding a child as a key component including an overview of the spectrum of biological responses of stress affecting adverse lifelong outcomes and the practical applications of the interactions within the system of relationship.

Deb Wildenhofer, National Trainer for Brazelton's Touchpoints and Director of Learning Institute, Baby TALK and Ellen Walsh, MSW, Baby TALK

• Celebrating Science on the Math/ELA Power Path:

Hands on Activities developed form an NEA and PBS Partnership

Participants will review National Education Association policy on early childhood education and learn how we integrate technology and literacy into math and science to engage early learners.

Betsy Wycislak, Kindergarten Teacher, Oswego CUSD#308

• 5 R's: Revolutionary Reading Routine = Resounding Results!

Cooperative Unison Reading, a relatively simple classroom practice, has produced incredible results in student achievement (Kindergarten-8th grade). Interactive session will inspire and empower teachers to try it!

Dr. Sarah Dennis, Learning Cultures Program Manager, The Urban Assembly

• Museum Research Methods as Authentic Assessment in Your Context

This session explores how various research methods that can be used as authentic assessment for early childhood learners. Attendees will participate in learning activities and active dialogue about authentic assessment.

Frances Mast, Manager Audience Research and Evaluation and Stacy Niemiec, Field Evaluator, John G. Shedd Aquarium

• Enhancing Readiness, Pre-Writing, and Pre-Keyboarding Skills with Technology

Learn engaging strategies to boost readiness skills (grip, drawing), pre-writing skills (letter/number formations, name writing), and pre-keyboarding skills with simple technology to create a successful learning environment.

Elizabeth DeWitt, Ed.D., National Curriculum Specialist

• A+ Coaching

A 10 minute table team activity leads the trainers to share observational feedback with the group, both positive and negative, this leads into the A+ coaching model.

Doris Salamone-Matczak and Rachel Weber, District Managers, Knowledge Universe/KinderCare Brand

• Communication in the Digital Age

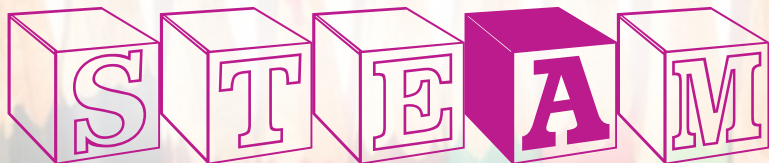
Communication trends are changing. Parents want more. Learn what data says about parent communication preferences and how you can boost your parent engagement. **Leif Ullman, CEO and Greg Krupa, COO, KidReports**

Creating STEM areas in Family Childcare

This full day session encourages FCCP to include STEM centers in their programs. It will focus on techniques that encourage critical thinking and ideas to organize your environment to provide space for inquiry and exploration. **DeCarla Burton, B.A., Owner and Operator of Jump Smart Family Childcare Academy and Tita Jackson, M.Ed., Owner/Director, TJ's Heavenly Angels Childcare**

FULL DAY SESSION

science : technology : engineering : **ART** : mathematics



STEAM: DRAMA, MUSIC AND THE ARTS DICTATED-DRAMATIZED STORIES (BASED ON VIVIAN PALEY'S WORK)

Background resources and discussion on the importance of "dictated-dramatized stories" in the classroom, the powerful effects on children's learning and development, practical knowledge of how to make it work in the classroom (based on Vivian Paley's coaching in my classroom), and information on optimizing children's participation in drama activities in the classroom. **Karen Wylie, Golden Apple Fellow, Retired Teacher District 73.5 & CPS Bilingual K-8th**

UM & TEACHING PRACTICES

LESSONS LEARNED: Classroom Community and Skill Building Sessions and Activities

Bridges, Towers & Tunnels: Construction Projects that Teach Math & Science

Turn your classroom into a “maker space” where construction projects promote STEM learning! Presenters share ideas for exploring science and math concepts through children’s play with blocks and “found” materials.

Ann Gadzikowski, Early Childhood Coordinator, Northwestern University

Bridging Formal and Informal Learning: Supporting Science Learning for Early Learners

This presentation will explore the roles of informal science institutions for supporting early childhood learning and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). A sociocultural perspective will be used to stress the importance of the adult in mediating the learning experience for young children.

Lindsay Maldonado, John G. Shedd Aquarium and Nicole R. Rivera, EdD, MT-BC, Visiting Professor of Psychology

2014 INNOVATION AWARD WINNER Every Child Ready to Read

Learn how to use Every Child Ready to Read @ your library® to promote shared reading and to communicate the benefits of early literacy and the caregiver-child connection.

Lindsay Huth, Early Learning Specialist, Arlington Heights Memorial Library and Jenna Nemece-Loise, Children’s Librarian, Chicago Public Library

Creating a Caring Community – More Than Warm Fuzzies

Debbie Lee, Ed.D., Associate Professor, Western Illinois University

Bringing the Practice of Yoga into Your Classroom

Jennifer Asimow, Associate Professor, Harold Washington College and Nicole Gage, Yoga Instructor-Children, Bloom Yoga Studio

Planning Purposeful Play for Toddlers and Twos

Michelle Patt, Certified Teacher

GIGGLES & WIGGLES! It’s Circle Time

Sharron Krull

Large and Small: Creating Educational Connections with Nature in Urban and Rural Spaces

Andrew Howard, ASLA, Senior Associate and Lead Designer, Hitchcock Design Group and Sarah Perna, Center Director, Bright Horizons Early Education

Blocks and Language

Deborah Dorfman

Becoming Reggio-Inspired ... One School’s Journey

Carla Goldberg, Director, Akiba-Schechter and Kelli Harris, Teacher, Akiba-Schechter

Understanding Diverse Child Rearing Practices and Creating Strong Family School Relationships Through Anti-Bias Learning Communities: One Organization’s Journey

Elizabeth Tertell, Associate Director of ECE and Jessica Meland, Master PreK Teacher of Christopher House

The Dirt on Curriculum

Reagan Miller, Assistant Director and Suzie Brunner, Preschool/Kindergarten Administrative Coordinator, Gertrude B. Nielsen Child Care and Learning Center

Messy Hands, Growing Minds: The Developmental Benefits of Messy Play

Jenna Weglarz-Ward, Doctoral Student

Science – It’s Not Just a Table in Your Classroom

Karen Evans, M.S. ED, ESL and Kristen Lofgren, MAT, Special Ed, ESL, Teachers

Real Play, Major Tasks: Relationships, Community and the Mind

This workshop offers compelling Self-Worth/ Esteem, Humanity-Esteem, Self-Regulation and “Mind” research, theory and EC curricula and interactive practice of strategies, team design, and individualized data tracking of play and communication skills.

Maureen Collins, Early Childhood Inclusion Teacher, CCSD93

Achieving Bilingual Literacy in Early Childhood Programs (Realizar la lectoescritura bilingüe en educación temprana)

Susan Pryor, Kindergarten Teacher, Dual Language Program, Erie Elementary Charter School and Sara Robles, 1st Grade Teacher, Dual Language Program, Glenbrook Elementary District 46

The Power of Synthetic Phonics

Sue Brunson

Set in the City: Using Urban Children’s Literature to Build Early Literacy Skills

Dr. Jane Fleming, Associate Clinical Professor, Erikson Institute

From Blowing Bubbles to Rocking the Beat: Anytime Music and Movement Activities

Stephanie Lane-Baker and Debbi Woolf, Teachers, Infant Welfare Society

Learning Projects from Low Cost Materials

Bev Schumacher, CEO and Author, Learning Props



IMAGINE THAT! HOW TO CREATE SPACES AND CHOOSE PROPS THAT BRING OUT THE DRAMA

Explore how both abstract and representational props and environments impact dramatic play. Do blocks with wheels beat life-like racecars every time? See examples, share successes and failures, leave with ideas. **Katie Slivovsky, Exhibit Development Director and Jenny Schrider, Exhibit Design Director, Chicago Children’s Museum**

OBSERVATIONAL DRAWINGS: INVESTIGATING WITH PAPER AND PENCIL

Learn the benefits of observational drawings in your classroom. Drawing can help a child explore various subjects and make connections through inquiry. **Julianne C. Medel, Education Specialist, Kohl Children’s Museum**

FLANNELBOARD FUN WITH MUSIC!

Using an image increases understanding and memory, assists processing and invites participation by children right off the bat! Learn how to make an inexpensive flannelboard and felt shapes to enhance songs. **Carole Peterson Stephens, CEO, Macaroni Soup**

PICASSO MEETS EINSTEIN! DISCOVER SCIENCE WHILE EXPLORING ART

Capitalize on those wonder-filled teachable science moments everyday! Learn about materials and activities that support children’s discoveries through visual, hands-on, sensory art experiences. **Sharron Krull, Play Power**

Cultivate Emotional Balance

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Take a Deep Dive INTO CHALLENGING BEHAVIOR

*Get Around & Through Standards,
Culture Codes and more*

WHY KIDS CAN'T SIT STILL IN SCHOOL, TODAY

Presented by Angela Hanscom, MOT, OTR/L



Learn the underlying reasons why more and more children are having trouble with attention, emotional regulation, creativity, and self-control in school today and innovative ideas on how to address this problem.

Angela Hanscom is a pediatric occupational therapist and the founder of TimberNook, which focuses on nature-centered developmental programming in New England. Angela holds a master's degree in occupational therapy and an undergraduate degree in Kinesiology (the study of movement) with a concentration in health fitness. She specializes in vestibular (balance) treatment and sensory integration. She is also the author of the upcoming nonfiction book, *Balanced & Barefoot*, which discusses the effects of restricted movement and lack of outdoor playtime on overall sensory development in children.

CRACKING THE CULTURAL CODE

Presented by Dr. Virginia Walter

When young children come to your school or program, they don't leave their families and communities behind. One of the biggest challenges for professionals working with young children is engaging, understanding and gaining the respect of the families and communities where they work. Dr. Virginia Walter has years of experience working in diverse communities. Learn some practical strategies for cracking the culture code which can help you read and deepen your understanding of the community at this two part session.

The facilitator for this session, Dr. Virginia A. Walter, is an emerita professor at the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies. She has years of experience working in diverse communities; and she has studied, taught, and written about childhood information needs, childhood literacies, children's literature, and outcome-based planning and evaluation. She has recently conducted workshops on Community Assessment for the New York and California State Libraries.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL GROWTH

POWERHOUSE POSITIVE GUIDANCE: ACTIVATING CORE STRENGTHS FOR BEHAVIOR AND LEARNING SUCCESS

Touch the heart, activate the brain, and motivate success. Maximize your influence with relational strategies that work to nurture confidence, ensure cooperation and create positive outcomes every day!

Dr. Marie Masterson, Author, Researcher and Associate Professor, Dominican University

PRINCESS BOYS AND TRUCKER GIRLS: BREAKING GENDER STEREOTYPES

Thought-provoking video clips, interactive discussions and self-reflective practices create an opportunity to explore, prevent and address gender biases and stereotypes among young children and families.

Jessica Gall, Education Project Director, Anti-Defamation League

PICTURE BOOKS AND FAIRY TALES: SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S EMOTIONAL GROWTH THROUGH LITERACY

Through book readings and discussion, presentation of a theoretical framework the presenters will encourage deeper thought and understanding of children's psychological and emotional development. Participants will be introduced to the richness of content and themes that story books and fairy tales present and how they can be used to help children work through conflict, worries, and developmental hurdles.

Joni Crouse, Clinical Director, and Mollie Reed, Mental Health Consultant, Virginia Frank Center

CONNECTIONS: THE RELATIONSHIP-BASED PHASE MODEL

We will present a social-emotional model for any early childhood classroom which will support teachers in understanding and responding to children's behavior in groups over time. Our model works with any curriculum and can be useful for home-based daycare as well as centers.

Joanne Kestnbaum, LCSW, Supervisor and Linnet Mendez, LCPC, Educational Therapist, JCFS

THE INFANT-TODDLER BRAIN AND TRAUMA

This session is devoted to explaining infant mental health. We will discuss and explore the various ways trauma occurs in infants and the physiological changes in the limbic system of the infant brain.

Donna Cotton-Cornelius, LCPC, PsyD., EI Specialist, and Donna Westbrook, MSW, Breakthrough Urban Ministries

Education Starts at Home

FAMILY & COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

INTEGRATING CHILDREN OF ALL ABILITIES INTO THE LIFE OF THE FAMILY

INTRO TO LEKOTEK & PLAY

Play is the way kids learn, develop skills, and reach milestones. The National Lekotek Center mission is to make the world of play accessible to ALL children especially those who have disabilities or special needs. Toys and play help kids reach their full potential and increase inclusion within the family and community. This is an informative session about the importance of play and how the Lekotek model and mission can be incorporated into current practices in a number of settings including hospitals. We will discuss therapeutic play sessions, toy lending, partnership programs and adaptive toys.

Hayley Anderson, Manager of Family Services, Lekotek and Beth Ryan, Senior Child Life Specialist, Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

MAKING PLAY ACCESSIBLE

Through play Children develop in many areas—physical, social/emotional, cognitive, communicative, and sensory. Children with disabilities also reach milestones through play, but their development may occur at different ages and stages. This session will explore the principles of toy and play adaptations. Attendees will have the opportunity to adapt activities and games based on the needs of children with varying abilities. This training helps to explore the creative uses of toys and play.

Hayley Anderson, Manager of Family Services, Lekotek and Megan Murphy, Family Play Specialist, Lekotek



BEHIND THE SCENES TOY TOUR GUIDE AND BIG REVEAL OF TOP 10 TOYS WITH POTENTIAL FOUND IN THE OPENING MINDS CONFERENCE EXPO!

TOP 10 TOYS REVEALED!

This session will provide an 'insider's view' of toy evaluations and developmental milestones. This session will share toy industry resource guides, specific play adaptations, and the National Lekotek Center's "Top Ten Tips" for selecting toys for children.

Hayley Anderson, Manager of Family Services, Lekotek and Ahren Hoffman, Manager of Industry Relations & Partnerships

LESSONS LEARNED: USING TEXT MESSAGING TO REINFORCE AN INFANT-TODDLER CURRICULUM FOR HOME

Families and providers when text messages are sent following a protocol aligned Early Learning Guidelines for children birth to three.

Linda Dauksas, Ed.D, Associate Professor, Elmhurst College and Christy Poli, MSW, 0-3 Admin Coord, Bensenville School District 2

EI, PT, SLP, IEP? UNDERSTANDING AND COLLABORATION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION IN CHILD CARE SETTINGS

Although challenging, professional collaboration is vital to support young children with disabilities. We will explain early intervention and special education resources and strategies for working together.

Jenna Weglarz-Ward, Doctoral Student, University of Illinois and Kimberly Hile, Developmental Therapist

CHILDREN AT PLAY: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN?

This workshop discusses play and how it affects children's development. The training breaks down the interest areas, and what the children will learn from each of the areas while they play and discover.

La Rhonda Griffin, Education Inclusion Coach, Easter Seals

NATIONAL INITIATIVES TO KEEP CHILDREN SAFER IN SCHOOLS

Young children across the country are impacted by challenges such as online safety and attempted abductions. Experts from the field will bring case studies, best practices, and solutions to these challenges while introducing national programs to engage children and their families in local communities. FREE materials, resources, and toolkits.

Ana Luisa Cody, Senior Manager of External Affairs, Outreach and Community Engagement at the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC)



ENGAGING DIVERSE FAMILIES AS PARTNERS: USING PRINT AND DIGITAL RESOURCES TO BUILD 1ST AND 2ND LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Karen Nemeth, Founder and Lead Consultant, Language Castle LLC and Kathleen Hayes, Editor, Highlights High Five

This interactive session presents print and digital resources in multiple languages along with evidence-based early literacy strategies on how to use the resources to bridge the home-school connection.

Karen N. Nemeth is an author, consultant and advocate for improving educational practices for young children who are dual language learners and their families. Her most recent book is a 2014 edited volume with 45 expert contributors: Teaching Young DLLs: A Guide for PreK – 3 Leaders by Caslon Publishing.

Standards in EDUCATION

The CLASS Measure: Infants, Toddlers, and Effective Interactions

Join Teachstone's CLASS experts to explore the Infant and Toddler CLASS measures, their alignment with children's typical developmental stages, and practical suggestions for using the measures in classrooms serving infants and toddlers.

Effective Interactions, family child-care settings, and the CLASS™ tool

Learn how to address the unique challenges of using the CLASS tool within family child-care settings during this interactive session facilitated by Teachstone's CLASS experts.

CLASS Data: Collect It and Use It in Classrooms, Programs, or Regions

Whether you work at the program, county, or state level, it's important to align your CLASS observation data collection plans with your organization's larger goals. Join us to learn concrete strategies for meeting your data collection needs and using your data to inform decision making and advocate on behalf of your organization. This session is ideal for those who guide the development and measurement of program goals, including data analysts, directors, and assistant directors.

CLASS: The Power of Effective Feedback: Using CLASS Observations as a Catalyst for Professional Growth

Do you struggle to provide effective CLASS observation feedback to teachers? Need guidance about how to support providers in setting goals for improvement? Join us to explore answers and learn to build on your current approaches. This program is recommended for those with intermediate to advanced CLASS content knowledge, including Certified CLASS Observers and Trainers, and others with extensive knowledge of the tool.



CLASS Instructional Support: An Introduction to Improvement Strategies

Is your organization focused on elevating interactions within the CLASS Instructional Support domain? If so, join us to explore concrete strategies to use with teachers as they work to improve the interactions that support children's cognitive and language development. This session is recommended for those with intermediate to advanced CLASS content knowledge (for example, those who are Certified CLASS Observers or Trainers) who are engaged in supporting teachers' professional growth.



Fundamentals of Child Assessment (3 hours):

Participants will be introduced to the essentials and importance of conducting child assessments in early childhood programs. Through discussion and group activities practitioners will learn the different types of assessments, why assessments are needed, and how assessments are used to plan for children's learning.

ExceleRate™ Illinois Orientation (2 hours):

ExceleRate™ Illinois is the new quality rating and improvement system for licensed child care centers, Head Start, and Preschool for All programs. This orientation provides child care centers an overview of the goals, quality indicators, benefits of participation, application process, and the system supports available for success at reaching each Circle of Quality.

Finding a Curriculum That Works for You (4 hours):

Participants will define developmentally appropriate practice and review the benefits of various curricula approaches. Through group activities and discussion on the use of effective curriculum, participants will be able to determine which curriculum approach best fits their program.

Creating Individual Professional Development Plans (3 hours):

Participants will define and explain the value of professional development. This training will assist in recognizing the relationship of staff development to Continuous Quality Improvement. Participants will also be able to identify the components of an effective professional development plan.

Understanding and Planning for Continuous Quality Improvement (3 hours):

One of the distinguishing characteristics of high-quality early childhood programs is their ability to adapt to change. This training will explore the concept of Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) as an essential component of first-rate programs. Through discussion and group activities, participants will learn the key features of this leadership philosophy, the steps in the CQI process, and how to create a Continuous Quality Improvement Plan (CQIP) to guide change.



ExceleRate™
ILLINOIS

Preparing
Children for
Success

Basics of Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Practice (3 hours):

In this training, participants will learn about the complexities of culture and how culture impacts interactions with families and other professionals. Through discussion and group activities, participants will explore their own cultural competence and awareness.

Family and Community: Partners in Learning (3 hours):

The benefits of strong family and community engagement practices in the child care setting will be the basis of discussion. Participants will identify the strengths of current family and parent policies, as well as discuss strategies to develop a strengths-based family and community engagement plan.

Introduction to Developmental Screening Tools (3 hours):

The process of developmental screening in the early childhood setting is introduced to practitioners. A review of several commercial screening tools is discussed to provide child care practitioners options in monitoring a child's typical development.

An Introduction to Transitions (3 hours):

Participants will recognize the effects of various types of transitions – including activity, classroom, program, family and community – on families and a child's learning and development. Participants will be provided with strategies to assist families in times of transition, as well as identify specific types of transitions that impact children and families.



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WHO'S GONNA BE THE GAME CHANGER THIS YEAR?

Seeking Innovations that are advancing the field of early childhood education to better the lives of young children and their families.

INNOVATION AWARDS CELEBRATION • FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2015
OPENING MINDS USA 2015 CONFERENCE

WHO CAN APPLY?

Any individual or organization serving young children and their families.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2014 • nominations@openingmindsusa.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.openingmindsusa.org

Opening Minds
**INNOVATION
AWARDS**TM

SUBMIT TODAY!

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel Discounts & Information

Enjoy the luxury of Hyatt Regency McCormick Place at a special Opening Minds Conference discount! Hyatt Regency McCormick Place is located near Museum Campus south of the Loop.

DISCOUNTED RATES PER NIGHT*:

\$154 – Single Room / Double Room

\$164 – Triple Room

\$174 – Quad

Regency Club, add +\$25 per person, per night room

For more information and reservations, please visit: <http://www.openingmindsusa.org> or call 1-888-421-1442. Be sure to ask for the "Opening Minds 2015" room rate.



DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

Attendees are welcome to enjoy the many restaurants and food stations throughout the Hyatt Regency and McCormick Place. From fine dining to freshly prepared sandwiches they are all within your reach.

Enjoy special evening events and entertainment at the hotel!

**Rates do not include state or local taxes currently 16.4% at this time (subject to change), or occupancy tax. Hotel discount is available until January 5, 2015. A credit card deposit will be required to guarantee all reservations. Reservations must be canceled at least 3 days prior to arrival to avoid a one night's room and tax charge.*

Not Familiar with Chicago?

Visit www.choosechicago.com for theater, restaurant, museum and shopping information. You can also download maps, check the weather and a whole lot more!

Directions and Parking

Hyatt Regency McCormick Place is located at 2233 S. Martin Luther King Drive.

Driving: From the Loop, take Michigan Avenue south to 22nd Street (Cermak Road). Turn left, and watch for the parking garages From 1-90/94, exit at 1-55 North, then exit immediately onto King Drive. Go north a few blocks to the garages. Visit our website for more information: <http://openingmindsusa.org/getting-there>

Public Transportation: Public transportation to the conference center includes the Metra Electric train and the CTA King Drive #3 bus. From downtown, you can catch this bus going south on Michigan Avenue. For Metra train information, visit www.metrarail.com, click on Schedules and choose Metra Electric line. By taxi, the conference center is less than five minutes from the Loop.

Parking: Conference participants may park in either LOT A (McCormick Place Convention Center Garage) or the Hyatt Hotel Parking Garage for \$19 per car / per day. Hotel Parking Garage is attached to the hotel and is visible as you approach the entrance. In order to take advantage of the discount, be sure to pick up a validation coupon at any of the Opening Minds Information Desks before leaving for the conference. (Coupon is for day parking only; overnight parking for hotel guests is available at regular rates).

Visit www.openingmindsusa.org for the most up-to-date workshop schedule.

REGISTRATION & INFORMATION



Register Early & Save

Send your completed registration form and check, money order or credit card information by November 21, 2014 and save. If you miss the early deadline, you may send the regular registration fee of \$165 until January 9, 2015. Otherwise, you may register at the conference for \$200 per person cash or credit card only.

PERMISSIONS

By entering the event premises, you consent to photography, audio recording, video recording and its/their release, publication, exhibition, or reproduction to be used for web casts, promotional purposes, telecasts, advertising, inclusion on web sites, or any other purpose by Opening Minds. By entering the event premises, you waive all rights you may have to any claims for payment or royalties.

CPS VENDOR NUMBER AND PURCHASE ORDERS

Our Chicago Public Schools vendor number is 47706, and the vendor name is Chicago Metropolitan Association for the Education of Young Children. Public school districts may use purchase orders, but must attach one registration form for each person attending.

SOLICITING

It is Opening Minds' intention to provide participants with quality educational and networking experiences. Speakers are not permitted to sell, promote, or otherwise give significant exposure to any company or organization's materials, products and/or services. Please report any inappropriate practice at one of the three information tables throughout the conference.

CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

Professional Development Funds (PDF) Mini-Grants are now available for Individuals working in child care/after school care programs. PDF Mini Grants are made possible with the generous support of the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS). Apply NOW as funds are limited. For more information if you are in COOK COUNTY, contact Jacqueline Melendez, Program Generalist at Action for Children at 773-564-8756 and Monique Draper, Director of Provider Programs at 773-564-8730. Outside Cook County? Contact INCCRRA at toll free number 866-697-8278 for CCR&R information.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

The Opening Minds Conference is about children, not for children. For safety reasons, we cannot allow children or strollers at the conference. If you intend to bring your children to Chicago, please be sure that you have arranged for their care in advance. Your hotel may be able to direct you to services in the area.

TIPS FOR PLANNING YOUR TIME AT THE CONFERENCE

1. Visit www.openingmindsusa.org to get an up to date schedule of workshops offered at Opening Minds.
2. Schedule time to visit the EXPO.
3. Plan to arrive at Hyatt Regency McCormick Place at least one hour before the first presentation.
4. Go to the registration area or information booth to obtain your final program.



REGISTER ONLINE at www.OpeningMindsUSA.org

It's fast, easy and safe! You will receive your confirmation letter by e-mail immediately.

(You may not register with a purchase order online.)

How did you hear about Opening Minds 2015? Direct mail Web search Friend E-mail
 Other _____

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

	Number of Registrants	Price	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> GROUP EARLY REGISTRATION. 5 or more people.* See below for details. Postmarked by Friday, November 21, 2014. Must attach a list of attendees' names.	_____	\$125	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL EARLY REGISTRATION. Postmarked by Friday, November 21, 2014.	_____	\$145	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL REGULAR REGISTRATION. Postmarked by Friday, January 9, 2015.	_____	\$165	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> WALK IN AT CONFERENCE PER PERSON.	_____	\$200	\$ _____

DONATION? I would like to advocate for best practice by supporting Opening Minds professional development services. Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of: _____ Donation amount \$ _____
 \$15 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other: _____

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT \$ _____

Make checks payable to Opening Minds
 Fax registration forms to: 312-427-5028
 Mail registration forms to:
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 30 E. Adams St., Suite 1000
 Chicago, IL 60603
 Questions? Call 312-427-5399

*GROUP REGISTRANTS must pay with a school or agency check, purchase order or credit card. The names of all participating attendees must accompany registration form.

CPS vendor # is 47706.

NO REFUNDS AVAILABLE

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PLEASE FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING IN ITS ENTIRETY.

Check here if you have a disability that requires special accommodation. Attach explanation or call 312-427-5399.

 First Name Last Name

 Home Address City State Zip

 Daytime Phone Number E-mail Address

Age (circle one)
 18–23 24–29 30–35 36–40 41–45 46–50 51–55 56–60 61–65

 Job Title

 Name of Center/School/Agency Contact Name at Center/School/Agency (if applicable)

Median Income (circle one)
 Under \$25,000 \$25,000–\$35,000 \$36,000–\$45,000 \$46,000–\$55,000 \$56,000–\$65,000 \$66,000+

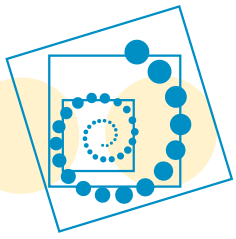
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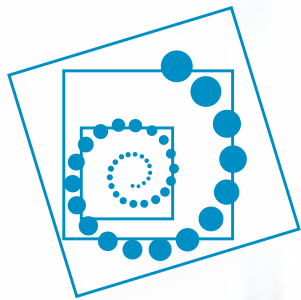


opening minds 2015

January 21–24, 2015

REGISTER NOW AND SAVE!

*Opening Minds is for anyone who cares
for or works with children!*



opening minds 2015

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