

● 3rd

International
infant & toddler
conference

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Play!

The International Language of Children



April 11-13
2013
Tulsa, Oklahoma
USA

International Infant & Toddler Conference 2013

Exhibitors

Kaplan Early Learning Company
CCRC Bookstore (Garden Deva and The Full Deco)
A Child's Cup
Jayna's T-Shirts
Scentsy
Heavenly Inspirations
Institute for Childhood Education
Verna's Jewlery
Addtronics
Stephanie's Selections

Bacone College
Community Action Project of Tulsa
Center for Early Childhood Professional Development
Children's Performing Arts
Early Childhood Education Institute at OU Tulsa
Kaiser Bridging the Gap Scholarship TCC
Northeastern State University
Oklahoma Association for Infant Mental Health
Oklahoma Performing Arts
Pikler/Loczy Fund USA
Tulsa Educare, Inc.
Tulsa Tech

*It's not so much what
children learn through
play, but what they won't
learn if we don't
give them the chance to play.*

Susan Oliver



For the Kid in All of Us!

Join us upstairs in the Sensory and Play Area! Come use your creative, playful and imaginative sides to explore a variety of materials. Also, for stress relief, massages will be offered...\$1 per minute.

Special Thanks

Special thanks to Sharon Beaver of Kaplan Early Learning Company, NSU Broken Arrow and Riverfield Country Day School. Also to the 2013 Conference Planning Committee who did an amazing job making this year's conference a success. And to all of our sponsors who continue to support the early childhood professionals in Tulsa and Oklahoma.

**Play is often talked
about as if it were a
relief from serious learning.
But for children play
is serious learning.
Play is really the
work of childhood.**

Fred Rogers

Preconference

8:00am-12:00pm

Tours

8:30-10:00 Riverfield

10:30-11:30 Educare III

Transportation provided, departing from Downtown DoubleTree Hotel Lobby

12:00-1:00pm

Lunch on Your Own

1:00-3:00pm

Council Oak

Ellen Galinsky

Mind in the Making-Seven Essential Skills for Life Success

Families & Work Institute

3:30-7:30pm

An Evening at the Gilcrease Museum & Dinner

Sponsored by

Tulsa Early Childhood Association (TECA)

Transportation provided, departing from Downtown DoubleTree Hotel lobby

Pre-registration required. Cost for the evening is \$39.95

Play is enough.
Play is enough.
Play is enough.
This should be our
educational mantra for the
first five years.

Janet Lansbury

No-Host Dining (offered Friday evening)

An interesting component of the International Infant/Toddler Conference is the opportunity to meet colleagues from around the world and initiate an ongoing dialogue. To facilitate this, you are invited to participate in the No-Host Dining Program. To join a particular group, visit Conference Registration when you arrive at the Downtown DoubleTree and add your name to the list for the restaurant of your choice. Participation is limited; you are encouraged to make your selection early. As an added bonus, several presenters will be joining the no-host dining option on Friday evening.

FREE trolley transportation will be provided for everyone that evening, whether you choose a No-host Dining location or go out on your own. Participants are responsible for paying for their own meal.

CEUs are available at Conference Registration.

After the Conference

Evaluations and a post-conference survey will be available online after the conference, we will email you the link, and look forward to your comments! Additionally we will post all presentations and hand-outs made available by presenters.

7:30-8:30am

Registration & Continental Breakfast

8:30-9:45am

International Ballroom

Welcome, Opening Remarks & Keynote
Native American Color Guard
Paige Whalen, Child Care Resource Center

Alison Gopnik

*The Philosophical Baby: What Children's
Minds Tell Us About Truth, Love
and the Meaning of Life*

There's been a revolution in scientific understanding of babies and young children, a revolution that's also transformed our understanding of human nature itself. Human beings have a longer childhood than any other animal – our children are more helpless and dependent than any others. Why make babies so helpless for so long? How is that responsible for our uniquely human consciousness and our ability to learn, imagine and love? Remarkable learning abilities reflect special features of babies' and children's brains, features that may actually make them more conscious than adults.

10:00-11:15am

International Ballroom

Alison Gopnik

Play, Possibility and Learning

Recent research shows how exploratory play helps children learn about the world and how pretend play lets them imagine new possibilities.

11:30am-12:45pm

International Ballroom

Lunch & Keynote
Video: Join the Play Revolution
Dr. Gabor Mate

The Biology of Loss

1:00-2:15pm

Break-out Sessions

Buckingham

Dr. Gabor Mate

The Biology of Loss Explored

Windsor

Joyce Nuner

*Attachment & Attunement with Infants &
Toddlers using Conscious Discipline*

Participants will learn how Conscious Discipline helps build and strengthen relationships within the school family. The presentation will examine discipline as a lifelong journey, not a technique. The presenter will share exercises to use with infants and toddlers and will discuss how to communicate this approach with parents.

2nd Level Ballroom

Sarah Wright, Micha McCumber & Dawn Parton

*Museum Babies:
Developing the senses of Children through
Art Activities with Parents at Gilcrease Museum*

Through community partnerships with St. John Center for Women's Health and Tulsa Community College, Gilcrease Museum has developed an interactive art experience to meet the needs of its youngest visitors. Learn more about enrichment opportunities for parent and child to experience art together through play, developmentally appropriate activities and casual art instruction.

Council Oak Ballroom

Carol Rowland, Amy Fain & Joyce Hepler

*How Does Play
Intersect with School Readiness
Goals for Infants and Toddlers?*

Session Description: Early Childhood Education has been focused on school readiness even for infants and toddlers. Our team will share strategies for implementing this concept into the classroom while remaining true to developmentally appropriate teaching. This presentation utilizes brain research implications, research based practices, engaging teacher-child interactions, as well as the essential domains showing the ways infants learn to show how they can intersect to provide exciting and engaging activities focused on playing with a purpose.

2:30-3:45pm

Break-out Sessions

Buckingham

Angela Fultz & Ellen Simmons

***The Impact of
Childhood Trauma on Brain
Development & Attachment***

Traumatic experiences in early childhood shape and impact brain development. This presentation will give an overview of brain development and the increased sensitivity of the stress response system following trauma. Strategies to reduce behavioral symptoms due to trauma will be identified. We will explore how stress impacts the attachment system and how to strengthen your relationship with a maltreated child.

Windsor

Jess Stubblefield, Jill Davis & Lori Kelly

***Making "Sense" of Art:
Sensory and Art Experiences
for Infants and Toddlers***

Looking for ways to invite your infants and toddlers to imagine and create using authentic, open-ended materials? Tired of breaking the bank with store bought toys that lose their appeal? We will share several examples of art processes and sensory experiences, many using resources that you already have. Get ready for creative ideas that will engage your infants and toddlers for hours of fun!

Council Oak

Aubrey Flowers, Jennifer Barth, Kacey Davenport & Jennifer Kesselring

***Becoming . . . The Role of Environment and Materials
in Play and Relationships with Toddlers***

Focus on the integral role of quality, responsive environments and innovative, open-ended materials in fostering relationships, thinking, and play among toddlers. Through narration of mini-stories, enhanced by powerful imagery and dialogue around the power and potential of environment and materials, the intellectual integrity and joy of toddlers will be honored as they engage in meaningful play.

2nd Level Ballroom

Janet Gonzalez-Mena

***What's Different about the Pikler
Approach and What are the Implications
for Infant-Toddler Programs?***

This presentation will focus on the elements that set the Pikler Approach apart from other approaches to infant-toddler care and education. The presentation will also help participants who are caregivers or administrators to explore ways of implementing what would work in their own programs. In addition, the importance of partnering with families will be stressed whether those families embrace the Pikler Approach or not. (Duplicated on Friday)

4:30 pm

**FREE Transportation to and from the University of Oklahoma-Tulsa
Leaving the Downtown DoubleTree Lobby**

5:15-6:15pm

Food Truck Dinner

Tacos, Gyros, Hot Dogs, Shaved Ice

6:30-8:00 pm

Seed Sower-Community Event

University of Oklahoma-Tulsa

**Featured Panel:
Alison Gopnik, Mei-Ling Hopgood,
Dr. Gabor Mate and Dr. Robert Block**



7:30-8:30am

Registration Continental Breakfast

8:30-9:45am

International Ballroom

Welcome, Opening Remarks & Keynote
Mike Pahsetopah, Native American Fancy Dancer

Mei-Ling Hopgood

The Many States of Play:

Different Attitudes About Play Around the World

Mei-Ling will discuss play, who does it and how it's done, in different cultures, and what those cultures can help us understand about children and parenting.

10:00-11:15am

Break-out Sessions

Windsor

Mei-Ling Hopgood

Finding Connection in Cultural Difference

Caregivers in different cultures handle the essentials of parenting -- feeding, sleeping, potty training -- in vastly different ways. We will discuss how understanding those behaviors and the underlying values that inform them can help you connect with families.

Buckingham

Mira Tetkowski Berkley & Colleen Walling

Inspirations from the

Infant-Toddler Centers in Pistoia, Italy

Come take a virtual visit to Pistoia's exemplary infant/toddler centers. See what infant/toddler care can be when a community truly values its youngest citizens, citizens with rights to the highest quality care and education possible.

Council Oak

Angela Fraley & Cristy Roberts

I Love You Rituals:

Songs and Finger-Plays to Touch the Heart. . . and the Brain

This workshop is styled for teachers to experience the benefits of loving, caring interactions. Through discussions teachers realize a better way to spend their time. Get more "bang for your buck" and build some brain connections while singing and interacting with children. Receive information that can be used the minute participants walk back into their classrooms. (Duplicated on Saturday)

2nd Level Ballroom

Jennifer Miera & Paula Steele

The Role of Play in

Developing Focus and Self Control in Young Children

Based on the work of Ellen Galinsky this session will introduce the 7 Essential Life Skills that all children need. Special attention will be given to the 1st skill, Focus and Self Control. Come and experience for yourself how play is fundamental to learning and fosters Focus and Self Control in infants and toddlers. Environments that include open-ended materials which offer multiple uses to provide rich and engaging experiences for learning through play will be explored.

11:30am-1:00pm

Lunch & Keynote
Video: Oklahoma Rising

Dr. Robert Block

Building Brains by Encouraging Play

You can discover
more about a person
in an hour of play
than in a year
of conversation.

Plato

1:00-2:15pm

Break-out Sessions

Windsor

Dr. Robert Block

***ACE, Epigenetics, and Stress
What We MUST Learn Now!***

Buckingham

Jill Davis

Emergent Math in the First Five Years

Children learn concepts that support formal math during the first five years. Learn when and how children construct mathematical knowledge, what math looks like in an early childhood classroom, and age appropriate activities that encourage math concepts.

2nd Level Ballroom

Janet Gonzalez-Mena

What's Different about the Pikler Approach and What are the Implications for Infant-Toddler Programs?

(Duplicate Session-Description on Page 5)

Council Oak

Dr. Barbara Sorrels

Houston, We Have a Problem!

Building the Mission Control Center of the Brain

Success in life and learning is highly dependent upon an individual's capacity for self regulation which includes the ability to control emotions, behavior, impulses and thinking. The "mission control" center of the brain is developed in the first three years of life and is highly dependent upon the quantity and quality of the child's relationships and life experiences. Participants will learn the three stages of self-regulation and practical strategies for helping children develop this critical capacity.

2:30-3:45pm

Break-out Sessions

Windsor

Keith Pentz

***Interactions and Relationships:
Making Connections That Change Lives***

The importance and influence of interpersonal connections on all aspects of development begins even before birth. Each interaction—each event—each opportunity—each engagement—profoundly impacts all of us personally and collectively.

Buckingham

Susan Patrick & Beverly Kovach

***The Toddler and
the Adult in the Environment***

Curriculum ideas for creating environments that support toddler developmental tasks and the need for growing toddler independence. Learn how to use relation-based care practices to help toddlers be more competent and independent while allowing you to have more meaningful and less stressful relationships with toddlers.

2nd Level Ballroom

Cynthia Aldinger

Hands Off/Hearts In:

Supporting Self-Directed Imaginative Play in Early Childhood

"If a tiny child has been able in his play to give up his whole being to the world around him, he will be able, in the serious tasks of later life, to devote himself with confidence and power to the service of the world." These words of Rudolf Steiner, founder of Waldorf education, beautifully illustrate the responsibility of the adult in fostering free exploration and self-directed play in young children. (Duplicated on Saturday)

Council Oak

Rachelle Wheaton, Aubrey Flowers, Kacey Davenport & Jennifer Kesselring

Enchantment and Wonder: The Essence of an Infant Environment

From the moment infants enter the world, they begin to explore their environment, engage through their senses and develop relationships. This presentation tells the story of how we built relationships with each child and intentionally created a reciprocally responsive environment that speaks to the infants, their interests and needs, while sparking engagement and wonder and provoking play.

6:00-10:00pm

No-Host Dinners

(See Page 3)

Saturday, April 13, 2013

7:30-8:30 am

Registration & Continental Breakfast

8:30-9:45am

International Ballroom

Welcome, Opening & Keynote
Union Air Force Junior ROTC Color Guard

Lella Gandini *Shared relationship and playful learning through the exploration of materials and space in the Infant/Toddler Centers of Reggio Emilia'*

10:00-11:15am

Break-out Sessions

Windsor

Lella Gandini *In-Depth discussion of the relationships and playful learning through the exploration of materials and space in the Infant/Toddler Centers of Reggio Emilia'*

We will analyze and discuss visual stories that document the creative relationship among children, in the Infant/Toddler Centers, as they invent play, transform materials, and experience learning joyfully with teachers, but accompanied by parents and a supportive community.

2nd Level Ballroom

Cynthia Aldinger *Hands Off/Hearts In: Supporting Self-Directed Imaginative Play in Early Childhood*
(Duplicate Session-Description on Page 7)

Buckingham

Julia Moore, Eva Morrow & Monica Poindexter *Infant-Toddler Caregiving and Teaching at the University of Missouri Columbia: High Quality Care in Missouri*

A high-quality infant-toddler program will be highlighted in this presentation. This session is perfect for infant-toddler caregivers. Activities like "curriculum play", "happenings", "room environment setups" and "self-reflective practices" will help those looking to enhance their own programs, and build relationships with children and families. Playful interaction required!

Council Oak

Nicole Pearce & Jodi Legnon *Autism, Early Intervention, Empowering Providers*

Discussion of the early signs of autism and why early intervention is the key to later success for these children. Presenters will share their knowledge and experience of autism and empower early childhood providers with information and strategies to recognize red flags, support parents, and create successful interactions for the children in their classrooms.

11:30-1:00

International Ballroom

Lunch & Keynote
Oklahoma Performing Arts

Jane Humphries & Kari Rains *Beginning the Sensitive JourneyA Commitment to Children, Their Families, and Each Other*

Presenters



Cynthia Aldinger is Founder and Executive Director of LifeWays North America, an organization dedicated to the development of healthy early childhood programs and parenting practices. Co-author of the book *Home Away From Home: LifeWays Care of Children and Families*, Cynthia has lectured and presented internationally, directs trainings and seminars across North America, and is an Adjunct Faculty member at Rudolf Steiner College in California.



Jennifer Barth has been an infant-toddler teacher for the past 4 years, both at the Oklahoma City Head Start Program and most recently at Riverfield Country Day School. She has a Bachelor of Sciences in Child Development from the University of Central Oklahoma as well as an Infant-Toddler Specialist Certification from the Erikson Institute in Chicago, Illinois.

Saturday, April 13, 2013

1:00-2:15pm

Break-out Sessions

2nd Level Ballroom

Dr. Jane Humphries & Kari Rains

Creating In-Sync Environments for Infants and Toddlers

This session is designed to equip parents, child care providers, and other caregivers with a basic understanding of how infants/toddlers process their sensory environment. For those children that have difficulty processing session presenters will share quick, easy, and inexpensive activities to address the sensory needs of young children.

Council Oak

Angela Fraley & Cristy Roberts

I Love You Rituals: Songs and Finger-plays to Touch the Heart. . . and the Brain

(Duplicate session, description on page 6).

Windsor

Dr. Stacey Leakey

The Playground of Advocacy: A Toolbox for Anyone Impacting the Lives of Infants, Toddlers, and Their Families and Needing Resources to Do It

We impact the lives of families in ENORMOUS ways that are hard to explain to others who aren't in our field. Are you struggling to relay the importance of Early Intervention, Infant Mental Health, and Socio-Emotional Development to people in positions of influence (legislators, funders, and the like)? Jumpstart a shift in your language, connect with others about the work you do, and gain tools to improve your advocacy efforts.

Buckingham

Jess Stubblefield

Germany's History with Child Care and Why Attachment Matters

Kinderhaus is a thriving children's and youth shelter in Germany. The need for Kinderhaus arose following World War II and the many children who were left without caregivers. Some of Germany's childcare practices prior to World War II were horrific, but not too unlike the situations abused and neglected children are living in today. We must remember the past in order to protect our children. Children desperately need caregivers who understand why attachment matters

2:30-3:30pm

International Ballroom

Closing Session

Dr. Barbara Sorrels



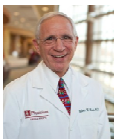
Beware! Children Not at Play!

In our academically oriented and information driven world, play is in danger of becoming extinct in the lives of children across America. We live in a culture that largely ignores the fact that play is critical to healthy growth and development. This session will address the foundations of play in the first three years of life, the contributions of play to growth and development and the reasons children stop playing.

Presenters



Mira Tetkowsky Berkley is currently an early childhood teacher educator, with a Ph.D. in Early Childhood Education. She is now the chair of the Department of Curriculum & Instruction at SUNY Fredonia.



Robert W. Block, MD, FAAP, is immediate past president of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Dr. Block is also a Professor of Pediatrics and immediate past Daniel C. Plunket Chair, Department of Pediatrics, The University of Oklahoma School of Community Medicine in Tulsa. Dr.

Block has been awarded the prestigious Stanton L. Young Master Teacher Award, a University of Oklahoma Presidential Professorship, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education Parker J. Palmer "Courage to Teach" Award, the Ray Helfer Society Award in recognition of his work in the field of Child Abuse, and the Award for Outstanding Service to Maltreated Children by the American Academy of Pediatrics.



Kacey Davenport is Co-Division Head, Pedagogical Coordinator and Atelierista at Riverfield Country Day School, a Reggio Inspired Independent School in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In 2009, she co-coordinated the hosting of

The Wonder of Learning: The Hundred Languages of Children exhibit in the Tulsa community.



Jill Davis taught for 12 1/2 years in pre-k, kindergarten, and a k-1 multiage classroom. She is currently the Program Director for the Bridging the Gap Child Development scholarship at Tulsa Community College. She is National Board Certified as an Early Childhood Generalist and was named the 2009 Oklahoma Early Childhood Educator of the Year.

Presenters



Amy Fain has been in the early childhood field since 1989, serving as a teacher, mentor, site director, vice president of operation, and currently manager of the Oklahoma Early Childhood Program. Amy's credentials include a BAED, Certified Program for Infant Toddler Care Instructor, a consultant/trainer for Oklahoma's Center for Professional Development, Oklahoma Registry for Directors, Dr. Brazleton's Touchpoints Early Care and Education Training Program, Council for Professional Development CDA Advisory, and Resources for Infant Educare (RIE I).



Aubrey Flowers has been an infant-toddler teacher for the past 5 years at Riverfield Country Day School, a Reggio Inspired Independent School in Tulsa, OK. Mrs. Flowers has participated in study tours of Reggio inspired schools within the United States as well as a weeklong intensive study group in Reggio Emilia, Italy in March of 2012.



Angela Fraley and Cristy Roberts are National Conscious Discipline Consultants with Loving Guidance. Both are currently Training and Performance Specialists at the Community Action Project in Tulsa Oklahoma. They have presented nationally on this topic at the Head Start and NAEYC national conferences.



Angela Fultz is a Licensed Professional Counselor with a Master of Arts degree in Marriage and Family Therapy. Angela co-runs a private practice office in Oklahoma City with a targeted population of children under the age of 6. Angela has significant training in early childhood mental health issues and is endorsed as an Infant Mental Health Specialist III by the Oklahoma Association for Infant Mental Health.



Lella Gandini, EdD, is a consultant in early childhood education and Lesley University Visiting Scholar and taught previously at Smith College and at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She is Reggio Children United States Liaison for the Dissemination of the Reggio Emilia Approach. She serves as associate editor of *Innovations in Early Education: The International Reggio Exchange*.



Janet Gonzalez-Mena has been teaching others about infants and toddlers since the 1960's. Her book *Infants, Toddlers, and Caregivers* is now in its 9th edition and she has written 12 other books. Janet taught at Napa Valley College in Child and Family Studies and has worked in Head Start and Early Head Start as a teacher and trainer. She now serves as faculty for WestEd's Program for Infant Toddler Care. Janet interned with Magda Gerber and has studied at the Pikler Institute in Budapest.



Alison Gopnik is a Professor of Psychology and affiliate Professor of Philosophy at the University of California at Berkeley. She is an internationally recognized leader in the study of children's learning and development and was the first to argue that children's minds could help us understand deep philosophical questions. She is the author of over 100 journal articles and several books and she has also written widely about cognitive science and psychology.



Joyce Hepler holds a Master of Science in Teaching, Learning, Leadership with an emphasis in Curriculum from Oklahoma State University. She has been in the field of Early Childhood Education since 1995 and has held several positions in the education and early childhood field. She is currently a Specialist-Professional Development for the Oklahoma Early Childhood Program.



Mei-Ling Hopgood is author of *How Eskimos Keep Their Babies Warm* and *Lucky Girl* and a freelance journalist who has written for various publications, and has worked as a reporter with the *Detroit Free Press*, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and in the Cox Newspapers Washington bureau. She is an associate professor at the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University.



Jane Humphries is the Director of Child Development Services for Child Guidance at the Oklahoma State Department of Health and has been a child care director, child and parenting specialist, college instructor, writer, researcher, and program administrator of the professional development initiatives. Dr. Humphries currently serves as an Adjunct Instructor in the Human Environmental Sciences Department at the University of Central Oklahoma and the Family Studies & Gerontology Program at Southern Nazarene University.



Lori Kelly is a doctoral student and a graduate research assistant in the Early Childhood program at the University of Oklahoma in Tulsa. She is a former childcare center director, a mother of 5, and a grandmother of 2. She currently teaches undergraduate students at NSU and OU-Tulsa and offers professional development trainings for childcare staff through Center for Early Childhood Professional Development.



Jennifer Kesselring has been an educator for nineteen years. She is a Co-Division Head, Pedagogical Coordinator and Atelierista at Riverfield Country Day School, a Reggio Inspired Independent School in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In 2009, she co-coordinated the hosting of *The Wonder of Learning: The Hundred Languages of Children* exhibit in the Tulsa community.



Beverly Kovach has consulted and trained caregivers in center based care for more than 30 years. Beverly works with Magda Gerber's Resources for Infant Educators as a mentor teacher and former board member. Beverly is a Montessori teacher-trainer, consultant, and presenter. She is co-author of *Being with Babies* and the recently published *Being with Infants and Toddlers: A Curriculum that Works for Caregivers*.



Dr. Stacey Leakey has served as the Children's Treatment Manager at The Parent Child Center of Tulsa (PCCT) and is currently an Infant Mental Health Community Consultant for PCCT. Stacey is a board member of the Oklahoma Association for Infant Mental Health (OK-AIMH), and is a charter member of the Tulsa Chapter of OK-AIMH.



Jodi Legnon has a Bachelors and Masters in Early Childhood Education and is currently seeking a PhD in Early Childhood with a research focus on autism at OU-Tulsa. Jodi created and teaches Fundamentals of Autism at NSU as well as special education classes and several other early childhood and elementary education classes.



Gabor Maté M.D. is a physician and bestselling author whose books have been published in nearly twenty languages worldwide. Dr. Maté is highly sought after for his expertise on a range of topics, from addiction and attention deficit disorder (ADD) to mind-body wellness, adolescent mental health, and parenting. As a writer and speaker, he is widely known for the power, insight, clarity, candor, compassion, humor, and warmth of his presentations.

Presenters



Micha McCumber is a registered and licensed Occupational Therapist working at St. John Medical Center in Neonatal ICU and with multiple community agencies. She has furthered her education by becoming a Senior Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) partnering with Safe kids.



Jennifer Miera is currently a Training & Development Consultant with the UNM Family Development Program where she provides statewide training for Early Childhood Educators, professional development for Public School Teachers and child development training for families.



Julia Moore, Eva Morrow, and Monica Poindexter are from the University of Missouri Columbia-Child Development Lab. Each of the assistant instructors giving this presentation has been employed for extensive years at the University of Missouri Columbia-Child Development Laboratory.



Joyce Nuner is an Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator of Child Development and Family Studies at Baylor University where she teaches Child Development, Infant Development, The Preschool Child and Children and Families with Special Needs. She also serves as the faculty liaison to the Piper Center for Family Studies and Child Development. She has also served as the director of an NAEYC accredited preschool program.



Dawn Parton is Associate Professor of Child Development at the West Campus of Tulsa Community College. At TCC, she teaches a laboratory course titled "Programming for Infants and Toddlers" that seeks to train entry-level teachers about relationship-based curriculum for infants and toddlers.



Susan Patrick is Program Director at Day Schools Child Development Centers in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She has worked for the past four years designing environments, training staff, and implementing the Pikler approach into the curriculum at Day Schools and is on the board of Pikler/Loczy Fund USA. She co-authored *Being with Infants and Toddlers: A Curriculum That Works for Caregivers*.



Nicole Pearce has taught young children for 14 years and currently teaches 3-year-olds. She has had children on the autism spectrum in her classroom and desires to share her vast knowledge, experience, and the strategies she has successfully used when teaching children with autism



Keith L. Pentz is a National Early Childhood Specialist for Kaplan Early Learning Company, and has been in the field of education for more than 30 years. Following his experiences in the classroom, Keith moved on to teach at the University of Central Florida and at Gordon College in Wenham, Massachusetts, before beginning his career as a consultant.



Kari Rains is a Certified Child and Parenting Specialist and has served as a Child Development Specialist for the Oklahoma State Department of Health. She currently serves as a freelance writer, consultant and has published two books as well as numerous research articles in the field of child development



Carol Rowland has been in the early childhood education arena for over 16 years, 8 of which have been focused on infants and toddlers. She has been a site director, mentor coach and currently works as a trainer for the Oklahoma Early Childhood Program through Community Action Project. (L-R Carol Rowland, Amy Fain, Joyce Helper)



Ellen Simmons is a Licensed Professional Counselor and has a Master of Science degree in Psychology. Ellen co-runs a private practice office in Oklahoma City with a targeted population of children under the age of 6. She focused her clinical work in areas of trauma, grief/loss, depression, child abuse/neglect and child sexual abuse, coping with divorce and co-parenting, blended families and children with ADHD.



Dr. Barbara Sorrels is Executive Director of The Institute for Childhood Education, a private training and consulting firm. Dr. Sorrels has been a classroom teacher, childcare provider and university professor. She started and directed two early childhood centers in Washington D.C. and Ft. Worth, Texas. She travels extensively conducting trainings in early education and child development.



Jess Stubblefield is a graduate research assistant at the University of Oklahoma-Tulsa. She has a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Early Childhood Education and is currently working on her Ph.D. in Instructional Leadership and Academic Curriculum with a concentration in Early Childhood Education. Jess started in the field of early childhood working with toddlers and after completing her bachelors she taught kindergarten for six years.



Paula Steele has been a statewide trainer for the Family Development Program for 8 ½ years and heads up the program's statewide community partnerships. She is also the coordinator for *Circles of Support*, a major new systems-building initiative led by the Family Development Program in cooperation with the ABC Partnership for Community Schools in Albuquerque.



Colleen Walling is a teacher in a toddler classroom at Temple Isreal Day Schools. She is originally from New York State, but moved to Tulsa in order to work in a center that supported Pikler and RIE approaches to infant and toddler care. She has a Bachelors Degree in Early childhood Education, had completed RIE I training, and attended PITC modules I-IV



Rachalle Wheaton works at Riverfield Country Day School in the youngest of the infant classrooms. Rachalle has participated in study tours of Reggio inspired schools within the United States as well as a weeklong intensive study group in Reggio Emilia, Italy in March of 2012.



Sarah Wright is the Associate Curator for Family and Youth Programs for Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where she has developed educational materials and programs designed for families and children to enhance their museum experience.

Peekaboo Beans
Join the Play Revolution

Dear over scheduled busy, busy world,
please leave me alone
I need to play for my future
It is my work so I can grow.
Play is my nourishment
Like eating fruits and vegetables
and the air that I breathe.
Play is how I become Confident,
Patient,
Compassionate,
Empathetic,
A Leader
A Team Player
A Humanitarian
A Good Citizen
A Contributor
A Visionary.
Play is how I learn to Connect,
To Soar,
To be me.
Give me time and space
Freedom from rules and structure
Let me be creative,
Let me colour outside the lines,
If I am play deprived
I die a little inside
I can't tell you this
You are my voice
I need you to...
Let
me
PLAY

2013 Sponsors



Mr. Bradley Short, DO., P.A. ● Lloyd K. and Peggy L. Stephens Foundation

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Child Care
Resource Center

