

Georgia Preschool Association Conference – “It’s All Good!”
Workshop Descriptions
2014 Conference – February 28 – March 1, 2014

***Maria Abercrombie “Promoting Positive Parent Communication”**

When you hear statements such as “He doesn’t do that at home: or “how was she today?” Do you know the best way to respond? Come learn new tips to communicate with parents.

***Andrea Alexander “You Know More Science than you Think”**

This is a motivational workshop that encourages staff to conduct hands-on science experiments using simple and inexpensive materials. Learn to spruce up your science center, use open-ended questions and the six basic process science skills as a guide for teaching and motivating your students.

***Olivia Aston “Baby Arts Play” Alliance Theater**

Integrating Drama Strategies into Teaching ages 18 months through 5 year olds.

***Diane Bales “‘Baby, Talk to Me’ Supporting Healthy Brain Development and Language Learning in Infants and Toddlers”**

Language learning starts at birth, or even before, and it is wired into the brain. But helping infants and toddlers learn language isn’t difficult – it starts by simply talking with them. This workshop will cover the basics of brain development and language, and will give you everyday ideas and tips for supporting developing language and literacy skills in infants and toddlers. Come learn how to make your infant, toddler, and 2-year-old environments language-rich. We’ll review key concepts and ideas using fun, interactive activities.

***Karen Barineau “Get You’re ‘A’ Game On with Strategies That Work!”**

Putting it together – piece by piece – understanding autism.

***Catherine Brunson “The Importance of Movement in Learning: Why Some Skills Should Not be Self-Taught”**

This workshop will address: Why do children need to be active? How exactly does movement make a child smarter? How does Playball address the issue of getting children physically active? How can you, as classroom teachers, get your kids to be more physically active?

***Janet Chambers “The Intermingled Curriculum”**

A step-by-step guide to plan the Pre-Kindergarten year: Organize a successful, action packed, fun curriculum AND meet each child’s individual needs for very little cost.

***William DeMeo “Responding to Young Children under Stress”**

Many young children are affected by stress because of the dramatic and subtle changes they face in everyday life. This workshop will address how stress impacts young children and the specific and practical strategies to assist young children to manage the stress in their lives.

“Working with the Challenging Behaviors – What to do When Nothing Else Works”

This presentation is a survival program. Its goal is to give the early childhood professionals the information and skills they need to cope with challenging behaviors that occur in their program. Young children with challenging behaviors can learn appropriate ways to behave. The educational professionals who work with them and their families can make an enormous difference in their lives.

His presentation will introduce participants to rationales, development, and implementation of the skills and techniques in working with challenging behaviors young children exhibit. Through a combination of role-playing and other active participatory methods, participants will learn how to implement these practical and effective strategies into their program to deal with the most challenging behaviors.

***Dave & Raquel Durden “Circles of Concern – Securing Your Environment”**

Create a culture of awareness and enhance you and your team’s personal safety. This Core Training Program introduces you and your organization to the tools necessary to create an appropriate degree of situational awareness in order to identify, assess and mitigate potential suitable security posture for specific circumstances along with the environmental conditions driving a potential escalation of the threat. Our goal is to assist you in arriving at a new level of situational awareness, confidence in your protective reach ability, and risk mitigation skills. While training is applicable to individuals of all ages, the target audience in this tailored version for the Georgia Preschool Association is individuals entrusted with the responsibility for the health and welfare of subordinates (faculty, staff, school children and classroom volunteers.) For additional or advanced level training visit us at www.protectivereach.com.

***Laura Evans “GELDS 101: Getting to Know the New Standards”**

***Francine Gebus “Animals Across the Curriculum”**

Increase children’s understanding of the environment through nature based exploration, art, math, music and movement. Meet 3 live education animals.

***Terry Graham “On Beyond, “What Color is This?””**

Learn to challenge the thinking skills of young children by employing a wide range of creative questioning strategies. When we ask, ‘How is a frown like a marble?’ we encourage children to think at deeper levels.

***Amy Kay “Child Guidance & What Really Works”**

Learn how to resolve challenging behavior in a way that has long-lasting effects. You will identify and discuss challenging behavior in a way that has long-lasting effects. You will identify and discuss challenging behavior, determine the difference between guidance and discipline, and leave with strategies for immediate use with children.

***Bisa Lewis “Appreciating Differences”**

Early Childhood educators will learn how to incorporate individual differences into infant, toddler and preschooler curriculum planning.

***Eric Litwin “Pete the Cat”**

***Julie Maudlin “Goody Goody Gum Drops: The Sweet Rewards of Hands-On Math”**

This workshop will explore engaging math activities designed to teach young children foundational math concepts. Come experience the sweet side of student-centered teaching!

***Lynda Pearce “Even You can Write a Song: Creating Simple Songs for the Classroom”**

Learn about what makes music important for learning and get some tips and strategies for writing simple songs that you can use with your children throughout the day.

***Bridget Ratajczak “Helping All Children Succeed Through Routines-Based Interventions”**

During this engaging and interactive session, we will explore ways that teachers can use typical daily routines to meet the specific needs of all of their students. Using case studies and real-life examples, we will learn methods for integrating specific learning objectives, standards, or IFSP/IEP goals into typical school routines, increasing opportunities for learning, practice and mastery of critical skills for all children.

***DeDe Reilly “Staff: It’s not Just an Infection”**

Serving as an effective leader requires more than having staff meetings. It’s about building connections and making investments in the people you serve. Managing and overseeing, teaching and coaching, building and supporting community are the true challenges of a staff leader. We will engage in easy team building exercise, provide investment goals, and set the traditional staff meeting aside.

“Leadership Lessons from a Preschooler’s Toybox”

Without consciously knowing it, our childhood toys have already taught us some of the most important and effective leadership lessons we need to succeed. Join us as we explore how Lego blocks teach us how to connect and build relationships, how a Slinky Dog teaches us how

to pull, and then be patient, and the communication skills that come from Mr. Potato Head will make you laugh and feel more confident in your leadership roles. Directors, and others in a leadership role will gain perspective from this entertaining presentation.

***Dr. Ellen Shepard “Saving Your One Wild & Precious Life”**

Each time we fly, we are reminded, in case of emergency, to “place the oxygen mask on yourself first, then assist those traveling with you.” This workshop will focus on life giving self-care practices.

***Ann Tankersley “Run, Run, As Fast As You Can: Not Your Ordinary Gingerbread Man”**

The Gingerbread Man runs across cultures with versions from Russia, Mexico, China, France, England, and Germany. The Gingerbread Man unit presented in this workshop incorporates language, math, social studies, science, art, music, and cooking. Participants will leave with a core unit that can be adapted for any early childhood grade from Pre-K to 2nd. Includes make and take.

***Dr. Judy Wolman “Red Flags” in Preschool Development – When to Call in the Reinforcements”**

Using typical milestones as a reference, the workshop will address strategies and facilitate development in the areas of language and memory, fine and gross motor skills, behavior and attention, and social-emotional functioning. The referral process will also be discussed.