

# Georgia Preschool Association 2017 Conference

## “Take Joy in the Journey” Workshop Descriptions

**\*All workshops offered at 10:00 & 1:00 Friday and 8:00 & 10:00 Saturday unless otherwise noted.**

**\*All workshops appropriate for all ages unless otherwise noted.**

**Keynote – “Mr. Al” Rosso                      8:00 FRIDAY ONLY**

### **“The Future in Our Hands”**

The mind-body connection has become a real focal point of modern day early childhood research. There is growing evidence that the entire brain structure is intimately connected and grown by the movement mechanisms within the body. In this presentation Mr. Al will discuss the impact this evidence will have on how we care for and educate our children.

**“Mr. Al” Rosso    Workshop                      3:00 FRIDAY ONLY**

### **“Building an Emotionally Intelligent Classroom”**

Mr. Al will teach you how to help children to develop emotionally. This workshop includes:

- Helping children manage emotions
- Using music and movement for education and expression
- Nurturing children’s developing brain
- Success with challenging students
- How to have fun while learning
- How to make your job easier for you

**“Mr. Al” Rosso – Closing Session            3:00 SATURDAY ONLY**

### **“I Feel Good!! Secrets to Self-Esteem and Good Health”**

Caring for and educating young children has become even more stressful in this increasingly complex world. Using music and cooperative games Mr. Al will share the secrets that can help you build a foundation of self-esteem and good health for both you and your children.

**Maria Abercrombie**

***Toddlers & Two’s***

### **“The Magic of Toddlers”**

Toddlers are truly magical. Come explore how to create rich opportunities to encourage communication skills.

**Diane Bales**

**FRIDAY ONLY**

***Infants/Toddler's/Two's***

**“Messy Learning: Hands-on Art Activities for Infants and Toddlers”**

Finger paint, crayons, markers, and play dough – these and other “messy” materials can help infants and toddlers explore and learn. Come discover all the ways that art can enhance your infant-toddler program, and get messy yourself testing out art materials especially for the youngest children.

**Merry Bentley-Barlow**

***Toddlers thru Kindergarten***

**“Math Matters: Helping Young Children Develop Mathematical Thinking”**

Did you know that early math skills predict later success in math and reading? In this interactive workshop, you will explore math through play. Learn routines, transitions, games, and easy ways to embed and discover math throughout the day. Expand your know how to create a math rich environment.

**Douglas Bell**

**“Behavior CPR: Building Connections and Preventing Challenges”**

Participants will learn to reduce challenging behaviors through a model known as Comprehensive Prevention and Response (CPR). Participants will discover simple ways to prevent challenging behaviors from occurring and learn a variety of appropriate responses for when it does occur.

**Gail Burnett**

**“Active Music, Active Bodies Active Brains – how to incorporate great music and transitions into managing the classroom day!”**

Any teacher, whether musical or not, can use music to successfully shape the classroom day! Gail Burnett is an educator and musician who has developed, with her team of Early Childhood researchers and professional musicians, a 2015 Teacher Choice Award/Classroom winning resource. She will present brain and music research, along with many interactive songs that will show teachers how to implement both her music and other music into the classroom day.

**Danna Coffey**

**FRIDAY ONLY**

**“Mother Goose’s Alliance with Science: Literacy through Science”**

This is an interactive workshop designed to help encourage literacy through fun, yet exciting science activities.

**Allen & Julie Dodson**

***3's, 4's, Kindergarten, 1 – 3***

**“Take Back the Classroom! Teach the Behavior You Want in a Caring Classroom”**

Practice makes permanent. We love our behavior charts and our color coded rules, but do they work? We can help! We've discovered proven, practical strategies that will transform your classroom and help ALL of your students thrive. Teach the behaviors you want in class while showing your students that you care about them. These techniques have been shown to decrease classroom misbehavior by as much as 80%.

**Terry Gibney**

**3:00 FRIDAY AND 1:00 SATURDAY ONLY**

**“Solving Difficult People Problems”**

To work with difficult people is usually not an option. It's also unlikely we can “change” the other person. So how do we maintain both our sanity and integrity? This workshop proposes practical understandable methods to work effectively with difficult people.

**Jacque Goble**

**3:00 FRIDAY & 1:00 SATURDAY ONLY**

**“Talking Tips – Loading Language into Lessons”**

Participants will explore a variety of techniques to enhance their daily classroom routines with specific speech/language stimulation. While helpful for all students, these strategies will be especially useful for young preschoolers, dual language learners, and those with communication delays. Guidance for making appropriate referrals for special education assessments will be included.

**Eric Horton**

**1:00 SATURDAY ONLY**

**“Women's Self Defense”**

How often do you think of your safety? One in three women are assaulted every day in America – worse everywhere else in the world. With rapes and murders on the rise the time to wait is over. Learn to defend yourself against these atrocities. Come join our class and help prevent you from being a statistic.

**Natalie Jones**

**“Puppets as Partners”**

Who says puppets need a stage and elaborate scripts. Puppets can do so much more! Puppets can capture children's attention and serve as an additional motivator in the classroom. They also are a perfect way to get children actively involved in circle time, lessons, dramatic play and transition times. This workshop demonstrates dozens of easy ideas to help participants add puppets to their classroom routines.

## **Hope Long**

### **“Early Sprouts, the Joy of Cooking with Children”**

Learn ways to create a nutritionally purposeful classroom. This seed to table classroom program provides a framework to grow vegetables, cook them and learn more ways to meet standards through hands-on healthy activities.

## **Kim Martin**

### **“Rede’find’ing You”**

If you were to put your life in your navigation system, where would it take you? Do you have a clear path for your life or do you find yourself in a constant state of “recalculating?” Coach Kim Martin will discuss recalibrating your internal navigation system and provide you with the tools to get on the path to purpose.

## **Christi Moore**

### ***Infants thru 4’s***

### **“GELDS: What’s Hot? What’s Not?”**

The Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS) serve as a guide to help teachers offer meaningful learning experiences to children from birth to age five. In this workshop, participants will explore a variety of available resources to help them use the GELDS on a daily basis in their classrooms. There will also be a discussion on what’s new with the GELDS and how Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning continues to support teachers in using the GELDS.

## **Sunette Payne**

### **FRIDAY ONLY**

### **“Preschool Processing Power and Beyond”**

Have you ever wondered what you can do to help the children in your class who are struggling just a little bit, or a lot? Have you ever wondered if there is something you can do to help your kids unlock that amazing potential that you can see in them, but just cannot quite get to? This workshop looks at the key components to neurological organization. We will discuss common pitfalls in the preschool classroom that could hinder neurological organization and explore the key factors that drive language, behavior and play. Sunette will help you implement ways to work on sequential processing to benefit all children, walk away with new ideas and important resources to help propel your students to the next level.

## **Rodney Pires**

**“Verbal Judo: The Gentle Art of Persuasion – Ways to defuse conflict and redirect behaviors into more positive channels.”**

Verbal Judo is the art of gentle persuasion. Tactics will be given to redirect behaviors into more positive channels and overall diffusing conflict through conversation.

## **Gajan Retnasaba**

**10:00 FRIDAY & 8:00 SATURDAY ONLY**

**2's, 3's, 4's, K, 1 – 3**

**“Phonemic Awareness: SightWords.com”**

Are you looking for cutting edge information and FREE materials to help your preschoolers be ready to learn to read? Are you looking for easy effective ways to involve your children’s parents? If so this is the workshop for you!

**“Phonemic Awareness: SightWords.com Teacher Panel”**

Are you considering using SightWords.com in your school, but you aren’t sure how it could work in your situation? This workshop is designed to be a panel discussion with teachers who have used the curriculum and are ready to answer your questions concerning exactly how it works in the classroom. Teachers from current and past Pilot Schools will be available to help you decide and get you started.

## **Shaneshia Roberson**

**“Come and Play with Me”**

**3:00 FRIDAY ONLY**

**“Toxic Stress and Brain Development: Why it Matters and What Adults Can Do” 1:00 SATURDAY ONLY**

Why did you get into teaching? Most of us would answer that question by saying that it was because we wanted to make a difference. Yet, regulations, requirements, long hours, low pay, and stress has caused that fire to “burn out!” This workshop deals with those issues and outlines the absolute necessity of reigniting your fire in the classroom.

## **Kristen D. Smith**

**“Pinterest is NOT our Curriculum, but...”**

There is so much information on the internet to help support our preschool classrooms. An overwhelming amount of ideas and even pictures are right there at your fingertips to share and use. But how can you make sense of all the information and actually put them into practice? In this workshop we will go online together and learn how to organize Pinterest shared activities into developmentally appropriate categories for preschool teachers and directors to use as a resource for their curriculum needs. Bring your Smart Phone, Tablet or Laptop and come prepared to navigate and use your device.

**Kyle Taft**

**“Confess to Stress”**

**3:00 FRIDAY ONLY**

Back by popular demand: Teachers are professionals. They are trained to handle every situation that may arise in the classroom. Therefore, we never get stressed. In reality, we know that our profession is one of the most stressful in the world. This workshop offers four strategies or steps for coping and relieving the stress that comes from being a teacher.

**“Go, Make Some Waves!”**

**1:00 SATURDAY ONLY**

The wave is not a natural occurrence. Though powerful, it will never form until the water is acted upon by an outside force. Children are the same as these waves. They are not naturally powerful, strong, or courageous. In order to reach their potential, they have to be acted upon by an outside force. That is the teacher’s responsibility. If you want to truly make a difference in children’s lives you are going to have to “Go, Make Some Waves.!”

**Cheryl Turner**

**10:00 & 1:00 FRIDAY & 1:00 SATURDAY ONLY**

**“Building Community Through Work and Play: The Key to a Positive Climate for Learning”**

A positive classroom community is one that creates a climate where children can feel safe and be productive. It enables the essential social emotional learning that will lead to school readiness and success. This training will outline the essential ingredients in the continuous building of community in classrooms and programs and will guide teachers and care providers as they help children get along with others and play well together.

**Arianne Weldon**

**3:00 FRIDAY & 1:00 SATURDAY ONLY**

**“Georgia’s Four Pillars: How We get All Kids on a Path to Literacy”**

Co-created by more than 100 state and community leaders, the Four Pillars campaign’s common agenda is centered on the following four research-based pillars that describe the conditions necessary for each child to be on that path:

- Language nutrition
- Access
- Positive Learning Climate
- Teacher Preparation and Effectiveness

**Amber Weldon-Stephens**

**4’s, K, 1, 2, 3**

**“Music Makes a Difference in Your Day”**

Music is a natural way to teach every preschooler who has a unique set of different gifts, talents, and challenges. Let me show you how to use music to teach, engage, and promote social interactions with a song!