

Early Childhood Conference 2017 Presenter Workshop Descriptions

Friday, October 27th, 2017

11:00

Perfect Pairs: Using Fiction and Nonfiction Picture Books to Teach Life Science, Pre K-2

by [Melissa Stewart](#) and [Nancy Chesley](#), we will look at critical life science concepts for preschool through 2nd grade that guide students through an inquiry-based investigative process, using a “wonder statement” and three stages: engaging students, exploring with students, and encouraging students to draw conclusions. These support the Next Generation Science Standards and the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts. There will be several hands-on activities, read-alouds, and a sample of a concluding activity.

Presenter:

Susan Jones: Youth Services Librarian

Panel: Constructive Guidance

This panel will explore questions from the audience specific to guiding young children’s behaviors.

Panel Experts:

Veronica Plumb: Program Manager, UAF Child Development and Family Studies BA Degree

Tamara De Los Santos: Education and Disabilities Coordinator, Thrivalaska Birth-5 Head Start Program

Panel: Home Visiting

This panel will explore questions from the audience specific to home visiting.

Panel Experts:

Marcy Belisle: Family Advocate, Thrivalaska Birth-5 Head Start Program

Stacy Story: Former Family Advocate, Thrivalaska Birth-5 Head Start Program

Michelle Ferrell: Coach Mentor Coordinator, Fairbanks Native Association

Panel: Director, Supervisor, Manager

This panel will explore questions from the audience specific to directing, supervising and managing early learning programs.

Panel Experts:

Alicia Berka: Executive Director, Thrivalaska

Rixa Evershed: Director, The Learning Center

Paige Vonder Haar: Director, Bunnell House Early Learning Lab School

1:30

Put a *little* STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) Into Your Learning Environments or a *lot!* (Preschool)

Your learning environment is your Third Teacher! Are you struggling with unwanted behaviors in your learning environment? A learning environment rich in STEAM hands on activities will produce a room of learners that are able to capture an idea or problem and think about solutions, build it, try it, revise it, and then share it with others. Thinkers are created! This workshop will provide participants with emerging thoughts of what you need to know about tinkering, making, and engineering across curriculum in learning environments.

Presenter:

Fawn Charles: Assistant Education and Disabilities Coordinator, Thrivalaska Birth-Five Head Start Program

Licensing Updates: (All)

Find out what's going on: how changes to the CCDBG affect Child Care Licensing and Child Care Assistance, what's new, changes within both programs, and Q&A. Staci Collier will conduct workshop via distance.

Workshop facilitated by Riley Snow, an nia aeyc board member.

Presenter:

Stacie Collier: Community Care Licensing Specialist III, State of Alaska Department of Health and Human Services



Expressing Authentic Praise: (Infant, Toddler)

This workshop is designed to challenge participants to consider the: Who? What? When? How? and Why? of giving praise. Together, we will share and explore specific ways to provide infants & toddlers authentic praise. The workshop will focus on encouraging all to be mindful of our objectives when praising young children.

Presenter:

Makia Daniels: Early Head Start Teacher, Thrivalaska Birth-Five Head Start Program

A Great Place to Work: Creating a Healthy Organizational Climate (Administration, leaders, managers, supervisors, lead teachers, home providers)

Is your work environment sunny, cloudy or stormy? Are you energized to go to work each day or do you lack commitment? This workshop will help you identify your current work environment and provide ideas for developing a great place to work.

Presenters:

Alicia Berka: Executive Director, Thrivalaska

Kelly Doughty: Program Director thread Resource and Referral and Child Care Assistance, Thrivalaska

2:30

Trauma Through a Pre-Schooler's Eyes (Preschool)

This workshop will provide a "trauma 101 introduction" specifically focused on preschoolers, offering opportunity to consider new ideas for addressing it, using attachment relationships young children have with their teachers and primary care providers.

Presenter:

KimAdelia Leff: LCSW, EC Mental Health Coordinator



The importance of Teaching Hope to Young Children; How Race, Class, and Parent Involvement Impact Hope Scores (All)

As educators we often tell our students that if they believe in themselves and work hard they can achieve anything. We try to instill hope in our students around their future. But are we really teaching children how to be hopeful, or just telling them to be? Given the realities of students out of school lives what impact can teachers have at all? Using research, we will delve into the idea that just telling children to be hopeful without giving them the skills they need to be successful is setting them up for failure. Building off of research already done on Hope Theory and using both qualitative and quantitative methods we look at how Hope can be measured. The research findings have been analyzed through three major lenses; race, class, and parent engagement. We will discuss what the results of the research mean for future outcomes of students and the implications of the research for early childhood educators.

Presenter:

Serene Rose O'Hara-Jolley: MaE

The Ethics of Management in Early Care and Education Programs (Administration, leaders, managers, supervisors, lead teachers)

Directors, owners and other administrators, or those who aspire to be good administrators, are invited to discuss ethical situations that challenge us in the workplace. We will use the NAEYC code of ethics to help guide us to the best professional responses. The presenter will have some scenarios to discuss but we may also use examples from the group. Professor Patty Meritt was a manager for 20 years in non-profit child care and private preschool before joining UAF as full-time faculty in the Early Childhood Education program.

Presenter:

Patty Meritt: Program Manager, UAF Early Childhood Education Degree Program

Community Resources for Teachers and Home-Visitors (All)

This training is designed to build awareness and understanding of the resources that are available on a local and state level in the FNSB. Participants will define and develop a list of resources that is meaningful to those they serve and how to effectively get the information to the population they serve. A short overview of ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences Study) and the important connection between available community resources will be discussed as well. Each attendee will receive a resource handbook and a packet of additional handouts and flyers from a wide range of local agencies.

Presenters:

Marcy Belisle: Family Advocate, Thrivalaska Birth-5 Head Start

Gara Bridwell: Family Advocate, Thrivalaska Birth-5 Head Start

3:30

Challenging Exceptionally Bright Children (Preschool)

What everyone should know about Exceptionally Bright Children. This workshop will touch on some characteristics, strategies and guidance to help foster a positive and rich environment. We will identify 3 effective strategies to help exceptionally bright children in your classroom thrive, gain confidence and meet their full potential.

Presenters:

Niki Mercado: Former Teacher, Thrivalaska Birth-Five Head Start Program

Davina Sunkel: Early Childhood Coach, Thrivalaska Birth-Five Head Start Program

If You're Happy & THEY Know It, Happy Staff! (Administration, leaders, managers, supervisors, lead teachers)

This session explores Positive Psychology and Authentic Leadership, and what workplace happiness really means. We will learn why happiness is important at work, and how to use positive psychology to achieve purposeful happiness in yourself and those you lead.

Presenter:

Michael Bork: Certified Laughter Yoga Leader, Parks and Recreation Director for the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

Small Group Time to Scaffold Early Learning (Infant, Toddler)

The workshop will show participants the benefits of scaffolding in small groups vs large groups, using visual aids, verbal exchanges and hands on learning.

Presenter:

Faith Cromer: Primary Educator for Infant and Toddlers, Fairbanks Native Association

Mandi Hart: Primary Educator, The Learning Center



Child Recipe for Success: Learning in the kitchen (Preschool, School Age)

Food has the power to bring people together for special occasions and it is the fuel for growth for young children. Understanding food and nutrition early provides children an appreciation for food, generate healthy eating habits, develop basic skills, responsibility for preparing food, inspire creativity and even bring families together. Cooking is something children are generally aware of and curious about and so using it to encourage learning is a great opportunity. This workshop aims to encourage the teaching and sharing of basic kitchen skills with young children for to encourage and develop lifelong skills for food and beyond.

Presenter:

Conny Swisher: Chef, Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living

Closing:

YAY! The Not-So-Subtle Art of Being Child-Like, Not Child-ish (All)

In this session, participants will explore laughter and children. Specifically, participants will explore facts and statistics about laughter, why laughing is important to childhood development, and walk away with strategies on how to increase the laughter all around you!

Presenter:

Michael "Mr. Mirth" Bork believes in the absolute power of laughter. Not just any kind of laughter, though. Michael Bork is a Certified Laughter Yoga Leader. Yes, Laughter Yoga.

Michael has over 25 years of leadership and management experience, starting with the US Marine Corps in the mid-90's. After his military service, Michael earned a Bachelor's degree in Recreation Administration, and has spent the last 2 decades running municipal parks and recreation departments in Illinois, Valdez, Alaska, Colorado, Missouri, and finally all the way up north to his current position as the Parks and Recreation Director for the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

Recently, Michael earned his Master's degree in Industrial & Organizational Psychology, which led him to discover Laughter Yoga. He has been running a free Laughter Yoga club in Fairbanks for the last 18 months, and is now traveling the country, fulfilling his mission of "Spreading Mirth on Earth." He started Laughtership LLC to offer businesses and organizations the opportunity to live and work better by being happier, more productive, and more positive through laughter.

Michael has been married (to the SAME person!) for the last 18 years and has nine animals: 4 dogs, 4 parrots, and a cat named Bacon. In addition to playing with his pets and spreading laughter and happiness through Positive Psychology and Laughter Yoga, Michael makes people smile playing the ukulele, making balloon animals, being an Elvis impersonator, and judging BBQ, along with about a million other things.