

Early Childhood Conference 2017 Presenter Workshop Descriptions

Saturday, October 28th, 2017

10:00

Health, Happiness & World Peace Through Laughter! (All)

This is not your normal Keynote! Certified Laughter Yoga Leader Michael "Mr. Mirth" Bork will leave you breathless...really! This highly interactive and experiential exploration of Hasya (Laughter) Yoga will energize you, lower your stress level, boost your mood almost immediately, and introduce you to an entirely new way to get a total mind/body laughter workout! No previous yoga experience is needed, and ANYONE can do Laughter Yoga! You will leave this presentation laughing all the way!

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.



11:00

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

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:

Jerri Lomax: Education and Disabilities Coordinator, Fairbanks Native Association

Michelle Farrell: Coach Mentor Coordinator, Fairbanks Native Association

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

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 VonderHaar: Director, Bunnell House Early Learning Lab School

1:30

Bullying in Early Childhood, Real or Imagined? (Preschool and School Age)

While much attention is paid to bullying among older children –relatively little focus has been paid to bullying in early childhood. What is known about young children and bullying is growing. Come join this workshop where we discuss the three elements of bullying as well as developmentally appropriate prevention tips and resources for young children

Presenter:

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

Five Language of Appreciation in the Workplace: (Administration, leaders, managers, supervisors, lead teachers, home providers)

In today's workplace it is crucial for employees to feel valued. But that's a challenge when you and your employees' communication appreciation differently. This workshop will help to increase loyalty and decrease turnover, reduce cynicism and create a more positive work environment, elevate employee engagement, and replace ineffective employee recognition with authentic appreciation.

Presenter:

AnneMarie Mattacchione: Former Director Play n Learn East, FNA Early Head Start, Thrivalaska Head Start programs, Current Board of Directors Treasurer, Thrivalaska

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.

Presenter:

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

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

Community Resources for Teachers and Home-Visitors

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

2:30

Program Philosophy and Values: Foundations to Quality (Administration, leaders, managers, supervisors, lead teachers, home providers)

This session will explore individual early childhood program values and how these can be used to develop a program philosophy statement. This session will also discuss how having a program philosophy and values can be a critical driver and ingredient to building a foundation to a sustainable program, how to engage staff and communicate with families.

Presenter:

Meghan Johnson: Learn & Grow Director (Alaska QRIS)

Brain Development: Recent Research (All)

Presenter:

TBA

Framing: Training in the Frame (Infants, Toddler)

This workshop teaches what is framing, how framing is used to introduce common materials and tools to help take control of the brain, and to build concentration in very young children.



Northern Interior Alaska Association
for the Education of Young Children

Presenter:

Linda Fetters: Administrative Support Assistant, Child and Youth Services

Accommodations for Children with Special Needs (Preschool)

Do you have children in your Early Childhood Program who have special needs in area(s) of vision, hearing, fine/gross motor, behavior, learning, communication etc. Want to learn how to accommodate their needs? Want ways to help them fully access your program? This session will look at simple ways to do this. It will help you make changes that will help children succeed! There will be a short introduction, but most of the time will be spent on your specific questions. The goal is to go away with some concrete ideas for accommodation.

Presenter:

Mary Burtness: Preschool Special Education/Assistive Technology Professional
