



Inspiring **Wonder & Curiosity**

**ELEA REGION 3 38TH ANNUAL
EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATOR'S CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 9 & 10, 2018**



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH | 7520 GOLDEN VALLEY ROAD | GOLDEN VALLEY, MN 55427

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Conference Fees

ELEA Members	Two Day Conference Fee	\$125
	One Day Conference Fee	\$90
Non-ELEA Members	Two Day Conference Fee	\$145
	One Day Conference Fee	\$105

* **10 or More:** If your school registers ten or more attendees, you are eligible for a \$5 discount for each registration after the first nine.

* **Late Registration Fees:** Any registrations after January 26th, 2018, please add \$10.

Registration

Step 1: Register each participant at the following link: <https://goo.gl/forms/pJbIUglu8xM2bEED2>

Step 2: Invoices will be emailed to the Bill-to Email contact indicated on the registration form

Step 3: Make checks payable to ELEA Region 3 & mail to:

Sarah Grundhoefer

Westwood Early Childhood Center

9001 Cedar Lake Road St. Louis Park, MN 55426

Location & Driving Directions

Calvary Lutheran Church
7520 Golden Valley Road
Golden Valley, MN 55427

From the East

Take I-94 W to I-394 W. Go north on Hwy 100 from I-394. Exit onto Hwy 55 and go west. Follow Hwy 55 W and turn right at the Rhode Island Avenue stoplight. Follow Rhode Island Avenue and turn right onto Golden Valley Road. Calvary will be on your left.

From the West

Take I-394 E. Go north on Hwy 169 from I-394. Exit onto Hwy 55 and go east. Follow Hwy 55 E and turn left at the Rhode Island Avenue stoplight. Follow Rhode Island Avenue and turn right onto Golden Valley Road. Calvary will be on your left.

From the North or South

First, take either Hwy 100 or Hwy 169 to Golden Valley.

From Hwy 100: Exit onto Hwy 55 and go west. Follow Hwy 55 W and turn right at the Rhode Island Avenue stoplight. Follow Rhode Island Avenue and turn right onto Golden Valley Road. Calvary will be on your left.

From Hwy 169: Exit onto Hwy 55 and go east. Follow Hwy 55 E and turn left at the Rhode Island Avenue stoplight. Follow Rhode Island Avenue and turn right onto Golden Valley Road. Calvary will be on your left.

Accommodations

There are several hotels located close to Calvary Lutheran Church. Please visit your favorite travel site to book your accommodations.

Conference Fees Include:

- Membership in our local Region of ELEA
- In-service training for teachers of infants, toddlers, preschoolers, pre-kindergarteners, and for directors.
- Outstanding keynote and featured speakers who inform and inspire
- Fellowship, professional growth and networking opportunities
- Guided tours of on-site Early Childhood Center
- In-Service trainings recognized by MNCPD
- Meaningful Intentional Worship
- Continental breakfasts and hot catered lunches each day

Conference Tracks

Infant/Toddler (I/T) Preschool (P) Director (D) General (G)

Minnesota Registry Training

ELEA Region 3 has applied for approved training with the Minnesota Center for Professional Development for conference workshops. Information will be available at the conference. All training will qualify for Content Area Eight. For additional information visit www.mncpd.org.

Notes

- Conference Cancellation: If the ELEA Region 3 37th Annual Early Childhood Educator's Conference should have to be cancelled due to severe weather, ELEA Region 3 cannot guarantee that full refunds can be made.
- If a registration needs to be cancelled, a full refund can be granted before January 12th, 2018. After January 12th, 2018, but before January 26th, 2018, a 50% refund is available. After January 26th 2018, a registration may be transferred to another attendee, but no refunds will be available.
- ELEA Region 3 or Calvary Lutheran Church, cannot be held responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged equipment, merchandise or personal items brought to the conference by vendors, presenters or attendees.

With questions, please contact:

Region 3 Planning Team Members via email: elearegion3@gmail.com / Heather Charmoli at 952-934-4156

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Dr. Rebecca Isbell **Friday Keynote Speaker**

Dr. Rebecca Isbell is an Early Childhood Consultant, inspirational speaker, and author of early childhood education books. She is a Professor who served as Director of the Center of Excellence in Early Childhood Learning at East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN where she was honored as a "Distinguished Teacher." Isbell has varied experiences in early childhood including: a director of a lab school, teacher of young children (2-8 years of age), coordinator of gifted and talented, supervisor of early childhood students, and Chair of the Department of Early Childhood Education. In addition, she has worked with preschool, PreK, K, and primary teachers in improving their learning environments so young children will have many opportunities to learn and develop to their capacities.

She is the author of thirteen books and numerous articles related to: creative development, effective environments, supporting play, enriching language, literacy, music, and stimulating children's development. Her latest book was just published by NAEYC and is *Nurturing Creativity and Essential Mindset for Young Children's Learning*. She is the author of *Creativity and the Arts in Young Children*, 3rd edition which is a textbook used in college. Her award winning *The Complete Book of Learning Centers*, revised is her publishers national best seller. She has also been a keynote speaker at State and Regional conference such as: NYAEYC, SDAEYC, SECA, Kansas Department of Education, University of New Mexico, West Virginia, Arizona, and New Brunswick, Canada. Internationally she has taught and consulted in Singapore, China, Canada, and Denmark.

Isbell is a musician and powerful storyteller who inspires, informs, and challenges early childhood educators to think in new ways about the amazing creative capabilities of young children. Her sessions are engaging, filled with humor, and provide positive support for the important people who are working with young children every day!



Tracy Schreifels **Saturday Keynote Speaker**

Tracy Schreifels, MS., LMFT, IMH-E (III) is the Mental Health Specialist for Reach Up Inc, a Head Start and Early Head Start agency in St. Cloud, MN. Prior to this position she taught as a preschool teacher for 8 years and has had experience working in a day treatment program for preschool children with significant mental health disorders. She provides in-home family therapy and classroom support for children identified with challenging behaviors as well as reflective consultation and therapeutic parent education groups. Tracy also teaches online for the Center for Early Education and Development at the University of Minnesota and provides trainings around the Midwest.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

7:30-8:15	Registration & Continental Breakfast		
8:15-9:15	Session 1		
9:25-9:50	Welcome, Worship & Announcements		
9:50-11:20	Keynote Speaker		
11:30-12:30	Session 2a	or:	Lunch
12:30-1:30	Session 2	or:	Lunch
1:45-2:45	Session 3	or:	1:45-3:45 MNCPD Session I* <i>*Session I is a 2 hour MNCPD approved training and runs concurrent with Session 3 and Session 4.</i>
3:00-4:00	Session 4	or:	

SESSION 1 8:15-9:15

Session 1A I/T, P, D, G

Seeds for the Seasons

Heidi Ferris

Together we'll explore planting for butterflies, vegetables gardening, and adding natural playground elements to your adventures with children. Participants will learn how to use gardening for systems thinking for all seasons-- helping children to understand the interconnectedness of soil, air, water, and living things. Learn tips & tricks to make gardening low maintenance for you and your learning community. Author and eSTEM trainer, Heidi Ferris, will provide hands-on ways to get your green hearts growing!

Session 1B P, D

Sit Still? What Children Are Telling Us When They Just Won't Sit Still

Mike Huber

Most children need to move in order to stay engaged in the classroom, but teachers often ask them to sit down. Children learn more when they are moving, but teachers worry about losing control. Learn some strategies for encouraging children to use their whole bodies while maintaining a positive classroom environment.

Session 1C I/T, P, D, G

Moving and Learning® For Self Regulation: Keeping the Body in Mind

Chrissy Mignogna

Our busy, stressful lives contribute to poor sleep, diet and exercise - which leads to stressed children and adults! Using mindfulness, breathing techniques, yoga-based movement and social/emotional activities for Early Education, participants will be introduced the Yoga Calm® and Moving and Learning® curriculums.

Session 1D I/T, P, D, G

What do I do now? Caring for Children with Unique Needs

Priscilla Weigel

Our daily mood creates the weather in our care settings. Are your days stormy due to the challenges that are taxing your skills and patience? Are there children in your care that are exhibiting behaviors or development patterns that have you wondering if you are providing what they need? Join us for a discussion of the next steps and the ways you can start tomorrow equipped to move forward on a positive path for the children and for you!

Keynote Speaker 9:50-11:20

Inspiring Young Children to be Creative Thinkers: A Survival Skill for the 21st Century

Dr. Rebecca Isbell

Today's headlines are shouting "Creativity is declining". Other news networks are reporting the growing need for "Thinkers and Innovators". Young children are some of the most creative people in the world. How can we provide a nurturing place that will support and encourage young creative thinkers? How can opportunities be included that allow children to think in different ways: visually, scientifically, verbally, musically, and kinetically. Investigate the 4 C's identified as the critical skills for the 21'st Century: Creativity, Communication, Collaboration, and Critical thinking. Celebrate the work, ideas, and projects of young children as you gain an appreciation for their creative capabilities. Gain insight into ways to extend experiences of young children that will support their learning while encouraging creative thinkers for today and the future.

SESSION 2a 11:30-12:30

Session 2a

11:30-12:30

Session 2aA D

Director's Networking Lunch

Heather Charmoli

Join our group of directors to discuss topics with your peers. You will help build the agenda! We will have a separate lunch service line and this session will run from 11:30-1:30.

Session 2aB P

Jesus Time all the Time

Sara Mulso

Looking for ways to carry out familiar Bible Stories across the content areas? We can make connections throughout the curriculum that provide you opportunities to reinforce key concepts to children. From the art area to snacks, math to literacy - there are many ways to carry out our themes throughout the curriculum.

Session 2aC I/T, P, D, G

Storytimepalooza!

Mary Steinbicker

Learn research-based storytelling techniques for a wide range of audiences, from babies to school-age children. Brain development ("the learning brain") and other factors that influence early learning will be presented.

Session 2aD I/T, P

Preschool Math: It's as Easy as 1-2-3!

Carla Nelson

In this session we will do a quick review of the dimensions of math young children should be exposed to, along with the goals and objectives for teaching and assessing. Then we will identify strategies for easily incorporating mathematical learning into all phases of the day.

SESSION 2b 12:30-1:30

Session 2bA D

Director's Networking Lunch

Heather Charmoli

Continuation of session 2aA. You must register for both sessions, lunch will be provided.

Session 2bB I/T, P

Creating Sensory Activities

Blair Okey and David VeVe

This session will be filled with ideas for filling sensory tables and play based sensory activities.

Session 2bC P, G

Dr. Rebecca Isbell

The Astonishing Preschool Years: Discovering the Creative Capabilities of Young Children and Effectively Supporting These Abilities

The brain is drawn to novel items and makes new connections during these stimulating explorations. Discover how open-ended materials, unique items, and unusual experiences, encourage children to think in creative ways as they experiment with the unlimited options. How can these interesting materials, experiences, and challenges be included in your early childhood classroom? Discover how to extend these creative experiences while celebrating the amazing capabilities of young children. See visuals of children during the process as they try new combinations and experiment with problem solving. Learn more about the exciting capabilities of young children when their thinking is engaged in exciting opportunities.

SESSION 3 1:45-2:45

Session 3A P

Incorporating STEM Into Your Daily Curriculum

Sheri Kalb

A STEM curriculum leads children into discovery by encouraging their natural curiosity. This UPDATED session will identify how to emphasize STEM in all areas of the daily preschool curriculum. Bring your curiosity as we explore and create through hands-on activities, and leave knowing how to ask the right questions to help children develop critical thinking skills.

Session 3B I/T, G

Dr. Rebecca Isbell

Building a Foundation for Creativity with Infants and Toddlers! Let's Start at the Very Beginning

The brain is drawn to novel items and makes new connections during these stimulating explorations. Discover how open-ended materials, unique items, and unusual experiences, encourage children to think in creative ways as they experiment with the unlimited options. How can these interesting materials, experiences, and challenges be included in your early childhood classroom? Discover how to extend these creative experiences while celebrating the amazing capabilities of the youngest children. See visuals of children during the process as they try new combinations and experiment with problem solving.

Session 3C D

DHS Licensing

Meg Holmen, Nicole Frethem & Patrick Carter

We will be providing information about child care center licensing, CCAP (child care assistance program), and the background studies NetStudy 2.0 system.

Session 3D I/T, P

A Year of Preschool Music

Catherine Murphy

We'll take a tour through a year of preschool music, stopping along the way to discover some of the delightful ways that music can enhance skills, awaken imagination, and spark creativity.

SESSION 4 3:00-4:00

Session 4A P, G

Artful Stories: A Preschool Tour Experience at the Minneapolis Institute of Art

Amanda Lesnikowski & Sheila McGuire

Artful Stories are preschool tour experiences at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. Learn about these FREE forty-five minute themed experiences that include engagement with artworks in the museum galleries, illustrated storybooks, songs and rhymes, movement, and hands-on activities. Tour themes include alphabet, animals, color, gardens, shapes, patterns, and opposites.

Session 4B D, G

Using Reflective Practices to Facilitate Professional Growth

Ann Ruhl Carlson

Promoting the professional growth of others is challenging. The current research suggests that the use of reflective practice principles in coaching is highly effective in promoting behavior change and professional growth. This session will provide an introduction to the goals and process of reflective practice, including listening, paraphrasing, and crafting coaching questions.

Session 4C G

Building Their Foundations Brick by Brick

Sue Starks

When teachers put first things first, brick by brick, children's foundations are built serving as the needed base for their educational journey, and for life. Come discuss four significant bricks—child development, relationships, social emotional, and play that intertwine and cement together as part of this needed foundation.

MNCPD Session I* 1:45-3:45

Session IA I/T, P, D, G

Building ESTEAM with STEM™

Heidi Ferris

Ready to take STEM even further? STEM encourages questions, empowers the learner, and engages kids in problem-solving. ESTEAM (environment, science, technology, engineering, art, and math) builds on the STEM philosophy while strengthening learning communities and systems thinking. Participants will do engineering design challenges; discuss "letting kids lead"; reflect on student empowerment, self-esteem, and sustainability.

Session IB P

Explorations With Wire

Sandra Burwell

Explore the possibly unexplored material of wire with children. Experiment with wire, tools and techniques to create mixed-media structures with wire and a wide variety of materials.

Session IC P, D

Exploration and Courage: The Importance of Risk

Mike Huber

It is important to foster courage and exploration in young children if we want them to be active learners. But how can we make sure the risk is minimized? Come learn how to assess both the risk and benefit of adventurous play.

Session ID P

Everyday Science

Sara Mulso

This session will explore turning everyday items into science fun for children as they learn about their everyday world. You'll walk away with activities that you can confidently implement with resources that are readily available.

Session IE I/T, P

Children's Behavior: The Importance of the Practitioner's Role

Cory Woosley

Whether someone has been in child care for one week or for 10 years, at some point everyone has had to guide a behavior that disrupts the daily routine. Join this workshop for an interactive look at challenging behavior and the child care role in working through it based on experiences and background. The practitioner's role is crucial in positive behavioral changes!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

7:30-8:00	Registration & Continental Breakfast	
8:00-8:45	Welcome, Worship & Announcements	
8:45-10:00	Keynote Speaker	
10:15-11:15	Session 5	or: 10:30-12:30
11:30-12:30	Session 6	MNCPD Session II*
		<i>*Session II is a 2 hour MNCPD approved training and runs concurrent with Session 5 and Session 6.</i>
12:30-1:30	Lunch	

1:30-2:30	Session 7	or:	1:45-3:45
2:45-3:45	Session 8	or:	MNCPD Session III* <i>*Session III is a 2 hour MNCPD approved training and runs concurrent with Session 7 and Session 8.</i>

Keynote Speaker 8:45-10:00

I Wonder: Using Curiosity to Understand and Address Children's Challenging Behavior

Tracy Schreifels

What if caregivers used their curiosity to resolve challenging behaviors? Behavior is a form of communication that caregivers can learn to interpret when time is taken to process the meaning. Learn how to apply four lenses to encourage reflective thinking to understand how development, trauma, and attachment influence behaviors.

SESSION 5 10:15-11:15

Session 5A D

All Are Welcome: Fostering Healthy School-Church Relationships

Kellee Nelson & Tania Haber

Everyone strives for a healthy relationship among ministries, however, competing interests around the use of space, environment, finances, and vision are at times unavoidable. Join the Sr. Pastor and WECC Director of Westwood Lutheran Church as they engage in candid dialogue around the program's history, challenges, and successes. Bring your questions and be prepared to contribute to the conversation.

Session 5B P, G

Discover the Mini-Masters in your Classroom

Margaret Mahowald

This session will give many examples of process-oriented art experiences based on the mediums and styles of famous artists.

Session 5C I/T, P

Self-Regulation: Quick and Easy Strategies to Implement

Tracy Schreifels

What is self-regulation and why is it important? Attendees will learn the definition of self-regulation, the developmental path of regulation, and specific calming strategies to use with young children.

Session 5D P, G

For the Love of Pets

Andrea Emery

Have you ever thought about having a pet in your class? Come talk about the positives and potential road blocks of pet ownership in a childcare setting. Hear the story of how our class became proud pet owners.

SESSION 6 11:30-12:30

Session 6A G

In Light of Children: The Importance of our Image of the Child

Blair Okey

The Reggio Inspired concept of the Image of the Child is explained through the lens of the unconscious mind. During the imprint years (0-7), children are learning unconsciously from their environment. This session will break down the different facets in which we "see" children. Through learning styles, communication and relationships.

Session 6B P, G

Discover the Mini-Masters in Your Classroom Part 2

Margaret Mahowald & Andrea Emery

Discovering Mini-Masters Part 2 expands on ideas previously given and introduces new famous artists and process experiences.

Session 6C I/T, P, D, G

The Geography of Childhood Project: Bringing our families, schools, and communities together through shared stories and experiences

Ross Thompson

The Civic Engagement committee, within the Reggio Inspired Network of MN, created a project to bringing unification during a time filled with division. Shared stories and experiences are extremely powerful avenues for bringing people together. This session will talk about the project, get attendees to participate, and invite them to extend it into their communities.

MNCPD Session II 10:30-12:30

Session IIA I/T, P, D, G

Cutting Loose with Loose Parts

Hollee Saville

Experience the joy and benefits that encompass loose parts play in this hands-on training. Leave with many new ideas for loose parts that are sure to become favorites with your children. Get ready to cut loose and kick off the Sunday shoes...because even those would make fun loose parts!

Session IIB I/T, P, D, G

Guiding Kids to Own & Solve Their Problems-Parenting the Love & Logic Way

Andy Johnsrud

Learn to guide children toward owning and solving their problems. Explore how self-esteem and personal responsibility are keys to success in the real world--Love and Logic skills up the odds that we raise kids who can cope. You will leave able to teach kids to think critically in the face of teasing, bullying, and other tough situations.

Session IIC I/T, P, D

Getting to Know the MN Knowledge and Competency Framework (KCF)

Sheryl Warner, M. Ed.

Minnesota's Knowledge and Competency Framework (KCF) outlines what early childhood professionals need to know and what they need to do when delivering quality care. This session introduces and explains the KCF, then applies it to practitioners, lead teachers, Directors and other early childhood support roles.

Session IID I/T

Looking at Loose Parts and Children's Literature for Infants and Toddlers

Sandra Burwell

This session will focus on materials for Infant and Toddler classrooms, specifically the safe and authentic use of loose parts with the youngest children and the value of high quality Children's literature in their programs.

SESSION 7 1:30-2:30

Session 7A I/T, P, D, G

Developing Your Personal Leadership

Kristen Wheeler Highland

Whether you are consciously aware of it or not, on some level you are continually leading yourself and others. You don't necessarily have to be in a position that is labeled as leadership to be considered a leader or to need to possess (or develop) effective leadership skills.

Session 7B I/T, P, D, G

Teaching With The Body In Mind: Supporting Big-Body/Rough-and-Tumble Play in EC

Ross Thompson

In this session, we'll talking about the importance of movement for learning in EC, especially related to the vital learning that takes place during the more "challenging" big-body/rough-and-tumble play scenarios. We'll also talk about ways to increase comfort with facilitating/creating these kinds of activities.

Session 7C G

The Role of Social Justice in Early Childhood

Jamie Bonczyk, Sarah Warren & Shelley Roberts Gyllen

The presenters will approach the importance of Social Justice in the field of Early Childhood Education through three mediums: Storytelling, Puppetry and Nonfiction Picture Books. This workshop is open to all levels of practitioners wanting to think about and discuss opportunities to develop their awareness and skills as allies.

SESSION 8 2:45-3:45

Session 8A I/T, P, D, G

For Art's Sake: The Benefit of Getting Creative

Kristen Wheeler Highland

According to the advocacy organization Americans for the Arts, creative arts activities can help children develop in a litany of ways by building critical thinking skills, strengthening problem-solving abilities, stimulating imagination and more. Making art with infants is as much about the process as the product. We will discuss the developmental benefits of creative art with infants and explore some fun art activities and ideas!

Session 8B G

Shining Brighter Than Burnout

Tosca Grimm & Amy Solie

While educator burnout seems common, leaders can avoid the "burnout destiny" through understanding both what fills and what empties their personal and professional "cups." This active session will guide educators in rediscovering their strengths and sustaining their passions, so they can keep shining as educators – and stay polished!

Session 8C P, G

Pop Culture in Preschool

Cristy Ward

What do you do if your class is obsessed with Star Wars? Use it to teach math, science, and literacy, of course! In this workshop, I will share ideas from the classroom on integrating pop culture (such as Star Wars, Paw Patrol, and Princesses) into everyday learning. There will also be time for participants to ask questions and share their ideas.

MNCPD Session III* 1:45-3:45

Session IIIA I/T, P, G

I'm Not a Preschooler! Age-Appropriate Infant & Toddler Activities

Hollee Saville

Discover how to meet infants and toddlers where they are—through responsive caregiving—and guide them to where they can be through child-led environments that encourage their curiosity. Explore many fun, inexpensive, and developmentally appropriate infant and toddler activities that will have your preschoolers wishing they were infants and toddlers again.

Session IIIB G

Recognizing Culture Authentically in Early Education Settings

Hannah Riddle de Rojas

Recognize the myriad of ways that children are diverse is an essential component to our practice as educators. Our appreciation for diversity is reflected in our interactions, environment and mindset. This course helps educators to integrate an authentic appreciation for diversity into their teaching practices and teaching mindset.

Session IIIC I/T, P, D

Teach Social Skills to Prevent or Replace Unwanted Behaviors in the Group Setting

Shanna Nseumen & Jamie Waldvogel

Inability to perform appropriate social skills is a common reason why toddlers and preschoolers display challenging behaviors in the group setting. In this workshop, we first review how to respond to unwanted behaviors while minimizing the potential that the child learns new unwanted behaviors. We review the common reasons for unwanted behaviors in the group setting. We describe 6 pivotal social skills to teach children aged 18 months to 5 years old, and provide an evidence-based, experiential method for teaching the social skills to children in the group setting.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2018 PRESENTERS!

Jamie Bonczyk

Jamie Bonczyk, MA is an Early Childhood advocate and administrator. She has published several articles on the topics she feels passionate about. In 2015, Exchange Magazine named Jamie an Exceptional Emerging Leader in the Early Childhood field. Ms. Bonczyk is a student and performer of improvised theater and storytelling. She lives in Richfield with her husband and their 4-year-old daughter, Sylvie.

Sandra Burwell

Sandra has worked Early Childhood Education for 50+ years. Most recently, she works with centers on staff professional development. Her focus is on Material Exploration, Children's Literature and Infant/ Toddlers. Her inspirations come from Reggio-Emilia and Montessori where theory and practice join together for joyful and authentic experiences.

Ann Ruhl Carlson

Ann Ruhl Carlson has been involved in early childhood education for over 30 years. She has been a classroom teacher, director of a large center, and for the past 25 years has worked at the University of Minnesota in the Early Childhood program. At the University, she has been a teacher in the laboratory school, supervised student teachers, taught college courses, and coordinated the licensure program.

Andrea Emery

Andrea received an AAS degree in child development from Central Lakes College in 2006. I have been at Calvary Child Care Center for 11 years, holding positions such as a toddler teacher, preschool teacher and now the Assistant Director position. As a 4 and 5's teacher, I introduced the joys of pet ownership to the children.

Heidi Ferris

Heidi Ferris is the founder of Growing Green Hearts, which helps kids to play, learn, and love nature. She is creator of "Connect-the-Drops: Faith, Science & Youth Leadership" and has authored 6 children's books. GGH offers environmental STEM trainings and in-school field trips. Heidi holds a Masters' in Environmental Education.

Tosca Grimm

Tosca wears multiple hats in the education world, currently as the director of St. Peter's ECE Center, adjunct faculty member at Rasmussen College and Concordia University-St. Paul, where she earned her M.A.Ed in ECE. She is currently working on her Ed.D. at Concordia University-Portland, and supports colleagues as a trainer and CDA PD specialist.

Meg Holmen

I am a supervisor of the Child Care Center licensing unit. I have been a member of the licensing team for eight years, with the last four as a supervisor. Working with children has always been my passion and I feel honored to be able to work in a

position that reaches all corners of our great state. Prior to working for the Department of Human Services I worked in the field of child care for many years and have a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education.

Mike Huber

Mike Huber has worked in early education since 1992. He is a Teacher Supervisor at St. David's Center in Minnetonka. He is the author of *Embracing Rough and Tumble Play: Teaching with the Body in Mind* (2016, Redleaf), and six picture books including *The Amazing Erik* (2014, Redleaf Lane). He is the co-host of the weekly podcast *Teaching with the Body in Mind*.

Andy Johnsrud

"Andy's been teaching and working with families for over 20 years. He came to the practical skills he delivers out of necessity. Stepping into a public school classroom as a young teacher in the late 1990s, it became very clear that the examples and techniques used by adults in his own childhood of the 70s & 80s were no longer state-of-the-art! From this necessity has grown a unique and practical perspective that equips adults with the skills and understanding they need to give all kids their very best shot at success in the real world."

Sheri Kalb

Sheri Kalb teaches 3.5 year olds and a weekly STEM class for 4 and 5 year olds at Normandale Preschool in Edina. Once she realized that she was incorporating many STEM activities into her daily classroom curriculum, she enthusiastically embraced the adventure of teaching a STEM class of future critical thinkers and problem solvers. Sheri graduated from the College of St. Benedict with a degree in Elementary/Early Childhood Education.

Amanda Lesnikowski and Sheila McGuire

Amanda Lesnikowski and Sheila McGuire are educators in the department of Student and Teacher Learning at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. They design and facilitate onsite and offsite museum programs for educators and Pre-K to high school learners that focus on creativity, critical thinking, and global awareness.

Margaret Mahowald

Margaret Mahowald has been in Early Childhood for over 15 years. A passion for process art fueled creating a three month art unit with 4 and 5 year old children.

Margaret Mahowald & Andrea Emery

Margaret and Andrea co-taught for 5 years in the 4 and 5 year-old classroom at Calvary Childcare Center. Both teachers have a passion for process art and enjoy providing big art ideas for children.

Chrissy Mignogna

Chrissy Mignogna, E-RYT 200 (Experienced Registered Yoga Teacher), is a member of Yoga Alliance and a Certified Yoga Calm Trainer. As Director of Programming and Development for 1000 Petals, she trains teachers and therapists to use Yoga Calm® and Moving and Learning® curriculums in preschools/daycares; ECSE; elementary, middle schools and hospitals. For the last four years Chrissy has taught trauma informed yoga at the University of Minnesota Children's Hospital on the child and adolescent mental health and dual diagnosis units. She is one of the lead instructors in the research of Yoga Calm and it's impact on patients with anxiety and depression. Chrissy also teaches adult classes, and teaches a volunteer Senior Chair yoga class. She believes that this restorative, meditative practice is truly for every body and can take place everywhere.

Sara Mulso

I am passionate about helping providers for hands on and engaging ways for their child to be actively involved in their learning. I am currently serving as the director of Woodbury Lutheran Preschool and have been in the field of early childhood for nearly 20 years.

Catherine Murphy

Cathy has taught music in daycare centers for 22 years. She has a BA from Washington University in Vocal Music, a BS from the University of Minnesota in Music Therapy, and founded the Music Therapy Department for a public school system. She tries to launch every child into a life of joyful creativity.

Carla Nelson

Carla Nelson has been an early childhood educator for almost 25 years. She is the retired director of All Saints Preschool in Minnetonka, and she also has been a classroom teacher and parent educator. Carla is passionate about supporting teachers and families as they care for and educate their young children. She has enjoyed working on the planning committee for the ELEA Region 3 conference for the past several years.

Kellee Nelson

"Kellee Nelson currently serves as the Director of Westwood Early Childhood Center. She has many years serving and learning within the field of early childhood family education and has worked within a variety of high quality, innovative, learning environments. Kellee is extremely passionate about her work with young children and families--beautiful environments, natural materials, and the schools and values of Reggio Emilia, Italy all serve as sources of inspiration.

Shanna Nseumen

Shanna is the Director of Child Care Center Consultation at Behave Your Best! She is a Board Certified Associate Behavior Analyst and has successfully partnered with child care programs throughout the Twin Cities to teach children communication, social, and behavior regulation skills designed to prevent or replace unwanted behavior.

Blair Okey

I'm deeply invested in the importance of how we see children and how they see, hear and feel us in our relationships with them and each other. I have a B.A. in Social Work, and have been teaching at the Westwood Early Childhood Center since 2003. I am certified in Neuro Linguistic Programming & Psychology, Hypnosis and Therapeutic Coaching (registered trademark here).

Blair Okey & David VeVea

Blair and David work together as a team in the Toddler II Room (2-3 yr olds) at the Westwood Early Childhood Center. Both have a strong belief in the importance of play based, sensory rich activities in the classroom.

Hannah Riddle de Rojas

Hannah Riddle de Rojas has worked as a teacher, center director and trainer. As a Professional Development Specialist, Hannah conducts CDA verifications visits in English and Spanish. Hannah earned a Master's degree in Adult ESL Education at Hamline University. She has a B.S. in Child Psychology and a B.A. in Spanish Studies from the University of Minnesota.

Shelley Roberts Gyllen

Shelley Roberts Gyllen has BA's in both Anthropology and Theater Arts and is completing her Masters of Arts in Teaching at Hamline University. She has experience teaching pre-k through High School. Shelley is active in the Twin Cities performing arts community. She is an avid baker and lives in Columbia Heights with her husband, Jeff and their puppy Logan.

Hollee Saville

Hollee (M.A. Early Childhood) has worked for 25+ years with children of all ages as a family childcare provider, teacher, aide, and director in schools and programs, promoting play and child-directed learning. She loves spending time with her family, advocating for early childhood, designing websites, playing games, volunteering, and baking.

Amy Solie

Amy's passion for ECE shines in her role as assistant director at St. Peter's ECE Center. She has worked with multiple age groups and also mentors others toward getting their CDA credential. She has her A.A.S. degree in ECE from Rasmussen College, and is completing her bachelor's degree.

Sue Starks

Dr. Sue Starks has worked in the field of early childhood for over 20 years and currently coordinates the early childhood licensure program at Concordia University. She trains for the state on the Pyramid Model, spends time in classrooms, and enjoys presenting at conferences to learn and grow alongside of other early childhood professionals.

Mary Steinbicker

Mary Steinbicker is a librarian for Hennepin County Library, Golden Valley branch, where she has served youth and families for 17 years. She is passionate about early literacy and dedicates her time to encouraging the 0-5 crowd to share her passion.

Ross Thompson

Ross is a lead teacher at the Shirley G. Moore Lab School and a course instructor for the Early Childhood program at the U of MN. He's also a member of the Reggio Inspired Network of MN -- both on the board as well as chair of the Civic Engagement committee. He's also passionate about working/talking with those excited to learn more about their work in EC.

Sarah Warren

Sarah Warren is an early literacy tutor and an author. Her picture book biography, Delores Huerta: A Hero to Migrant Workers has received honors and is on many Anti-Bias book lists. She lives in Minneapolis with her family and their dog, Bruce Valentine. Visit sarahwbooks.com to find out more and to hear her book in Spanish.

Cristy Ward

Cristy is a preschool teacher at Calvary Child Care. She has been in Early Childhood for almost 20 years, and has a graduate degree from Concordia-St. Paul.

Sheryl Warner, M. Ed.

Sheryl Warner is a licensed and NAFCC Accredited family child care provider in Minneapolis. As a MNCPD Approved Master Trainer, she authors and trains DHS curriculum for Child Care Aware MN both in person and online. She blends her 30 years of early childhood experience into every session.

Priscilla Weigel

Priscilla Weigel has worked with young children and families for more than 35 years. She has been a classroom teacher, staff development coordinator, mentor teacher, Early Childhood Consultant and Inclusion Coach. Priscilla currently works as the Assistant Director and coordinates Inclusion Coaching for the Center for Inclusive Child Care. In addition to

successfully including and supporting children with special needs in community settings, Priscilla presents to teachers, parents and early care and education professionals throughout Minnesota and nationally.

Cory Woosley

I am the Professional Development Director at the Child Care Aware of MN where I manage an interactive, online learning program and oversee statewide Early Childhood Professional Development. In addition I have been a faculty member at MCTC and DCTC in early education since 1996. My undergraduate work is in Early Childhood and in 2009 I received an Online Instructional Graduate Degree from Concordia University in St Paul MN. In 2015 I was selected as Child Care Exchange Master Leader: <http://www.childcareexchange.com/leadership/master-leaders-2015/nggallery/page/38>