

A photograph of a young child with blonde hair, seen from the side, reaching their right arm upwards towards several colorful, iridescent bubbles floating in the air. The background is a dark, gradient grey.

**CHILDREN'S RIGHTS:  
OUR RESPONSIBILITY**

**ELEA REGION 3 37TH ANNUAL  
EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATOR'S CONFERENCE**

**FEBRUARY 3 & 4, 2017**  
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
7520 GOLDEN VALLEY ROAD  
GOLDEN VALLEY, MN 55427



Evangelical Lutheran Education Association

# CONFERENCE INFORMATION

## Conference Fees

### ELEA Members

Two Day Conference Fee \$110.00  
One Day Conference Fee \$75.00

### Non-ELEA Members

Two Day Conference Fee \$130.00  
One Day Conference Fee \$90.00

\* **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 15, 2014, please add \$10.

## Registration

Step 1: Register each participant at the following link: <https://goo.gl/forms/abJBtkRnrBFYXAfq2>  
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.

## Director's Night Out

Directors are invited to join us directly following the last session on Friday (around 4:15) at Lucky's 13 Pub in Plymouth for a Director's Night Out! To RSVP, please email Becky Robinson at [brobinson@calvary.org](mailto:brobinson@calvary.org). Lucky's 13 Pub | 3000 Harbor Lane N | Plymouth, MN 55447

## 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 (IT)      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](http://www.mncpd.org).

## Notes

1. 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.
2. If a registration needs to be cancelled, a full refund can be granted before January 6th, 2017. After January 6th, 2017 but before January 20th, 2017 a 50% refund is available. After January 20th, 2017 a registration may be transferred to another attendee, but no refunds will be available.
3. 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](mailto:elearegion3@gmail.com) / Heather Charmoli at 952-934-4156



## HEATHER SHUMAKER

Heather Shumaker is a national speaker on early childhood topics who's been writing professionally since 1996. She started writing for radio and her publications include *New York Post*, *Organic Gardening*, *Parenting*, *Pregnancy*, *Huffington Post* and others.

She's an advocate for free, unstructured play in homes and schools and the author of two books on renegade parenting: *It's OK Not to Share* (Tarcher/ Penguin, 2012) and *It's OK to Go Up the Slide* (Tarcher/Penguin, March 2016). She holds a BA in sociology / anthropology from Swarthmore College and an MS in land resources from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Her renegade rules were inspired by the philosophy of a unique, unorthodox preschool in her hometown of Columbus, Ohio. Heather attended the School for Young Children as a child and her mother taught there for forty years.

The environment is one of Heather's greatest joys and passions. She has an interdisciplinary background in environmental studies and frequently writes about environmental topics. Her upcoming book *Saving Arcadia*, a Great Lakes conservation adventure story, will be published in March 2017 by Wayne State University Press.

Heather once worked as a milkmaid, sailor, llama trekking guide and fire crew, as well as a garbage worker in Antarctica, at the U.S. South Pole station. She now makes her home in northern Michigan with her husband and two children, where she blogs at Starlighting Mama.



## DAN GARTRELL, ED.D.

Dan Gartrell was a sixth grade teacher in Ohio and a Head Start teacher for the Red Lake Band of Ojibwe in northern Minnesota. During the 1970s, Dan completed his Masters degree at Bemidji State University where he was a CDA trainer for the Child Development Training Program. Dan received his Doctor of Education Degree from the University of North Dakota in 1977. For many years, Dan was director of the Child Development Training Program and professor of Early Childhood and Foundations Education at Bemidji State University. Dan is an Emeritus Professor from Bemidji State.

Dan has written eight pieces that have appeared in *YOUNG CHILDREN* (the Journal of the National Association for the Education of Young Children). Between November of 2005 and November of 2014, Dan was the principle author of a regular column for *YOUNG CHILDREN* titled "Guidance Matters".

Dan is the author of four books:

- A Guidance Approach for the Encouraging Classroom (Wadsworth/Cengage Learning, 6th edition, October 2012)
- The Power of Guidance (Delmar/NAEYC, 2004)
- What the Kids Said Today (Redleaf Press, 2000).
- Education for a Civil Society: How Guidance Teaches Young Children Democratic Life Skills (NAEYC, 2012)/a>

He has presented over 300 keynotes, workshops, and trainings in many states, Germany, and Mexico.

Dan was born in New York City, March 31, 1944, and raised in Nyack, New York, in the Hudson River Valley. He has lived in Minnesota ("where we walk on water half the year") for almost 50 years. He received his BA in education from Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio. Dan is a member of a blended family that includes wife, Dr. Julie Jochum Gartrell, five children aged 38 to 48, and eleven grandchildren (he's got photos).

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

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 / Lunch
12:30-1:30	Session 2b / Lunch
1:45-2:45	Session 3
3:00-4:00	Session 4
Session Key	Infant/Toddler (IT) Preschool (P) Director (D) General (G)

### SESSION 1—8:15-9:15

#### Session 1A IT, P, D, G

##### Self Regulation in the Classroom: Applying Sensory-Based Strategies For All Types Of Sensory Learners

**Presenter: Jamee Smith**

This workshop will review the seven areas of the sensory system and how they work together to influence learning and development. You will learn about the sensory processing patterns of behavior in children who may be struggling within the classroom. We will then discuss sensory based strategies for adapting the classroom environment for optimal learning and self regulation.

#### Session 1B IT, P

##### Culinary Encounters: Stories of Learning and Community Building Through Experiences with Food

**Presenter: Kellee Nelson & Blair Okey**

Food plays an important role in many cultures and within Westwood Early Childhood Center mealtime is a time to learn about new foods, socialize, and create community. Come and hear how one program came together as a learning community to create a nutrition program that guides their practice, reflects their values, and fosters positive interactions with food.

#### Session 1C IT, P, G

##### The Adventurous Spirit:

##### First Steps to Encouraging Big Body Play

**Presenter: Ross Thompson**

Many of us want to include more big-body play in our programs, but don't know where to start. Find out ways other teachers have encouraged the adventurous spirit of children while minimizing risk.

#### Session 1D G

##### Engaging Seniors in the Lives of Children

**Presenter: Marilyn Sharpe**

God calls us to be a cross-generational community to raise children to be all they are created to be. How can your early learning setting connect our oldest and our youngest, sparking joy in both? Marilyn will offer ideas for engaging seniors in your programming, engaging children to enrich the lives of seniors, helping grandparents and faith grandparents practice their vital

role in the Body of Christ, and connecting both generations to create memories.

### Keynote—9:50-11:20

#### Standing up for Children's Rights in a High-Pressure World

**Presenter: Heather Shumaker**

How can we meet young kids' needs in a world where kindergarten is the "new first grade?" In this inspiring keynote, Heather examines myths about early academics and explains the 2 main skills children 6 and under need to master. With a mix of storytelling and research, she shares her dynamic list of "Children's Rights" and explores how we can realign our expectations to truly meet kids' needs.

### SESSION 2a—11:30-12:30

#### Session 2aA G

##### Being AAA Christians in the Lives of the Children You Serve: Authentic, Available, Affirming

**Presenter: Marilyn Sharpe**

Every child you teach needs you to be a AAA Christian in their lives: Authentic, Available, Affirming. What does this mean? Tell the kids what you believe, in the words and examples they can understand. Be fully present with the children, listening with your ears, eyes, and heart. And affirm the children of God before you, made in God's image, beloved and forgiven, whom you can love, even and especially when you don't like their behavior.

#### Session 2aB IT, P, G

##### The Healing Heart of Stories: Using Nature as the Healer and Weaver of Goodness, Beauty and Truth for the Young Child

**Presenters: Teresa Riley-Baecker**

Would you like to use storytelling and inspiration from nature to create joy, creativity, peace and healing in your classroom? Do you have children who need help socially, emotionally or soulfully to deal with challenging behaviors? Have you needed nature to be more of a presence in your classrooms or home life? Join me for a wonder filled journey of creating together with nature, the seasons and the warmth of the human soul to help children and families to grow into their blessed birthright of becoming full human beings. This workshop is a hands on experience of using storytelling, nature and qualities of soul character to help children develop balance, imagination, social skills, creativity and problem solving. Resources and materials will be shared for you to return to your classrooms to use these skills as you desire for yourself and the children and families you care for.

#### Session 2aC IT, P, D, G

##### Self-Care for Leaders

**Presenter: Nancy Hellander Pung**

The Art of Leadership and Self-Care-Are you a leader who is often hard on herself, an overachiever or both who struggles with putting yourself on your list of priorities? We will explore Brene Brown's work on shame, fear and vulnerability. Learn that the antidote to shame, which is

defined as not feeling good enough, or worthy of connection, is empathy. Learn to listen to yourself and others from a place of empathy and begin to shift to a more connected, more courageous and self-compassionate leader. Take time to reflect and commit to improved self-care creating a plan to take better care of yourself in order to step into your full potential as a leader,

**Session 2aD** P  
**Creating a Peaceful Classroom**

**Presenter: Kilee Christnagel**

This workshop gives a proactive approach to discipline in the classroom. Many classroom practices come from the research based book, *Responsive Classroom*. This workshop is designed to be a discussion with many hands-on ideas of how to incorporate peace daily into your classroom learning environment through greetings, games, warm fuzzies, songs, jobs, signals and more. You will walk away with practical applications that you are prepared and excited to implement that day.

**Session 2aE** D  
**Director's Networking Lunch—2 Hour Session**

## SESSION 2b—12:30-1:30

**Session 2bA** IT, P  
**Boys, Boys, and Tomboys**

**Presenter: Heather Shumaker**

Perplexed by the boys in your life? Learn power activities to help high-action kids channel energy, at home and in the classroom. This program covers topics including wild emotions, physical play, aggression, shame, literacy and creativity. Discover the benefits of rough-and-tumble play and leave with ideas to make daily life more boy (and also girl) friendly.

**Session 2bB** IT, P, D  
**Seven Common Reasons for Challenging Behavior**

**Presenter: Priscilla Weigel**

Challenging behavior occurs in many forms in an early care and education setting. These behaviors may limit a child's ability to learn, grow, and interact successfully with the world around them. This session will discuss the seven most common reasons for challenging behavior. When we are able to understand the reasons we can successfully develop and implement strategies that provide lasting success for young children and for their care providers.

**Session 2bC** D  
**Director's Networking Lunch—2 Hour Session**

**Session 2bD** IT, P, D, G  
**The 5 Love Languages of Children**

**Presenter: Kilee Christnagel**

This workshop is based on the book, *The Five Love Languages of Children*, written by Dr. Gary Chapman. Your student's success depends on the love relationship between you and your students. When children feel loved, they do their best. But how can you make sure your student feels loved? This seminar will help you gain a deep understanding of the 5 love languages.

## SESSION 3—1:45-2:45

**Session 3A** IT, P, D, G  
**Offering the Right Risks in a Sometimes Scary World**

**Presenter: Heather Shumaker**

When it comes to raising kids, it's always Safety First. Or is it? Childhood is also a time of risk. Learn the 4 key areas (physical, creative, social and emotional) kids need to experience risk—and how we undermine it. This program examines present-day parent fears and looks at social rejection, conflict, structured time, outdoor play, and tips to balance risk and safety for our children.

**Session 3B** P  
**Empowering Youth with Empathy (Preschool)**

**Presenter: Wendy Muhlhauser**

Writing enables me to offer books that help with literacy, while continuing to nurture emotional competence, especially in the area of empathy, critical thinking and introduce world themes. It helps me to continue to punctuate our connection as the human family, our world community. My book "Jelly Beans the Cheetah and Hope" has a critical thinking page-including the suggestion to teach it using drama/play for learning-with examples, as well as a page about the Barabaig Tribe's culture. I taught from this book for 3 1/2 years during the production process, so that I could be certain the concepts and ideas were effective with students. This informed my choices during the edit process and offered me the best practices and ideas to share with other educators about how to maximize the learning potential of the book, "Jelly Beans the Cheetah and Hope."

**Session 3C** P  
**Growing Friendship Skills**

**Presenter: Dr. Sue Starks**

Growing friendship skills must be part of holistic curriculum for young children as these skill sets lead to success as partners in play and learning. Saying yes to the challenge of highlighting social emotional development, amidst an educational context that may not always embrace this belief, puts children first!

**Session 3D** IT, P, D, G  
**I Wonder: Using Curiosity to Understand and Respond to Behavior**

**Presenter: Tracy Schreifels**

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

## SESSION 4 - 3:00-4:00

### Session 4A P

#### Incorporating STEM into Your Daily Curriculum

**Presenter: Sheri Kalb**

A STEM curriculum leads children into discovery by encouraging their natural curiosity. This 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 4B IT

#### Empowering Youth with Empathy (Infant/Toddler)

**Presenter: Wendy Muhlhauser**

Writing enables me to offer books that help with literacy, while continuing to nurture emotional competence, especially in the area of empathy, critical thinking and introduce world themes. It helps me to continue to punctuate our connection as the human family, our world community. My book "Jelly Beans the Cheetah and Hope" has a critical thinking page-including the suggestion to teach it using drama/play for learning-with examples, as well as a page about the Barabaig Tribe's culture. I taught from this book for 3 1/2 years during the production process, so that I could be certain the concepts and ideas were effective with students. This informed my choices during the edit process and offered me the best practices and ideas to share with other educators about how to maximize the learning potential of the book, "Jelly Beans the Cheetah and Hope."

### Session 4C P

#### Environmental Social Supports

**Presenter: Dr. Sue Starks**

Being intentional and systematic as you design your learning environments for young children can empower a strong sense of self, the ability to be independent, opportunities to problem solve, avenues for expression, and the like. We can give them spaces to risk, to learn, to do, to be!

### Session 4D IT, P, D, G

#### Play: The True Work of Childhood

**Presenter: Tracy Schreifels**

Play is one of the ways that children explore the world, develop competence, and learn to negotiate relationships. But it doesn't stop there. Play also enhances a child's self-awareness, improves their ability to focus, promotes self-regulation, and reduces stress. Come and be re-energized about the importance of child-directed play.

### Session 4E IT, P, D, G

#### The Magic of Building Meaningful Relationships

**Presenter: Dr. Kris Meyer**

The workplace can be challenging when relationships are tense. This session will focus on building healthy and meaningful relationships.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

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	10:30-12:30 MNCPD Session I*
11:30-12:30	Session 6	
12:30-1:30	Lunch	
1:30-2:30	Session 7	1:45-3:45 MNCPD Session II**
2:45-3:45	Session 8	
	*MNCPD Session I is a 2 Hour Session that runs concurrent to Session 5 & 6.	
	**MNCPD Session II is a 2 Hour Session that runs concurrent to Session 7 & 8.	
<b>Session Key</b>	Infant/Toddler (IT) Preschool (P) Director (D) General (G)	

## Keynote—8:45-10:00

### The Goals of Guidance: Democratic Life Skills

**Presenter: Dan Gartrell**

Guidance is more than keeping children "in line" in kindly ways. Guidance means teaching children the skills they need to function as productive citizens and healthy individuals. These skills, democratic life skills, are the goals of guidance and are the long term abilities that will help our descendants make it into the next century. In brief the skills include the abilities to: express strong emotions in non-hurting ways; make decisions intelligently and ethically; work cooperatively to solve problems; and be accepting of others whatever their unique human qualities. Dan uses practical anecdotes to illustrate and discuss the teaching and learning of democratic life skills.

## SESSION 5—10:15-11:15

### Session 5A IT, P, D, G

#### **Making the Connection between Best Practices and Children's Outcomes**

**Presenter: Michelle West Lenhart**

This session will help early educators make the connection between best practices and how they make a difference for children's outcomes.

### Session 5B P

#### **S.T.E.M. Through Popular Children's Books**

**Presenter: Amy Blaubach**

Teachers will experience activity stations designed to accompany a children's story. Polar Bear Polar Bear What Do You Hear by Eric Carle, Iggy Peck Architect, Goldilocks and the Three Bears and Sheep in Jeep are among our favorites! We'll put a S.T.E.M. spin on each story. Great for PreS – 1<sup>st</sup> grade!

### Session 5C IT, P, D, G

#### **Self-Regulation: The Role of Responsive Caregivers**

**Presenter: Tracy Schreifels**

What is self-regulation and why is it important? In this session attendees will learn the definition and development of emotional regulation. Specific calming strategies that can be taught and used with young children will be demonstrated. A handout of calming strategies and descriptions will be given to attendees.

### Session 5D P, D, G

#### **Learning the Art of Storytelling**

**Presenter: Dr. Kris Meyer**

This session will focus on learning the art of storytelling. Participants will learn techniques through demonstration and practice that will be useful when sharing stories to old and young listeners.

## SESSION 6—11:30-12:30

### Session 6A IT, P, G

#### **Spiritual Development of Children**

**Presenter: Diane Shallue**

This workshop will provide information on the ways that children view God and provide practical tips on how to pray with children and how to incorporate prayer into your program. It will also provide information about the stages of faith development of children.

### Session 6B G

#### **The Art of Process Art**

**Presenter: Margaret Mahowald**

This session will explore the importance, resources needed, and may ideas to carry out Process Art in the classroom.

### Session 6C IT, P

#### **Building an Encouraging Classroom**

**Presenter: Dan Gartrell**

An encouraging classroom is a place where children want to be even when they are sick—as opposed to not wanting to be there when they are well. Dan illustrates

through anecdotes, video clips, and group discussions the following practices that build an encouraging classroom: leadership techniques including encouragement (not praise), contact talks, and compliment sandwiches; Relationship-building with each child; using developmentally appropriate practice; group-building through class meetings; and working for partnerships with families. This session focuses on techniques that reduce the occurrence of conflicts in the classroom.

## MNCPD Session I—10:30-12:30

This 2 Hour Session runs concurrent to Session 5 & 6

### MNCPD Session I: A D

#### **Come On In, The Water's Fine: New Employee Orientation**

**Presenter: Sharon Bergen, Ph.D.**

Explore the new employee orientation processes and systems that contribute to program quality. Discuss the importance of an organized, intentional approach to new employee orientation and the challenges presented when orienting new staff members. Examine models for employee orientation and create a plan to incorporate research-based best practices for new employee orientation in your own program.

### MNCPD Session I: B IT, P

#### **The Possibilities of Exploring Light and Shadow With Children**

**Presenter: Sandra Burwell**

In this workshop, participants will explore the many opportunities to learn through light and shadow experiences. The 2 hour session will include powerpoint presentations, handouts, dialog as well as time to move about through the classrooms in the center, where many stations will be set up for experiences with light and shadow: overhead projectors, light table, shadow screens, flashlights, etc.

### MNCPD Session I: C IT, P

#### **Observation and Documentation: Using Program Information for Decision Making**

**Presenter: Heather Charmoli**

This course will describe the components of authentic assessment, of which observation is key; describe how observation and documentation are used in making program decisions; and how to develop lesson plans using the Minnesota Early Indicators of Progress as a guide.

## SESSION 7—1:30-2:30

### Session 7A G

#### Urban Legends of Early Childhood Education

**Presenter: Heather Charmoli & Becky Robinson**

Everyday teachers, directors and other staff encounter the dreaded “they” as justification for some rule or another. Join us to define who “they” are, which “they” requires which rules and demystify the requirements surrounding our industry. We will discuss DHS Rule 9503 (Rule 3), Parent Aware, NAEYC Accreditation, Public Health Nurse Recommendations and others. Let us help solve your mysteries!

### Session 7B IT, P

#### Science Inside Out

**Presenter: Heidi Ferris**

Using hands, minds, tools, and teams we'll practice the processes of “thinking like a scientist” using inquiry, systems thinking, engineering design challenges, and the scientific method. Gain knowledge, resources, and interdisciplinary lesson ideas about earth's interconnected air, water, rocks, and living things. Participants will carry with them a better understanding of creativity and logic inside their brains, empower students in inventive creative play, and apply problem-solving strategies inside and outside their classrooms.

### Session 7C IT, P

#### From Survival to Resilience: The Practice of Liberation Teaching

**Presenter: Dan Gartrell**

Children with challenging behaviors continue to be a hot topic with early childhood educators. From a guidance approach Dan looks at working with children who have frequent conflicts. After defining liberation teaching, the session addresses: 1) What frequent conflicts mean for the child, the group and the teacher; 2) Causes of frequent conflicts in children; 3) The effects of negative labeling on the child: stigma. 4) Comprehensive guidance with children who show strong needs mistaken behavior; 5) Support systems for teachers; 6) The importance of liberation teaching for the guidance approach.

## SESSION 8—2:45-3:45

### Session 8A P

#### The Nature of Inclusion

**Presenter: Kristenza Nelson and Joey Schoen**

The Nature of Inclusion is a presentation around stories from the field. It examines how time spent in nature can be beneficial for children with special needs. This is an honest conversation around the challenges and benefits of being an inclusive program.

### Session 8B IT, P

#### Energize Kids About Climate

**Presenter: Heidi Ferris**

Get energized as we construct, act out and experience energy-related projects and systems. Engage in discussion and basic experiments to better understand burning, our atmosphere, weather basics, seasons, and our place in earth's cycling systems. We'll use reliable information to get kids moving and thinking about climate change in Minnesota.

## MNCPD Session II—1:45-3:45

This 2 Hour Session runs concurrent to Session 7 & 8

### MNCPD Session II: A IT, P

#### Sensory Processing Disorder and Young Children (From the Center for Inclusive Child Care)

**Presenter: Jenny Wespiser**

This interactive workshop will describe the characteristics of Sensory Processing Disorder and how it may impact young children in child care programs. Each participant will have the opportunity to examine their own sensory preferences and learn how they meet their individual sensory needs. Children have unique sensory preferences and sometimes those preferences can interfere with learning, social growth, and may result in challenging behaviors. Strategies for inclusion will be presented as well as local resources to share with parents. CDA Content Area # 3 Guidance.

### MNCPD Session II: B IT

#### Fostering Intentional Experiences in an Authentic Environment for Infants and Toddlers

**Presenter: Sandra Burwell**

In this 2 hour workshop, participants will examine he connections between theory and practice in creating Infant and Toddler classrooms that are respectful of the rights and competence of children. We will also explore the many possibilities for materials, environment and experiences for children birth to age 3.



# THANK YOU TO OUR PRESENTERS!

**Sharon Bergen, Ph.D.** is an Instructor at Dakota County Technical College in the Early Childhood and Youth Development program. Dr. Bergen has over 30 years of experience in early childhood programs as a teacher, director, multi-site manager, trainer, and curriculum developer. Dr. Bergen is the author of 3 books for early childhood professionals including the Early Childhood Staff Orientation Guide recently published by Redleaf Press.

**Amy Blaubach**, CEO of Curious Minds LLC has been a science and STEM educator for 15+ years. Her diverse history as a geochemist for Yellowstone National Park, a program writer for the Science Museum of MN, classroom teaching experience among other activities in the sciences make her presentations a lot of fun!

**Sandra Burwell**, Independent Educational Consultant, has worked in Early Childhood for 50+ years as teacher, education coordinator and director. She has spent recent years consulting with programs and in professional development. She has presented at workshops and conferences on material exploration in creative expression and Infant and Toddler programs.

**Heather Charmoli, M.A.** is a Co-Director of All Saints Preschool and Child Care in Minnetonka. She graduated from Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and from St. Mary's University in Minneapolis, MN with a Master's degree in Educational Leadership. She has a passion for lifelong learning and leadership. She serves as the ELEA Region 3 Ambassador and volunteers with MNAEYC-MNSACA as chair of the Summer Leadership Institute planning Committee.

**Kilee Christnagel, B.S., M.Ed, LPE**, holds a MN teaching license for early childhood, elementary and Parent & Family education. Kilee is currently a literacy specialist with Minneapolis Public Schools where she has been teaching for 19 years. She started her own business, Start Your Kids Engine, as an educational speaker specializing in parenting & enrichment seminars and teacher workshops throughout the twin cities. Kilee lives in Maple Grove with her husband and 3 children.

**Heidi Ferris** is the founder of Growing Green Hearts, science education for kids to play, learn, and love nature. Teachers love the STEM trainings, kids love the playful site visits! Heidi holds a master's in environmental education and has been trained by NASA and NOAA. Chemistry, physics, and earth science are the areas on her MN teaching license. While the ELEA conference is a sure favorite- Heidi also works with metro schools and organizations such as the Minneapolis Area Synod ELCA, MELSA, MN Institute for Talented Youth, MnNAEYC, and MN Center for Professional Development. Heidi and her family are members at Peace Lutheran Church in Plymouth.

**Sheri Kalb** is from Normandale Lutheran Preschool in Edina where she teaches a group of 3.5 year olds and a weekly STEM class for 4 and 5 year olds. She is a graduate of the College of St. Benedict with a degree in Elementary/Early Childhood Education.

**Michelle West Lenhart** is a policy analyst for the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS). She provides leadership and policy analysis aimed at increasing the quality of early care and education settings, with a special focus on reducing disparities in children's outcomes.

**Margaret Mahowald** is the Director at Calvary Childcare Center. Prior to becoming the director this fall, she has 14 years of classroom experience in the preschool classroom. Margaret is a graduate of North Dakota State University-Fargo, a Terri Lynn Lockoff Awarded Teacher, and early childhood enthusiast.

**Kris Meyer**, a storyteller, educator, and counselor, is the Principal of St. Paul's Lutheran School in Waverly, IA. A former elementary school counselor and college professor, she holds degrees from Waldorf College, Buena Vista University, and Iowa State University. Kris Meyer has been a professional storyteller for over 30 years.

**Wendy Muhlhauer** is a lifelong Educator, five star rated Author (SissyMarySue) who wrote "Jelly Beans the Cheetah and Hope" and a Doctoral student. My passion surrounds empathy, diversity, tolerance, literacy, language development, emotional competence and critical thinking. I encourage play for learning and world family themes!

**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--outdoor environments, natural materials, and the schools and values of Reggio Emilia, Italy all serve as sources of inspiration. Kellee has a BA in Child and Family Studies from Concordia College Moorhead, MN, an MA in Education with an emphasis in Early Childhood Education from Concordia University, St. Paul, MN, and is currently working on an EdD in Adult and Occupational Education from North Dakota State University. She is also a "Master Trainer" with the Minnesota Center for Professional Development.

**Kristenza Nelson** began teaching at Dodge Nature Center Preschool in 2008. She has a BFA in photography from the San Francisco Art Institute. Her nephew with challenging behaviors brought her to the field of early childhood education. She earned her CDA through the National Council of Professional Recognition and is currently working on her Masters degree in Environmental Education through Hamline University. She is a mother of two boys who also love spending time in nature.

# THANK YOU TO OUR PRESENTERS!

**Blair Okey** has been teaching at The Westwood Early Childhood Center for over 16 years. She has a passion for teaching children through play and music. Blair has a strong belief about nurturing the image of the child. She helped to create the Food for Thought Newsletter and nutrition program at the WECC. She enjoys cooking, baking and learning about food with the children.

**Nancy Hellander Pung** is a licensed teacher, and leadership coach committed to empowering others to step into their full potential. She is also passionate about self-care for leaders, as they often put themselves last on their list of priorities. Nancy leads the Gifts Discovery and Coaching Ministry at Calvary Lutheran Church in Golden Valley. She has been a teacher and coach for 26 years.

**Teresa Riley-Baecker** is a 4th generation storyteller, singer and weaver of beauty, goodness and truth for the communities she serves. She has been creating with communities for over 40 years.

**Becky Robinson** is the Pre-Kindergarten Director at Calvary Lutheran in Golden Valley.

**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 preschool day treatment program. 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 has extensive background knowledge in challenging behaviors and early childhood development.

**Diane Shallue** served for 25 years as a congregational Christian educator. As a grandmother of six, passing on the Christian faith to the next generation is one of her passions. She has taught at Luther Seminary and worked on the Faith Formation Task Force for the ELCA. Currently she is the past president of the Christian Education Network.

**Marilyn Sharpe** has been a parent educator for 38 years, working with congregations to train and equip all who nurture faith in the lives of all of God's children. She teaches and trains church professionals, teachers, ministry directors and parents. She has a contagious passion for raising children to be all God created them to be, to live a joyous and abundant life in Christ, and to let their light shine.

**Jamee Smith**, OTR/L has specialized in the field of pediatrics for 16 years. She has been working in outpatient care evaluating and treating children with sensory integration disorders, developmental delays, autism, and down syndrome. She is currently working part time at a pediatric clinic in Eden Prairie. Jamee also manages a part time private practice in occupational home health and aquatic therapy.

**Dr. Sue Starks** coordinates the early childhood licensure program at Concordia University—St. Paul. A former preschool teacher who continues to spend a great deal of time in ECE classrooms, and currently works as a master cadre trainer for the state of MN on the Social Emotional Pyramid Model.

**Ross Thompson** is a lead teacher at the Shirley G. Moore Laboratory School, housed within the Institute of Child Development building at the University of Minnesota. There, he creates intriguing, hands-on, and meaningful learning experience for a classroom of 3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds, while also facilitating the student teaching experiences for the undergraduate and graduate students within the university's Early Childhood degree program. In addition to working in the classroom, Ross is also an course instructor for the Early Childhood program: leading a course on cognitive and language development in EC, as well as co-instructing a course focusing on creative and motor development in EC. Outside of the university, Ross is involved a member of the Reggio Inspired Network of Minnesota as well as a teaching collective that meets regularly to talk about the importance big-body/rough-and-tumble play.

**Priscilla Weigel** has worked with young children and families for more than 30 years. She has been a classroom teacher, staff development coordinator, mentor teacher, Early Childhood Consultant and Inclusion Coach. Priscilla currently works as the Inclusion Supports Coordinator 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.

**Jenny Wespiser** is a Trainer and Inclusion Coach in the Early Childhood field. Jenny Graduated from the University of Dayton in 2000, with a Bachelors of Science and two teaching licenses- Elementary Education and Special Education. She has taught children with special needs in the elementary school setting in Ohio and Minnesota. In 2005, Jenny became an Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant and trainer. She has continued to work as a coach and trainer in the Early Childhood field ever since with the hope to encourage the successful inclusion of children with special needs and/or challenging behaviors.