



UNK-Community 4th Annual Early Childhood Conference

Promoting Well-being for Children and Families

SEPTEMBER 20 & 21, 2019

Friday 7:30am-4:00pm and Saturday 7:30am-1:00pm
(registration available for Friday only, Saturday only or both)

***Friday & Saturday: Approved for DHHS In-Service Hours**

***Saturday: Special Childcare Provider Sessions**

National Keynote Speakers:

Rosemarie Allen, Ed.D. - Friday

Beth Van Meeteren, Ed.D. - Saturday

Patty Shukla - Closings

www.unk.edu/ec-conference

University of Nebraska Kearney
Nebraskan Student Union
1013 West 27th Street
Kearney, NE 68849

NATIONAL KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Dr. Rosemarie Allen, Ed.D.

Rosemarie Allen has served as a leader in early childhood education for nearly 40 years. Her life's work is centered on ensuring children have access to high quality early childhood programs that are developmentally and culturally appropriate. She is currently an Assistant Professor in the School of Education at Metropolitan State University of Denver. Her classes are focused on ensuring teachers are aware of how issues of equity, privilege, and power impact teaching practices. She is also the President & CEO for the Institute for Racial Equity & Excellence. In 2012, Dr. Allen was appointed a Global Leader for Young Children by the World Forum on Early Care and Education.

She collaborates with professionals and advocates from more than 80 countries who meet to share inspiration and information on issues impacting children and families worldwide. Rosemarie earned her B. A. from California State University, M.Ed. from Lesley University and Ed.D. in Equity and Leadership in Education at the University of Colorado, Denver.



Dr. Beth Dykstra Van Meeteren, Ed.D.

A veteran early childhood teacher of 24 years and student of Dr. Rheta DeVries, Beth taught six years at DeVries's Freeburg Early Childhood Program. In the process, she developed constructivist early childhood curriculum particularly in the STEM areas. Her work is featured in DeVries's final two publications *Ramps and Pathways* and *Moral Classrooms, Moral Children*. Van Meeteren teaches early literacy and STEM integration courses at the University of Northern Iowa and serves as the Director of the Iowa Regents' Center for Early Developmental Education for the state of Iowa where she continues to conduct research, design early STEM experiences, and professional learning.

VanMeeteren publishes regularly in practitioner journals and has authored two chapters in the 2016 Teachers College Press publication, *STEM Learning with Young Children: Inquiry Teaching with Ramps and Pathways*, a chapter in Lyn English and Tamara Moore's Springer publication, *Early Engineering Learning* and is a co-author of a chapter in the upcoming *Handbook of STEM Education Research*. She has been featured in webinars for the *National Academy of Engineering*, *Applied Engineering Management*, and soon for *Engagement Strategies*.



Patty Shukla

Patty Shukla is an internationally recognized expert in educational-interactive music for children. She is watched by hundreds of millions of educators and families worldwide through her popular YouTube channel <http://www.youtube.com/pattysukla>. She has developed her own music show called "Musical PE For You & Me" that is based on interactive development skills for early childhood curriculum. When Patty is not performing or writing new music she is often a keynote speaker for educational workshops nationwide. She is a proud parent to three children and is inspired by them daily.

CONFERENCE SPONSORS



KEARNEY CHILDCARE
ASSOCIATION

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Child Care Home providers
- Elementary teachers/administrators
- Child Care Center staff
- College students
- Preschool teachers and staff
- Parents
- Head Start staff
- Anyone who cares about children

FOR MORE, VISIT:
unk.edu/ec-conference/

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2019

Receive 5.5 In-service Hours for Early Childhood

7:30-8:30 REGISTRATION AND CHECK-IN

8:30-8:45 WELCOME/ INTRODUCTIONS

8:45-9:45 KEYNOTE SPEAKER

IMPLICIT BIAS: THE INVISIBLE BARRIER TO ADDRESSING CHALLENGING BEHAVIOR IN THE CLASSROOM

Dr. Rosemarie Allen

When children are engaged in persistent behaviors that are difficult to manage, adults frequently experience powerlessness, especially when working with young children they describe as defiant or oppositional. This workshop presents information regarding the relationship between children's behavior and the adult's responses to undesired behavior. The role of implicit bias on behavioral expectations will be discussed and strategies will be provided for aligning practitioner expectations with those of children and families.

10:00-11:30 SESSION 1

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT THAT IS INCLUSIVE AND CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE

Rosemarie Allen

This workshop will provide information based on current literature that underscores the impact of culturally responsive parent engagement on children's overall success. This workshop will address the question: What can I do to ensure that culturally responsive engagement takes place? Participants will learn effective and proven strategies to fully engage diverse families.

MONTESSORI 101

Natalie Danner

This introductory-level session will focus on the key tenets of Montessori education for those new to Montessori: multi-age/multi-ability, hands on materials, focus on independence, and individualization. Each tenet will be described in depth with examples from the field, photographs to display, and research to back it up.

COACHING & PROGRESS MONITORING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD SETTINGS FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM

Johanna Taylor

This presentation will focus on coaching caregivers, childcare providers and early childhood teachers on strategies for young children with autism. Monitoring the use of the strategies through data collection will be discussed.

"COULD YOU SAY THAT AGAIN?" SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS' INPUT REGARDING CHILDREN'S COMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT.

Whitney Schneider-Cline, Jill Wilson, Denise Wolfe & Laura Moody

A panel presentation outlined as follows: 1) disseminate information regarding typical communication milestones, 2) provide input regarding typical versus atypical development, 3) demonstrate strategies for implementation to provide support in developing children's communication skills, and 4) offer professional referral sources, as needed, for related services.

MAKING YOUR EARLY CHILDHOOD CLASSROOM A MINDFUL SPACE

Jennifer Joy & Marissa Fye

Come learn about how you can increase the mindfulness in your classroom through simple environmental adaptations. Then, walk away with a bag of activities that you can easily incorporate into your current classroom and curriculum. Finally, learn about some fantastic mindfulness-based books to add to your classroom library.

INTERGENERATIONAL AND INTERCULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

Maria Diaz, Shalee Nelson, Griselda De Anda-Ramirez, Sharon Obasi & Toni Hill

This presentation will focus on the multiple opportunities for intergenerational and intercultural engagement in early childhood programming. Issues related to intergenerational care will be explored including dual serving centers for elders and young children and dual care incorporating foster grandparents.

11:30-12:45 LUNCH BREAK

Nebraskan Student Union Dining Hall

12:45-2:15 SESSION 2

RAMPS AND PATHWAYS: INTEGRATIVE STEM INVESTIGATIONS IN FORCE AND MOTION

Beth Van Meeteren

Young children engage in reasoning about physics when they try to figure out how to achieve an exciting result by building structures with pathways for marbles and other objects. This session will provide participants the opportunity to experience a physical science activity that is appealing from ages 3 to 83!

DESIGNING QUALITY EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION ENVIRONMENTS

Edward Buglewicz & JoAnna Cordova

An interactive workshop to explore purposeful connections between Quality Environments and Quality Programs, reflecting on the fundamentals of architectural design and how the design is an intentional result of the early childhood program and operations. The discussion will apply to a range of settings and will identify special considerations for infants, toddlers, and preschool age children, including mixed age groupings.

FACILITATING PARENT-CHILD INTERACTION TO FURTHER HEALTHY CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Sara Halvorsen, Tiffany Weiss & Chelsie Palu

This session will be provided by three early childhood professionals who work for Kearney Public Schools in the Sixpence grants. These are specialists in the field of parent-child interaction who will share their knowledge and teach applicable skills for other professionals working with parents and children.

STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT PRESCHOOLERS WITH DISABILITIES

Emily Dorsey & Natalie Danner

Participants will learn a variety of practical curriculum modification strategies that can be quickly and easily implemented by preschool teachers and other classroom staff. Participants will also learn about and explore a variety of trusted resources, including *Building Blocks*, *Cara's Kit*, and the Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning.

INTENTIONAL CONNECTIONS: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO PARENT ENGAGEMENT IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

Dorothy Harman

This presentation will explore the importance and impact of the conscious development of parent-teacher-child relationships. Parent-child activities will be shared including parent-child dialogue about classroom activities; scripts to communicate academic and developmental progress; methods of parent education; strengthening communication between home and school and many others.

2:15-2:30 BREAK AND EXHIBITS

2:30-3:45 CLOSING SPEAKER

JUMP, WIGGLE, & HOP IN THE CLASSROOM

Patty Shukla

This interactive session will get you moving to new curriculum based music by international YouTube sensation children's musician Patty Shukla. She will demonstrate specific classroom transition songs, gross motor songs and literacy songs. Review lesson plans by topic and have the opportunity for Q & A.

3:45-4:00 DOOR PRIZES AND EVALUATIONS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2019

Receive 4 In-service Hours for Early Childhood

7:30-8:00 REGISTRATION AND CHECK-IN

8:00-8:15 WELCOME/ INTRODUCTIONS

8:15-9:30 KEYNOTE SPEAKER

GROWING STEM IN THE HEARTLAND: PREPARING FERTILE GROUND FOR A NEW CROP OF INNOVATORS

Dr. Beth Van Meeteren

Industry is calling for a more STEM-literate workforce to meet the diverse and changing needs of our society. This session will examine STEM from the perspective of the young child, and explore how high quality early childcare and education can provide a rich physical, socio-emotional, and intellectual environment that is foundational for joyful STEM learning.

9:45-11:15 SESSION 1

CHUTES AND SILOS: FORCE AND MOTION IN THE WORLD OF INFANTS AND TODDLERS

Beth Van Meeteren

Chutes & Silos is a physical science activity involving clear acrylic tubes and a variety of objects such as balls, cylinders, natural materials, and found objects. Participants in this session will explore materials and ponder how infants and toddlers can engage with these open-ended materials to investigate what happens when they use them to fill, empty, tip, roll, bounce, toss, and move.

DEVELOPMENT OF FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS IN MONTESSORI

Kathie Sweet

This session will explain the direct aims of the Practical Life area in the Montessori primary (ages 3-6) classroom. In addition, we will discuss implementation of these practices in any environment, including the home. At the conclusion of this presentation, the audience will have a better understanding of the purpose and application of this unique aspect of Montessori education.

CURRENT TOPICS IN AUTISM RESEARCH: THE EFFECTS OF THE ANTI-VACCINE MOVEMENT AND THE CURRENT STATE OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA AS A TREATMENT FOR SEVERE SYMPTOMS OF AUTISM.

Philip Lai

Two current event topics related to Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) will be presented. The first is the recent outbreaks of mumps, measles, and rubella and how Autism played a role that has led to this worldwide situation. Second, in 2018, the United States' FDA and DEA allowed for the research of compounds derived from marijuana (cannabidiol). Currently, seven states have added Autism to the list of debilitating conditions that can qualify patients – including children – for medical marijuana.

CULTIVATING REGULATED CHILDREN: HOW TO HELP TRAUMATIZED AND STRESSED CHILDREN IN A CARE PROVIDER SETTING

Jody Trejo

Objectives: 1) overview of the impact of stress/trauma on the developing child, 2) behavioral and relational functioning, 3) relational shifts that support child regulation, 4) importance of predictable routine, and 5) breaks and behavior modification: Do they help or hurt progression?

LANGUAGE DISORDER OR LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY? THE CASE OF THE BILINGUAL CHILDREN

Ladan Ghazi Saidi

This presentation will discuss the following: 1) describe bilingual language development, 2) present normal milestones of language development in bilingual children as compared to their monolingual peers, 3) describe some normal behavior that might be confused with pathological or abnormal development and 4) describe language impairment and name some red flags to guide educators when and which child to refer for speech and language pathology assessment.

ACES: LIFELONG IMPACTS OF CHILDHOOD TRAUMA

Monica Mueller

You might know that trauma impacts children, but what types of trauma cause these impacts? What are the long-term impacts? What can people who work with children do to help build resiliency? Come learn about and talk through the most pressing points of this important topic.

11:15-11:30 BREAK AND EXHIBITS

11:30-12:45 CLOSING SPEAKER

MUSIC, MOVEMENT AND MEDIA FOR ACTIVE LEARNERS

Patty Shukla

This interactive session will get you moving to new curriculum based music by international YouTube sensation children's musician Patty Shukla. Not only will she share how to make participatory songs exciting and developmentally appropriate, you will leave with internet expertise to find new music on your smart devices. Energetic songs and tech savvy applications for today's classrooms with cutting edge information to support learning.

12:45-1:00 DOOR PRIZES AND EVALUATIONS

REGISTRATION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

FEE:

\$65 both days
\$50 Friday only
\$30 Saturday only

UNK STUDENT REGISTRATION FEE:

\$15 both days
\$10 Friday only
\$5 Saturday only
*If not on UNK meal plan, an additional \$10 for lunch on Friday (optional)

STUDENT REGISTRATION (OTHER COLLEGES) FEE:

\$30 both days
\$25 Friday only
\$15 Saturday only

NO WALK-INS, NO MAIL-INS, AND NO REFUNDS

REGISTER ONLINE ONLY AT: unk.edu/ec-conference/

FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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Registration closes September 6, 2019



University of Nebraska at Kearney

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