

PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN SUMMIT

**CULTIVATING THE WHOLE CHILD:
BUILDING STRONG SOCIAL
EMOTIONAL FOUNDATIONS IN
TODAY'S WORLD**

AGENDA & CONFERENCE PROGRAM

February 9, 2017
Chicago Botanic Garden



PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN SUMMIT

CULTIVATING THE WHOLE CHILD: BUILDING STRONG SOCIAL EMOTIONAL FOUNDATIONS IN TODAY'S WORLD

The objectives of the Preschool-Kindergarten Summit 2017 are to gather early childhood colleagues and educational leaders from Chicago's North Shore and nationally to:

- *discuss best practices, early childhood education trends, and emerging research that promote optimal development for our youngest learners*
- *foster a common understanding of developmentally appropriate practice among preschool to kindergarten educators in area schools*
- *provide resources so individuals can advocate for appropriate approaches to early education*

THANK YOU TO THE SUMMIT UNDERWRITERS

Thank you for the generous support of the [Chicago Botanic Garden](#), [Family Action Network](#), [Glencoe District 35](#), [Kenilworth District 38](#), [North Shore School District 112](#), [Sunset Ridge School District 29](#), and [The Winnetka Public Schools District 36](#) for making this event possible.

We are also grateful to The Alliance's annual sponsors - [AYSO Region 425](#), [Center of Talent Development at Northwestern University](#), [William Blair & Company](#), the [Winnetka Park District](#), and [The Winnetka Public Schools District 36](#).

SUMMIT PLANNING COMMITTEE

Special thanks to the following individuals for assisting in the planning of the 2017 Preschool-Kindergarten Summit:

- Blakely Bundy, Defending the Early Years and The Alliance for Early Childhood
- Stephanie Cardella, North Shore School District 112, Highland Park
- Debra Gaetano, Glencoe Junior Kindergarten and Nursery School, Glencoe
- Paige Goettel, The Alliance for Early Childhood
- Kathy Hardy, Winnetka Community Nursery School, Winnetka
- Kate Hughes, The Winnetka Public Schools District 36, Winnetka
- Trisha Kocanda, The Winnetka Public Schools District 36, Winnetka
- Kathryn Martin, The Alliance for Early Childhood
- Gina Mathews, The Alliance for Early Childhood
- Tracey McDowell, Joseph Sears School, Kenilworth
- Maureen Chertow Miller, The Winnetka Public Schools District 36, Winnetka
- Eileen Prendergast, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe
- Liza Sullivan, The Alliance for Early Childhood

AGENDA

8:30-8:45am Regenstein Center	Check-In and Registration
8:45-9:00am Alsdorf Auditorium, Regenstein Center	Welcome and Overview of the Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trisha Kocanda, Superintendent, The Winnetka Public Schools District 36 Liza Sullivan, Executive Director, The Alliance for Early Childhood Eileen Prendergast, Director of Education, Chicago Botanic Garden
9:00-10:00am Alsdorf Auditorium, Regenstein Center	Keynote Address The Importance of Being Heard: Responsive Caregiving in the Early Childhood Habitat , Erika Christakis, MPH, MA, M.Ed.
10:10-11:10am	Concurrent Breakout Sessions (<i>choose one session</i>) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Creating Young Investigators: Introduction to the Project Approach (Part A), Judy Harris Helm, Ed.D. Fight, Flight or Freeze: Anatomy of a Meltdown, Jennifer Rosinia, PhD, OTR/L The Journey of Art: Sustaining Creativity Through Open-Ended Activities, Laura Reischel, M.S.Ed. Let's Go Beyond "Try, Try Again!" Exploring Ways to Encourage Persistence, Hedda Sharapan, M.S.
11:20am-12:20pm	Concurrent Breakout Sessions (<i>choose one session</i>) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Creating a Child-Sized Learning Habitat: Strategies to Enhance Emotional Engagement in the Classroom, Erika Christakis, MPH, MA, M.Ed. Creating Young Investigators: Introduction to the Project Approach (Part B), Judy Harris Helm, Ed.D. Fight, Flight or Freeze: Anatomy of a Meltdown, Jennifer Rosinia, PhD, OTR/L Social-Emotional Learning and Quality Early Education: Redundant Terms? Amanda Moreno, Ph. D.
12:20-1:10pm Burnstein Hall, Regenstein Center	Lunch and Networking Enjoy this informal time to eat lunch and build your professional networks.
1:10-2:10pm	Concurrent Breakout Sessions (<i>choose one session</i>) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Building Support for Your School: Using Children's Work to Show Learning, Judy Harris Helm, Ed.D. The Journey of Art: Sustaining Creativity Through Open-Ended Activities, Laura Reischel, M.S.Ed. Let's Go Beyond "Try, Try Again!" Exploring Ways To Encourage Persistence, Hedda Sharapan, M.S. Social-Emotional Learning and Quality Early Education: Redundant Terms? Amanda Moreno, Ph. D.
2:20-2:40pm Alsdorf Auditorium, Regenstein Center	Defending the Early Years: Becoming an Activist for Young Children , Blakely Bundy, M.Ed.
2:40-3:00pm Alsdorf Auditorium, Regenstein Center	Conference Wrap-Up: Bringing It All Together Facilitated by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erin Booker, Director, Winnetka Public School Nursery Stephanie Cardella, Director of School Improvement & Innovation, North Shore School District 112 Beth Carmody, Principal, Hubbard Woods School Mary Frances Greene, Principal, Middlefork School and Associate Superintendent of District 29 Besset Sabourin, Director of Student Services, Joseph Sears School Catherine Wang, Superintendent, Glencoe School District 35
3:00pm Alsdorf Auditorium, Regenstein Center	Evaluation Completion Visit: tinyurl.com/2017Summit
3:00pm Krehbiel Gallery, Regenstein Center	Tour the new Chicago Botanic Garden Nature Preschool & Regenstein Learning Campus Meet in the Krehbiel Gallery, Regenstein Center and walk to the learning campus.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING HEARD: RESPONSIVE CAREGIVING IN THE EARLY CHILDHOOD HABITAT. This keynote will highlight the growing evidence base for emotionally responsive caregiving and teaching, with special attention to young children’s verbal and non-verbal cues and ways to adapt learning environments, at school and at home, to maximize children’s potential for deep and unscripted learning.

Facilitated by: Erika Christakis, MPH, MA, M.Ed.



Erika Christakis is an early childhood educator and the New York Times best-selling author of *The Importance of Being Little: What Preschoolers Really Need From Grownups*. A former faculty member of the Yale Child Study Center, Erika’s work on child development has been featured in media such as TIME.com, *The Atlantic*, *The Washington Post*, *The Boston Globe*, CNN.com, *Salon*, NPR, and the *Aspen Ideas Festival*. An honors graduate of Harvard College, she holds Master's degrees in public health, communication, and early childhood education, and she is a Massachusetts-certified early childhood teacher and licensed preschool director. She is a mother of three grown children. For more

information, visit erikachristakis.com/author/.

KEYNOTE EXTENSION

CREATING A CHILD-SIZED LEARNING HABITAT: STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE EMOTIONAL ENGAGEMENT IN THE CLASSROOM. Through guided discussion and reflective exercises, this session will help teachers to plan the process of assessing and modifying their classroom habitats to foster greater emotional responsiveness and harmony. We will consider a holistic definition of classroom environment, including both implicit and explicit norms, expectations, instructional practices, use of materials and space, and relationships with children, colleagues, and families.

This session will be held from 11:20am-12:20pm in the Design Studio, Regenstein Center.

OVERVIEW OF BREAKOUT SESSIONS

- **BUILDING SUPPORT FOR YOUR SCHOOL: USING CHILDREN'S WORK TO SHOW LEARNING**

Learn ways to provide evidence of accountability beyond the use of standardized test scores. Use the powerful evidence that is visible every day in your classroom to communicate with other teachers, administrators, parents, and the community at large that children are learning in your program. View examples of newsletters, displays, and other communication pieces which show the value of active engaged learning. Learn how to integrate children's work into communication pieces that look professional, are persuasive, and advocate for play and other active engaged learning experiences.

This session will be held from 1:10-2:10pm in the Pullman Room, Regenstein Center.

Facilitated by: Judy Harris Helm, Ed.D., Best Practices, Inc.



Judy Harris Helm, Ed.D. helps schools integrate research through her consulting company, Best Practices, Inc. She is a national and international speaker and trainer on project work, engaged learning and documentation and assessment. Included in the nine books she has authored or co-authored are *Becoming Young Thinkers: Deep Project Work in the Classroom*; *Young Investigators: The Project Approach in the Early Years*; *The Power of Projects*; *Teaching Your Child to Love Learning: A Guide to Projects at Home*; and *Teaching Parents to Do Projects at Home*. To learn more, visit <http://www.bestpracticesinc.net/>.

- **CREATING A CHILD-SIZED LEARNING HABITAT: STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE EMOTIONAL ENGAGEMENT IN THE CLASSROOM: KEYNOTE EXTENSION. Facilitated by: Erika Christakis, MPH, MA, M.Ed.**

See page 4 for more information about this session and for Erika Christakis' bio.

- **CREATING YOUNG INVESTIGATORS: INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT APPROACH, PART A & B**

You can create active, engaged, meaningful learning experiences using the project approach in your classroom. Projects provide instruction in defining active, engaged meaningful learning, identifying interests, helping children learn to investigate, and supporting children's representation of their learning. The workshop is based on [*Young Investigators: The Project Approach in the Early Years*](#) by Judy Harris Helm and Lilian Katz. Topics include: Why Projects and Why Now? What is the difference between units, themes, and projects? Where are you? Where do you want to be? Flowchart of a project. Participants will also view a project from a real classroom.

This two-part session will be held from 10:10-11:10am and continue from 11:20am-12:20pm in the Pullman Room, Regenstein Center.

See above for Judy Harris Helm's bio.

- **FIGHT, FLIGHT OR FREEZE: ANATOMY OF A MELTDOWN.** When a child has a meltdown, it is not easy for anyone involved. In this workshop, participants will learn the difference between a tantrum and a meltdown. Using a neuro/sensory perspective, individuals will discover what is happening to the body when feeling overwhelmed, under attack, hijacked, and helpless. Three distinct stages of a meltdown will be described and discussed beginning with the identification of some triggers, signs and symptoms that may indicate a meltdown is starting. Appropriate prevention and intervention strategies at each stage will be provided. It's easy to get overwhelmed, frustrated, and even angry when a child is having a meltdown. By understanding the anatomy of a meltdown, everyone who cares for and teaches children will be better equipped to offer help and support during these challenging times.

This session will be held from 10:10-11:10am and 11:20am-12:20pm in the Lakeside Room, Visitor Center.

Facilitated by: Jennifer Rosinia, PhD, OTR/L, Kid Links Unlimited, Inc.



Jennifer Rosinia is a Registered Occupational Therapist with over 30 years of experience in pediatrics. A specialist in serving the needs of children birth to age three and their families, she also has extensive experience in working with children ages three to twenty-one years of age. Jennifer earned a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education and a Doctorate in Child Development from Loyola University and the Erikson Institute in Chicago, Illinois. A master clinician and a gifted teacher, Dr. Rosinia has a special interest in the neurobiological influences on a child's development including sensory processing, brain development, the role of emotions and the impact of relationships on the developing child. Adjunct faculty at the Erikson Institute, Jennifer has also taught courses and guest lectured at several colleges and universities around the Chicago area. With a growing national reputation as a powerful speaker and consultant, Jennifer brings a healthy balance of humor, passion, and expertise to all of her presentations. She is the president of Kid Links Unlimited, Incorporated, a company whose mission is to link theory to practice, parents with professionals, and kids with their optimal potential. To learn more, visit <http://www.kidlinksinc.org/>.

- **THE JOURNEY OF ART: SUSTAINING CREATIVITY THROUGH OPEN-ENDED ACTIVITIES.** Participants will reflect on their personal experiences with art and use those reflections to examine what type of art explorations are age and developmentally appropriate for young children. Individuals will explore the relationship between process/product approaches to teaching and learning. The *curve of creativity* will be discussed to further insights on how to choose meaningful classroom activities (from Howard Gardner and Project Zero's work at Harvard University on the development of creativity over the lifespan).

This session will be held from 10:10-11:10am and 1:10-2:10pm in the Linnaeus Room, Regenstein Center.

Facilitated by: Laura Reischel, M.S.Ed., Chicago Children's Museum



Laura Reischel is the Arts and Cultural Engagement Specialist at [Chicago Children's Museum](http://www.chicagokidsmuseum.org/) with over 20 years of experience as an arts administrator, educator, and exhibit developer with the museum. Prior to this position, she co-led the education department as Associate Vice President of Arts and Culture. Laura has led arts based early learning teacher workshops for Columbia College Chicago and given numerous related conference presentations for the National Art Education Association, the Association of Children's Museums, and the Chicago Metro Association for the Education of Young Children. She holds a Master of Science in Education from Bank Street College of Education and Bachelor of Fine Arts from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.

- **LET'S GO BEYOND "TRY, TRY AGAIN!" EXPLORING WAYS TO ENCOURAGE PERSISTENCE**
When we help children develop persistence, we're helping them with one of the most important tools for learning. But it's much more than just saying "Keep on trying." Through research findings, anecdotes from school and home, along with video clips from the "Neighborhoods" of Mister Rogers and Daniel Tiger, we'll explore messages and strategies that can help children keep on trying when they feel like giving up.

This session will be held from 10:10-11:10am and 1:10-2:10pm in the Design Studio, Regenstein Center.

Facilitated by: Hedda Sharapan, M.S., The Fred Rogers Company



Hedda Sharapan began working with Fred Rogers over 50 years ago at the very beginning of *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* in October, 1966, while completing her M.S. in Child Development at the University of Pittsburgh. Continuing to carry on his legacy, Hedda is a script consultant for the company's popular PBS children's series *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood* and continues to be invited to speak about his work at early childhood conferences all over the country. She is also the PNC Senior Fellow at The Fred Rogers Center working with over 300 hours of taped conversations between Fred Rogers and his script consultant, Dr. Margaret McFarland. Besides writing articles for professional journals, her professional development e-newsletter "What we can continue to learn from Fred Rogers" is sent monthly to more than 10,000 subscribers. For Chip Donohue's highly-acclaimed "Technology and Digital Media in the Early Years," she authored the chapter on what we can learn from Fred Rogers' approach to social-emotional learning connected to technology. For additional resources, visit the newsletter/video archive by Hedda Sharapan at www.fredrogers.org/professional/video/.

- **SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING AND QUALITY EARLY EDUCATION: REDUNDANT TERMS?**

In many ways, preschool and kindergarten are thought of as the time to prepare for later years of schooling, by focusing primarily on getting along in a group, following routines, and exploring objects and activities. Presumably, if a classroom is taught with warmth and humanity, children's absorption of social-emotional skills will happen naturally, such as through the resolution of playground conflicts and sharing of resources. Thus, if we have high quality early education, is explicit teaching of social-emotional skills really necessary? Isn't that what good teachers do all the time without needing an explicit program or curriculum? In this workshop, we will discuss: 1) the reasons why tacit social-emotional learning (SEL) is insufficient to meet the needs of modern schooling and modern life in general; 2) some of the most promising and doable methods for imparting social-emotional skills including mindfulness and compassion-based approaches; and 3) how teachers can use mindfulness and other self-care strategies along with students to reduce job stress and improve classroom climate.

This session will be held from 11:20am-12:20pm and 1:10-2:10pm in the Alsdorf Auditorium, Regenstein Center.

Facilitated by: Amanda Moreno, Ph.D., Erikson Institute



Amanda Moreno, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor at Erikson Institute where she teaches graduate students in child development, and conducts research on early education interventions that improve teacher-child relations and increase opportunities for children, especially those impacted by toxic stress and trauma. Currently, she is the Principal Investigator of a large randomized controlled trial of a mindfulness-based social emotional learning intervention in K-2 in the Chicago Public Schools. Her passion is supporting schools in creating a sense of belonging for young students, because when children love their learning environment, they develop a lifelong love of learning. To learn more, visit www.erikson.edu/about/directory/amanda-moreno/.

PLAN YOUR DAY

Breakout Session Registration

Prior to the Summit, we recommend that you use [Sched](#) to register for the breakout sessions you'd like to attend (see directions below). Some rooms have capacity restrictions, so only those who have pre-registered can be accommodated.

Please note if you pre-registered using Sched, on the evening before the Summit, you will receive an email outlining your personal event agenda. You can also follow the instructions below to access your schedule.

1. Go to <https://annualpreksummit2017.sched.com/>
2. Log in with your email address
3. Simply click on the sessions you want to attend
4. Click your Profile (your head or initials, top right)
5. Choose "My Sched" to save your schedule by taking a screenshot, printing or emailing it to yourself.

	Alsdorf Auditorium Regenstein Center	Pullman Room Regenstein Center	Design Studio, Regenstein Center	Linnaeus Room, Regenstein Center	Lakeside Room, Visitor Center	Burnstein Hall Regenstein Center
8:45-9:00am	Welcome					
9:00-10:00am	Keynote Address The Importance of Being Heard Erika Christakis					
10:10-11:10am		Creating Young Investigators: Introduction to the Project Approach (Part A) Judy Harris Helm	Let's Go Beyond, "Try, Try Again!" Hedda Sharapan	The Journey of Art Laura Reischel	Fight, Flight or Freeze: Anatomy of a Meltdown Jennifer Rosinia	
11:20am-12:20pm	Social-Emotional Learning & Quality Early Education Amanda Moreno	Creating Young Investigators: Introduction to the Project Approach (Part B) Judy Harris Helm	Creating a Child- Sized Learning Habitat: Keynote Extension Erika Christakis		Fight, Flight or Freeze: Anatomy of a Meltdown Jennifer Rosinia	
12:20-1:10pm						Lunch
1:10-2:10pm	Social-Emotional Learning & Quality Early Education Amanda Moreno	Building Support for Your School: Using Children's Work to Show Learning Judy Harris Helm	Let's Go Beyond, "Try, Try Again!" Hedda Sharapan	The Journey of Art Laura Reischel		
2:20-2:40pm	Defending the Early Years Blakely Bundy					
2:40-3:00pm	Conference Wrap-Up					
3:00pm	Online Evaluation					
3:00pm	Tour CBG Preschool & Regenstein Learning Campus (Krehbiel Gallery)					

CONFERENCE WRAP-UP FACILITATORS

Erin Booker, Winnetka Public School Nursery



Erin Booker has been the Director of the Winnetka Public School Nursery since 2011. Prior to directing this lovely preschool, she was a Developmental Therapist and an adjunct faculty member at DePaul University, Oakton Community, and Kendall Colleges. She brings over thirty years of early childhood expertise with a degree from Loyola University in Elementary Education and Curriculum Design. She has a Master's in Child Development from The Erikson Institute.

Blakely Bundy, M.Ed., Defending the Early Years & The Alliance for Early Childhood



Blakely Bundy, M.Ed., is currently the Co-Director a Defending the Early Years, a national early childhood advocacy group. For 25 years, she served at the Executive Director of The Alliance for Early Childhood and, before that, she was a teacher at Willow Wood Preschool. She's written numerous articles for publications such as *Childcare Exchange*, *Young Children*, *Early Childhood*, *Working Mother*, and the *Boston Parents Paper*. She holds a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education from National-Louis University and a BA from Wheaton (MA) College. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Chicago Children's Museum and heads the NAEYC Community Collaboration Interest Forum.

Stephanie Cardella, North Shore School District 112



Stephanie Cardella is the Director for School Improvement and Innovation at North Shore School District 112. As part of the Teaching and Learning Team, Stephanie leads initiatives dedicated to enhancing the student learning experience and supporting teachers' professional learning. Initiatives include experiential learning for kindergarten and first grade students, personalizing learning, creating student centered classrooms, and developing concept-based curriculum and high-quality assessments. North Shore School District 112 is proud to be an Associate Member of The Alliance for Early Childhood.

Beth Carmody, M.Ed., Hubbard Woods School



Beth Carmody, M.Ed., is currently the principal of Hubbard Woods School in Winnetka. Previously, Beth worked as a preschool and elementary school principal in Hong Kong and, most recently, as an elementary school principal in Lincolnwood. She also was a math instructional coach and differentiation coach in Deerfield District 109. Beth holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from St. Mary's College and a Master's of Education in Administration and Supervision from National-Louis University.

Mary Frances Greene, Ed.D., Middlefork School, Sunset Ridge School District 29



Mary Frances Greene has 26 years of experience in education. Since 2001, she has been the principal of Middlefork School in Northfield. She also serves as the Associate Superintendent of District 29, overseeing curriculum and professional development. Previously, Mary Frances was a primary and middle school teacher and the Assistant Principal of Avoca West Elementary School. Greene has a BS in Business Management from Boston College, a Master of Arts in Teaching from National-Louis University, and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Loyola University. She has served on the Advisory Board of the Alliance for Early Childhood since 2001.

Beset Sabourin, The Joseph Sears School



Mr. Beset Sabourin joined the district as the Director of Student Services in 2016. Prior to coming to The Joseph Sears School, Mr. Sabourin served as the Summer School Principal for Valley View School District and also led the Student Services Team at Martinez Middle School in Romeoville, IL. In this role, Mr. Sabourin initiated a student-led anti-bullying program and numerous social emotional and academic interventions. Mr. Sabourin's journey in the field of education began as a developmental trainer for children and young adults with developmental disabilities. In this role, he worked with families and children to provide home-based and community supports. After working in the community setting, Mr. Sabourin taught students with autism and other comprehensive learning needs in Champaign, IL as a special education teacher. He earned his Master's degree in special education at the University of Illinois and received his administrative licensure through North Park University.

Catherine Wang, Glencoe District 35



Catherine Wang is the Superintendent of Glencoe District 35. In her career as an educator, Catherine has served as a classroom teacher, Technology Director, Principal at the K-2 and 3-4 levels, and as Director of Curriculum and Instruction. Catherine earned her Bachelor's in Psychology from Middlebury College, a Master's in Education and Social Policy from Northwestern University, and a Doctorate in Education Leadership from Northern Illinois University. Catherine values the collaborative approach to education within District 35 and is a strong advocate for dedicating time and resources to educating the whole child.

SUMMIT RESOURCES

Please visit The Alliance's [Preschool-Kindergarten Summit webpage](http://www.theallianceforec.org/preschoolsummit.php) for links to resources submitted by each facilitator: <http://www.theallianceforec.org/preschoolsummit.php>. Additionally, following the Summit, videos of the keynote address and breakout sessions will be posted to [The Alliance's You Tube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCssAEGWjc73tqCb6GQYT75A). <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCssAEGWjc73tqCb6GQYT75A>

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOURS

Gateways to Opportunity. This event is Gateways to Opportunity Registry Verified and is able to award a Certificate of Completion for 4 Professional Development Hours, if individuals participate in all sessions. To receive your certificate, please: 1) return your Conference Session Information Form, and 2) complete the required online event evaluation at <http://tinyurl.com/2017Summit>. Upon submittal of the online evaluation, the Gateways Certificate of Completion will be emailed to you.

ISBE Continuing Professional Development. This event is ISBE verified and is able to award 5.5 hours of CPDU credit, if individuals participate in all sessions. To receive the Evidence of Completion, please complete the required online ISBE evaluation at <http://tinyurl.com/2017Summit>. Upon submittal of the online evaluation, the Evidence of Completion Form will be emailed to you.

SUMMIT EVALUATIONS

Exit Slips: After each breakout session, please complete an Exit Slip (provided in your folder) and turn it in to the facilitator. These will be used to develop the Conference Wrap-Up Session.

Event Evaluation: At the end of the conference, you will be asked to complete a short, online evaluation form. Please note:

- To receive a Gateways Certificate of Completion, you must: 1) return your Conference Session Information Form, and 2) complete the required event evaluation at <http://tinyurl.com/2017Summit>. Upon submittal of the online evaluation, the certificate will be emailed to you within 24-48 hours.
- To receive the ISBE Evidence of Completion Form, you must first complete the required ISBE evaluation at <http://tinyurl.com/2017Summit>. Upon submittal of the online evaluation, the Evidence of Completion Form will be emailed to you within 24-48 hours. Thank you for your input which provides valuable feedback!



ABOUT THE ALLIANCE

The Alliance for Early Childhood is a community collaboration organization, primarily serving Winnetka, Kenilworth, Northfield, Wilmette, Glencoe, and other communities on the North Shore. Our mission is to promote the healthy growth and development of children from birth to age eight by providing resources, programs, and support for parents, families, and early childhood professionals. Our membership consists of 52 schools and organizations, reaching over 8,000 children, parents, and educators annually. To accomplish our mission, each year The Alliance offers:

- advocacy on behalf of young children, both locally and nationally
- American Red Cross Babysitting classes for junior high students
- information on best practices in early childhood through a comprehensive website, social media, and our sixteen-page, biannual *Early Childhood* newsletter
- *Let's Play* family programs which provide children opportunities for unstructured, creative, child-directed play
- parent education opportunities, led by nationally respected researchers, authors, and early childhood leaders
- preschool surveys, conducted biennially, to share information about salaries, benefits, registration procedures, and other pertinent information among area schools
- professional development workshops and networking events for local early childhood educators
- ScreenBreak, an annual week held each March, to encourage families to turn off or reduce their use of technology and media and, instead, to pursue alternative activities
- Special Needs Roundtable which provides programming and support for parents and teachers of children with special needs
- Teacher Tributes to recognize and promote professional excellence
- Transition to kindergarten events to support positive transitions for students from preschool into kindergarten
- Twins and Multiples Roundtable which provides educational and networking opportunities for parents and teachers of multiples

UPCOMING ALLIANCE EVENTS

- **Parents As First Teachers: How to Cultivate the Whole Child.** Thursday, February 9, 7pm. Washburne School's Little Theater, Winnetka. *It is a fact: as a parent or caregiver, you are your child's first teacher, and what you do matters! Join a panel of accomplished presenters from The Alliance's Summit who will offer advice on how parents can build a responsive, supportive, emotionally-connected home environment. Presented in partnership with Family Action Network (FAN).*
- **Live Webinar - Promoting Executive Function Skills: Help Children Manage Emotions, Stay Organized, & Meet Goals.** Tuesday, February 21, 10-11am. *This webinar for educators and parents will discuss: 1) the different skills that make up executive functioning, 2) how children develop executive function skills, and 3) strategies to promote executive functioning through social interactions. Presented in partnership with Pathways.org.*
- **Let's Play Community Play Days.** Families come together to discover new area parks and promote the importance of children's unstructured play. February 25, 2-4pm; April 29, 9:30-11:30am; June 5-Wednesday, June 7, 9:30-11:30am.
- **23rd Annual ScreenBreak.** Sunday, March 5 – Saturday, March 1. *Children and their families are encouraged to turn off their televisions and other screens for a week, and enjoy alternative activities at home or at events coordinated throughout the community.*
- **Live Webinar - Play in the Classroom: Things You Should Know.** Tuesday, March 7, 10-11am. *This webinar for educators and parents will discuss: 1) the reduction in playtime in recent years, 2) different types of play & how they promote development, 3) children's play skills by age, and 4) alternatives to TV and tips for encouraging different types of play in the classroom and at home. Presented in partnership with Pathways.org.*
- **4th Annual Inspiring Nature Play Conference: Inside Out.** Wednesday, May 3, 9am-3:30pm. Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe. *Join this professional development event featuring keynote speaker Chip Donohue, Ph.D., Director of the Technology in Early Childhood Center at Erikson Institute. Come away with practical and effective ideas for incorporating nature play into your early childhood programs and curriculum. Presented in partnership with the Chicago Botanic Garden.*

Look for additional information and events at www.TheAllianceForEC.org and Facebook!