

Unity in Community

Ephesians 4:16

2019 Missouri District Spring Early Childhood Conference

A conference designed for those serving as early childhood educators with children from infant/toddlers to second grade. Directors, teachers, and classroom assistants will especially benefit from this professional development event.

Saturday, March 2, 2019

8:00 – 2:30

Immanuel Lutheran Church and School
632 East Highway N
Wentzville, Missouri 63385

Schedule

- 7:30 – 8:00 Registration/Continental Breakfast/Exhibitors and Vendors
- 8:00 – 8:15 Welcome and Opening Devotion
- 8:15 – 9:45 Keynote: Creating a Compassionate Culture in Which Children and Adults Thrive
Karen Hickman
- 10:00 – 11:00 Breakout Sessions
- 11:00 – 11:45 Lunch
- 11:45 – 1:15 Keynote: Creating Young Thinkers Through Project Work
Judy Harris Helm
- 1:30 – 2:30 Breakout Sessions with Sending

Registration Fee and Deadline

\$65 per person before or on February 22

Lodging Option

Courtyard by Marriot
4341 Veterans Memorial Pkwy
St. Peters, Missouri 63376
Phone: 636-477-6900

When making reservations by February 9, mention room block "Lutheran EC Conference" to receive the \$119 room rate.

MORNING KEYNOTE 8:15 – 9:45

Creating a Compassionate Culture in Which Children and Adults Thrive

Karen Hickman, a Conscious Discipline Master Instructor

It is time to shift from a *do as I say, not as I do* style of discipline to being the change we want to see. Identify the adult mindset shifts needed to shift from a traditional style of discipline based on rewards and punishments to a School Family™ style of discipline based on brain research, safety, connection and problem solving. Reignite your love for teaching while learning some helpful information about brain development and examining some of your core beliefs.

Karen Hickman provides training and coaching as a Conscious Discipline® Master Instructor nationwide and has traveled to present in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia twice. She has a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education and a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, both from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She has been in the field of education for 30 years, including teaching grades 4-6 in public school, operating an in-home preschool program for ten years and teaching as an adjunct professor for the University of Missouri-Columbia. Karen also has background experience as a Certified High/Scope Trainer and a Certified High/Scope Teacher. In 2003 the Central Missouri Association for the Education of Young Children honored Karen with the Outstanding Early Childhood Professional Award and in 2018, the University of Missouri honored Karen with the Alumni Professional Achievement Award. Karen loves sharing how her personal journey with Conscious Discipline has impacted her personally, her family, her role as an educator and her faith journey.

BREAKOUT SESSION 10:00 – 11:00

101 Creating Routines and Rituals: Wiring Children's Brains by Providing Safety and Connection

The brain likes predictability and routine, and at the same time novelty. Learn some ways to help children experience more safety and success through the use of routines, and also to experience more love through connecting rituals. You may walk away with a fresh perspective on the value of some of the more "mundane" things you do throughout your day and some ideas to add some sparks to continuing building healthy relationships with children, their families and your staff.

Karen Hickman provides training and coaching as a Conscious Discipline® Master Instructor. (See her complete bio in the keynote description.)

102 Fountas and Pinnell Classroom (FPC): An Overview

During this session, the components of the Fountas and Pinnell Classroom (FPC) will be reviewed. *Fountas & Pinnell Classroom™ (FPC)* is a cohesive, multi-text approach to literacy instruction for all students in grades PreK–6. The System is designed to support whole-group, small-group and independent learning opportunities including: interactive read-aloud, reading minilessons, shared reading, phonics/spelling/word study lessons, guided reading, book clubs, and independent reading collections. *Fountas & Pinnell Classroom™* is rich with authentic texts, lessons or conferring cards, minilessons and professional tools & learning for a systematic, transformative approach to literacy instruction.

Terry Thomas from BK Educational Resources will present this session. Her company represents Heinemann and Booksource in MO, IA and NE, which works to connect educators to the best resources, products and solutions to meet their specific educational needs.

103 The Young Scientist

The smallest children can have the biggest questions. How can you help bring out their inner scientist? Learn how to harness their natural curiosity while introducing science process skills, citizen science, critical thinking and more.

Kelsey Navin is the Early Childhood Programs Supervisor at the Saint Louis Zoo where she has spent over five years connecting young children to the natural world.

104 The Power of Words: How to provide appropriate vocabulary and oral language practice

Vocabulary knowledge is strongly linked to school achievement. Therefore, it is important that oral language opportunities be emphasized in preschool. This session will focus on appropriate oral language and vocabulary skills.

Janet Rinehart is the director for Project Construct and The Missouri Preschool Program Learning Communities Project. During the course of her 25-year career she has been a kindergarten teacher, preschool teacher, and college instructor. Janet received her bachelor's degree in Elementary and Early Childhood Education from Missouri Western State University. She earned her Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Missouri, Kansas City.

105 Foundational Living and Learning!

How did we grow in our faith-walk with Jesus in our classrooms this past year? Let's celebrate the many teachable faith moments we have the honor of experiencing in our early childhood classrooms with our young learners. We are so blessed and so humbled to serve as spiritual leaders in our schools! In our short time together, we will explore authentic, intentional ways to demonstrate spiritual literacy in the early childhood classroom.

Cheryl Haun has served as an early childhood teacher and/or administrator in Lutheran schools for the past 35 years. She strives to remain current in best practice in early childhood education, and to encourage and inspire her teachers to make continuous improvements in their craft. She is blessed to serve with a host of Christ-centered teachers at Zion Lutheran School.

106 Project Approach Presentations

Participants will see project work shared by Zion Lutheran School teachers. Enjoy hearing their stories and have an opportunity to ask questions from teachers implementing projects.

107 The Whys of Infants and Toddlers

Why is birth through three a critical time in Infant Toddler development? Why is constructivist approach a natural fit for infants and toddlers? Why is reading important to infants? Why are positive partnerships with parents necessary when caring for infant and toddlers?

Katie Mawer has worked at St. Charles Community College for 15 years. She is also a facilitator for Project Construct.

108 Don't Let the Pigeon-the Books of Mo Willems

Explore the many books of Mo Willems from Pigeon to Elephant Gerald and Piggie. Find out how to use these books to expand literacy and word awareness through a year-long focus. Remember! Don't let Pigeon mess with our workshop!

Diane Miesner has been an early childhood teacher for 33 years in Lutheran schools, public schools and an in-home preschool. She currently teaches three-, four-, and five- year-old children at St. Andrew Preschool in Cape Girardeau, MO. She has presented over 125 workshops locally, statewide and nationally. Her greatest passion is sharing the love of Jesus with her little friends and their families.

109 Directors Gather in Community

Early childhood directors are invited to gather during this session for informal discussion, networking and sharing of ideas. Rejoice in the Lord always as you share the joy of Jesus with all your little blessings, families, and staff.

Lee Wagner directs Early Childhood Education at Immanuel, St. Charles.

AFTERNOON KEYNOTE 11:45 -1:15

Creating Young Thinkers Through Project Work

Judy Harris Helm from Best Practices, Inc.

Intellectually stimulating learning experiences can help your children learn to think well. By providing opportunities and encouragement, you can enable them to develop content knowledge thinking skills and also the ability to stay focused, to persevere, to set goals and to follow through. Project work is another way to approach your curriculum that breathes life into your classroom, brings excitement to cooperative learning, and reminds you of why you wanted to be a teacher of young children. See how teachers are creating educational adventures by bringing project work to their classrooms.

JUDY HARRIS HELM assists schools and early childhood programs in integrating research and new methods through her consulting and training company, Best Practices, Inc. She began her career teaching first grade, then taught, directed, and designed early childhood and primary programs as well as trained teachers at the community college, undergraduate, and graduate levels. After completing her doctoral studies she returned to the classroom as Lead Teacher of four-year-old. Most recently she completed additional course work in Mind Brain Education at Johns Hopkins University. She is past state president of the Illinois Association for the Education of Young Children.

Dr. Helm is a national and international speaker and trainer on project work, engaged learning, and documentation and assessment. Included among the seven books she has authored, coauthored, or edited are *Becoming Young Thinkers: Deep Project Work in the Classroom*; *Young Investigators: The Project Approach in the Early Years*; *The Power of Projects*; *Windows on Learning*; *Teaching Your Child to Love Learning: A Guide to Doing Projects at Home*; and *Teaching Parents to Do Projects at Home*. Dr. Helm provides consultation and onsite training at UPC Discovery Preschool in Peoria, IL. at the *Becoming Young Thinkers Summer Institute*.

BREAKOUT SESSION TWO 1:30-2:30

201 Yes, You Can Do Project Work!

Project Work is not as daunting as it first seems when you understand that there is a structure, strategies, and methods that you can easily learn. This session introduces the structure of project work and resources available for learning about project work.

Judy Harris Helms (see keynote bio)

202 Fountas and Pinnell Classroom (FPC): An Overview

During this session the components of the Fountas and Pinnell Classroom (FPC) will be reviewed. *Fountas & Pinnell Classroom™ (FPC)* is a cohesive, multi-text approach to literacy instruction for all students in grades PreK–6. The System is designed to support whole-group, small-group and independent learning

opportunities including: interactive read-aloud, reading minilessons, shared reading, phonics/spelling/word study lessons, guided reading, book clubs, and independent reading collections. *Fountas & Pinnell Classroom™* is rich with authentic texts, lessons or conferring cards, minilessons and professional tools & learning for a systematic, transformative approach to literacy instruction.

Terry Thomas from BK Educational Resources will present this session. Her company represents Heinemann and Booksource in MO, IA and NE, which works to connect educators to the best resources, products and solutions to meet their specific educational needs.

203 Outdoor Exploration

Bring the outdoors in and the classroom outside! Research tells us that when children spend time in nature, they have better attention, are more creative and spend more time collaborating. We will share easy ways to connect to nature in and out of the classroom, no matter where your school is.

Kelsey Navin is the Early Childhood Programs Supervisor at the Saint Louis Zoo where she has spent over five years connecting young children to the natural world.

204 Wow! That Was Cool, but What Does It Mean?

This workshop will provide hands-on science experiences that can be used in an early childhood classroom. A connection will be made with the Missouri Early Learning Goals. Come prepared to play!!!

Janet Rinehart is the director for Project Construct and The Missouri Preschool Program Learning Communities Project. During the course of her 25-year career she has been a kindergarten teacher, preschool teacher, and college instructor. Janet received her bachelor's degree in Elementary and Early Childhood Education from Missouri Western State University. She earned her Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Missouri, Kansas City.

205 StoryMaking

Using the book, [StoryMaking: The Maker Movement Approach to Literacy for Early Learners](#), we will learn an approach for encouraging our young learners to develop their storytelling skills.

Andrea Lohman has been in the field of early childhood education for over 30 years serving in various roles. Currently she serves as an early childhood teacher at Zion Lutheran School, St. Charles.

206 Loose Parts Play

Preschool teachers can come play to learn answers to these questions: What are loose parts? Why are loose parts important? How do I incorporate loose parts into my classroom?

Chelsea Douglas is a teacher of three-, four-, and five-year old children at Zion, St. Charles.

207 Toddlers/Twos Teachers Gather in Community

A chance for teachers of toddlers and twos to collaborate on techniques, schedules, curriculum, potty teaching, parents, and social and emotional growth, and a host of topics that affect the world of the little blessings in our care.

Janelle Hendricks teaches in the preschool 2 room at Immanuel, St. Charles.

208 Preschool Teachers Gather in Community

Come and discuss current ideas and issues within our preschool classrooms. Let's learn from each other!

Julie Stanglein teaches preschool at Zion, St. Charles.

209 Kindergarten Teachers Gather in Community

Come and discuss current ideas and issues within our kindergarten classrooms. Let's learn from each other!

Darlene Rockenbach teaches kindergarten at Immanuel, St. Charles.

210 First/Second Grade Teachers Gather in Community

Come and discuss current ideas and issues within our first/second grade classrooms. Let's learn from each other!

Amy Bernhardt is a first-grade teacher at Zion Lutheran School, St. Charles.

Clock Hours

Conference participants receive 5 clock hours of professional development. Official Missouri Training Clock Hours are available for attending this conference. Participants requesting official training clock hours MUST sign-in during each session and provide their MOPD ID.

If you need a MOPD ID, you may obtain one by visiting
<https://www.openinitiative.org/toolbox/MOPDID/MOPDIDRequest.aspx>

Questions and Information

If you have any questions regarding the conference or need additional information, please be sure to contact:

Cheryl Haun chaun@zionharvester.org

Lee Wagner lwagner@immanuelstcharles.org

Alan Freeman alan.freeman@mo.lcms.org