

MAAEYC 2021 Spring Conference

Keynote: "Lyrics to Literacy: Read a Song and Song a Book"

Debbie Clement

Core Competency: 5

Join a nationally award winning author/illustrator of picture books in an inspirational look at her work. Learn the songs that become book text. Learn the sign language to support their performance. See the children's artwork from around the country in response to her quilted illustrations. We will sing. We will dance. We will sign. We will laugh. Some may cry. Join this joyous celebration where reading becomes a natural extension of singing. Create a print rich atmosphere through your circle time experience. Use rhythm and rhyme to anchor phonemic awareness as songs designed with brain research in mind use patterns and sequences that scaffold from verse to verse. You're invited to be delighted.

AM – 10:45 am-12:15 pm

1. Engaging Diverse Families (Part 1)
Linda Schumacher, Early Childhood Specialist
Core Competency: 3

Description: Meaningful engagement with families in an early childhood program supports children's early learning and later success. Early childhood educators have a unique position in the lives of children and families and need to explore strategies for partnering with families, especially diverse families. Examine how culture affects your own beliefs around family and parent engagement and how educators can create a climate of trust by honoring diversity and communicating in a collaborative way to support children's care and education.

2. The Art of Childhood
Katey Grossman, IEPD trainer
Core Competency: 5

Description: Exploration of art, music, dance, and drama bring us and our children joy. We all know it, but now research confirms and suggests that the arts can bring so much more to children. A recent study showed that children whose daily experience included music, dance, and visual arts demonstrated more cognitive gains overall than children who did not attend an arts-rich program. Equally important, the children showed greater gains in social-emotional development as well. Participants will reflect on their practice and create arts activities that support development across domains, integrating an arts curriculum design.

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3. Setting the Stage and Guiding Child-Directed Dramatic Play for Equity and Cultural Inclusion
Ellie Friedland, BU Wheelock College of Education and Human Development
Core Competency: 5

Description: In this workshop you will gain strategies for creating and guiding child-directed dramatic play that is culturally inclusive and actively anti-bias.

4. Safe Kids Thrive! Tips and Tools to Create Safer Environments to Keep Kids Safe from Abuse
Rayna R. Charles, Director of Family Support Training & Parent Education, Massachusetts Children's Trust; Tammy Bernardi, Prevention and Training Specialist, Massachusetts Children's Trust; Anthony P. Rizzuto, Child Abuse Prevention Consultant, Massachusetts Children's Trust, and the Massachusetts Legislative Task Force on the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse
Core Competency: 2

Description: As early childhood professionals, we all do our best to provide safe and healthy environments to help children thrive. Join this interactive workshop to identify concrete ways your early childhood program can evaluate and develop policies, procedures, and protocols to prevent abuse. Using a new website called "Safe Kids Thrive" (see safekidsthive.org), presenters will demonstrate practical and straightforward tools attendees will use to assess or create their own plan to promote child safety.

5. Block Play: It's More than "Just a Mess"
Meredith Burkett, Early Childhood Specialist & Trudi Wagner, Pre-K Teacher
Core Competency: 5

Description: Art and creativity come in a variety of forms in a multitude of experiences. Join us to learn how to support creativity through the use of purposeful block play in your program.

6. What's Right with You?
Holly Elissa Bruno, MA, JD, Award winning best-selling author, international keynoter, host of ActiveChildhoodUK, former Maine Assistant Attorney General, Dean and Associate Professor, University of Maine-Augusta
Core Competency: 2

Description: Children are often asked, overtly or covertly: "What's wrong with you?" Adults, too, focus on our faults, rather than our talents/strengths. Imagine changing the conversation to: "What's right with you?" as we seek the unique giftedness of each child, in our peers and ourselves?

A child is more than her diagnosis. An adult is more than her shortcomings. Join us in discovering how this simple change of perspective changes every interaction for the better. Rilke encourages us to "Learn to love the questions". "What's right with you?" is a question to love.

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7. Songs for Circle Time...or Any Time!
Hugh Hanley, Early Childhood Music/Play Specialist
Core Competency: 5

Description: Do you need some new music/play activities to rejuvenate your Circle Time singing sessions? In this participatory workshop we will share a variety of developmentally appropriate songs, finger-plays, and music activities that you can incorporate right away. You will discover techniques that make hands-on musical play an enriching, FUN part of your daily preschool curriculum.

8. Fostering Creative Thinking: STEM in the Early Years
Niloo Hennings, STEM Educator, Early Start STEM, LLC
Core Competency: 5

Description: STEM curriculum is open-ended, creative, and promotes critical thinking and problem-solving skills in a team building environment. In this interactive workshop you will use everyday materials to learn how to effectively implement STEM instruction in your program.

9. Mindfulness, Creativity and the Arts
Suzanne Wildman, Professional Development Facilitator
Core Competency: 5

Description: Mindfulness is being present in the moment. You might wonder “What does that have to do with the arts?” Let’s get creative! This hands-on workshop will help us to think “outside the box” to create meaningful mindfulness activities using the Arts.

PM – 1:25-2:55 pm

10. I’ve Got the Music in Me! How Music and Movement Help Kids Learn
Dotti McDevitt, Educator Trainer, Consultant, Coach
Core Competency: 5

Description: Research says children are kinesthetic learners so it only makes sense to combine our teaching with movement. Add some music and you have fun! You will leave with a plethora of ideas for incorporating music and movement into your teaching.

11. Engaging Diverse Families (Part 2)
Linda Schumacher, Early Childhood Specialist
Core Competency: 3

Description: Meaningful engagement with families in an early childhood program supports children’s early learning and later success. Early childhood educators have a unique position in the lives of children and families and need to explore strategies for partnering with families, especially diverse families. Examine how culture affects your own beliefs around family and parent engagement and how educators can create a climate of trust by honoring diversity and communicating in a collaborative way to support children’s care and education.

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12. Building and Maintaining Inspiration in the Early Childhood Community
Donna Gorman, The Inspirational Educator
Core Competency: 8

Description: Inspiration! We all had it at one time. We were inspired to change the world, teach the next generation, support each other, and really make a difference. Somewhere along the line many have lost their inspiration. Let's find ways to bring JOY back to the adults who are caring and educating young children.

13. Nature Art: Awaken, Nourish and Create Outdoors
Victoria Hackett, The Outdoor Classroom
Core Competency: 5

Description: Fostering a love for the arts and the outdoors can be done in so many different ways. In this workshop we will visit The Gardens for Art and Beauty and explore how the natural landscape and its loose parts can inspire nature-based art lessons around shapes, colors, properties, and patterns. Come ready to play, share, reflect and create. Leave feeling a new sense of wonder and creativity. Add boundless "Seeds of Inspiration" for outdoor learning to your teacher tool kit. This hands-on workshop will tap into your creative genius and will guide you to teach outdoors with confidence.

14. Supporting Children's Gender Development through Dramatic Play
Jen Francazio, Lead Teacher, Brown/Fox Point Early Childhood Education Center
Deborah Abelman, Director of Early Learning and Coaching, The Dimock Center
Core Competency: 2

Description: One of the ways young children explore and learn about their world is through dramatic play, often exhibiting strict rules around roles they and their peers can take. This can lead to conflict among the children. Through discussion and interactive activities, we will learn about how gender identity is formed and the ways we can support young children in the process. This workshop is appropriate for infant/toddler, preschool, and kindergarten teachers as well as the administrators and coaches who support them.

15. Open Ended Art: A Platform for All Learning Domains
Cynthia Parker & Kathleen Del Prete, Nion Early Education
Core Competency: 5

Description: Through open-ended art children have the opportunity for self-expression and creativity. It also provides a platform for science, math, and literacy. We will explore how art supports learning across all domains, tying the learning frameworks together.

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16. Ready, Set, Tell!

Shawn Middleton, Storytelling with Shawn Middleton

Core Competency: 5

Description: Add storytelling to your teaching repertoire! In this uplifting, high-energy and comprehensive workshop you will feel refreshed and excited to be able to introduce storytelling into your program. You will learn stories, songs, finger-plays and games from around the world that can be used immediately in your curriculum. We will explore different storytelling techniques to foster proactive listening, oral language and writing skills, as well as the sheer enjoyment of the magical imagination of stories.

17. Open the Doors to Learning: Linking the Creative Arts and Children's Literature

Debby Rawson Stratton, Preschool Program Director

Core Competency: 5

Description: Exploring the creative arts with young children can inspire problem-solving, stretch imaginations, and foster learning in powerful ways! Come and explore how to use all of the creative arts – visual arts, drama, music, storytelling, poetry and creative movement – to bring favorite stories to life while promoting early literacy skills. Bring your favorite children's book and together we will create a plan to infuse the Arts into your early childhood curriculum.

18. Trust and Affirmation: Making Monday Matter!

Debbie Clement

Core Competency: 5

Come add some polka-dot pizzazz to the day with nationally award winning author/illustrator and music-lady, Debbie Clement. We will gather for an energetic, UPbeat romp through her songs. We will focus on inclusivity and diversity, recognizing similarities we all share. We will each be reminded of the significance of OUR contribution to the lives of children. Your enthusiasm and energy will make a difference. It all begins with trust and grows with affirmation. Come recharge your battery. Take action! On Monday! (Put on your dancing shoes.)