



Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children

Professional Development Offerings, 2015-2016

Loose Parts: Using Everyday Items to Enhance Children's Creative Play

Monday, Dec. 14, 2015

6 - 9 p.m.

The Early Learning Hub in Hazelwood, 5006 Second Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15207

Loose parts are open-ended materials found, bought, or upcycled—acorns, hardware, stones, aluminum foil, fabric scraps, for example—that children can move, manipulate, control, and change within their play. Loose parts are alluring and beautiful. Natural or synthetic, they capture children's curiosity, give free reign to their imagination, and empower creativity. This session discusses the importance of offering experiences and activities that highlight the usage of "loose parts," within the early childhood classroom. Participants will discuss strategies for stocking, storing, and providing loose parts within their classrooms. Sample activity ideas and learning area implementation strategies will also be brainstormed.

PAEYC Online- Literacy Activities for School-Age Children

Monday, Dec. 21, 2015 - Monday, Jan. 4, 2016

PAEYC Online

This session contains a discussion on why it is important to continue to include basic language/reading activities in the daily lives of our school-age children. Questioning techniques and strategies will be offered so adults can check to see if children understand content. Additionally participants will create reading and writing activities using everyday materials. Booklists will be provided.

Info/Register: PA Keys website (www.pakeys.org)

PAEYC Online - Just Breathe: Discussing Ways to Relieve Workplace Stress

Monday, Dec. 21, 2015 - Monday, Jan. 11, 2016

PAEYC Online

This online course introduces participants to the causes and potential relief strategies of work place stress. Stress is a natural reaction to people's perception of something unfamiliar, out of their control, and/or a "threat" to their current state of being. The reaction to stress is a uniquely personal experience, and so is the way it is managed. Through varied group discussions as well as engaging exercises, participants will define stress; reflect upon their personal roles in the creation as well as reduction of stress; and think of personal as well as group strategies for relieving stress.

Scientific Thinking and Technology: Exploring, Inquiry and Discovery

Monday, Dec. 21, 2015 - Monday, Jan. 11, 2016

PAEYC Online

Science is everywhere and it's free! Young children, fascinated with the natural world, are ready to investigate and to develop a value for nature. This module will outline how teachers can use the outdoors as a classroom for children to explore and integrate these activities into their curriculum.

PAEYC Online- Developmentally Appropriate Practice: What Does It Mean for My Program?

Monday, Dec. 21, 2015 - Monday, Jan. 11, 2016

PAEYC Online

Developmentally appropriate practice requires that teachers make decisions daily based on their knowledge of child development, taking into consideration individual learning differences and social and cultural influences. This course will discuss how DAP can be implemented into any early childhood setting in an appropriate way to ensure all children are learning to the best of their ability.

Info/Register: PA Keys website (www.pakeys.org)

Ethics and the Early Childhood Educator

Monday, Dec. 21, 2015 - Monday, Jan. 11, 2016

PAEYC Online

What are ethics and why do they matter? NAEYC recognizes that those who work with young children face many daily decisions that have moral and ethical implications. This module takes a closer look at the NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct, and how it impacts and informs the work of early childhood educators.

School-Age Care: Communication

Monday, Dec. 21, 2015 - Monday, Jan. 11, 2016

PAEYC Online

Communication is the key to family involvement in out of school time programs. Strong positive cooperative relationships with parents and families are at the heart of quality out of school programs for school-age children and youth. In this course, students will learn strategies to improve communication skills to build positive relationships with families.

PAEYC Online- Book Clubs for School-Age Children

Monday, Jan. 4, 2016 - Monday, Jan. 18, 2016

PAEYC Online

Let's start a book club for children featuring books that interest them the most. Book discussions and activities children can do will be one of the features of this course. There will be a discussion on ways to include a children's librarian in the process.

Info/Register: PA Keys website (www.pakeys.org)

How Children Use Drawing to Regulate Their Emotions

Thursday, Jan. 16, 2016

6 - 9 p.m.

The Early Learning Hub in Hazelwood, 5006 Second Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15207

Learning how to regulate and express emotions is a key component of children's development. Children who are able to express and regulate their emotions respond to their environment in a positive manner. Children regulate their emotions in a variety of ways including comfort seeking, problem solving, information seeking and escape. The use of the arts in the early childhood setting helps children to share emotions in a way that is natural and supportive. The participants will learn ways to support children through this process. Strategies will be introduced and shared that will have a positive impact on the children and the environment.

Being Enchanted by Children: Finding a Balance Among Child Directed Learning and Direct Instruction

Thursday, Feb. 18, 2016

6 - 9 p.m.

The Early Learning Hub in Hazelwood, 5006 Second Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15207

The expectation of the child-directed environment is that children will be motivated to explore when exposed to an environment rich in a variety of stimulating materials and events. Through interactions with objects and events children will construct an understanding of cognitive operations. On the other hand, the teacher-directed environment holds a belief that it provides a structured environment, which is rich in stimulation, interaction, discussion, and activity, while teaching children to seek additional information. Through this session the participants will engage in conversation discussing how these two approaches come together to form a balance. We will discuss techniques and strategies to include in the environment to allow this to happen naturally but with intentionality.

Info/Register: PA Keys website (www.pakeys.org)

Supporting Conversations About Race and Culture in Early Childhood Settings: Beginning the Conversation - Session 1 of 4

Monday, Feb. 29, 2016 - Monday, March 14, 2016

PAEYC Online

The first in a series of modules to facilitate and expand early childhood equity and diversity efforts to support children, families and practitioners, this module will begin the conversation about race and culture by exploring, discussing and sharing our own experiences and the role culture plays in our lives. The group will decide on an agreement (ground rules) to support productive dialog and discuss necessary skills to support discussions about race. It will review some of the beliefs and values that are different than traditional American culture. An emphasis will be placed on the need for ongoing, intentional, meaningful discussions.

The Importance of Messy Art for Infants and Toddlers

Thursday, March 10, 2016

6 - 9 p.m.

The Early Learning Hub in Hazelwood, 5006 Second Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15207

The arts benefit children in many ways. As the developmental researcher M. Mayesky (2015) points out "the unstructured quality of well-designed art experiences allows children to experiment with their voices, bodies and familiar materials in various ways" (9). Through such experiences, young children, including infants and toddlers construct new and deepen existing ideas in their heads. They begin to learn about who they are, within their world through hands-on art and sensory play and the messier the better! This session will give participants the opportunity to discuss the importance of art and sensory play within infant/toddler environments. Observational and curricular strategies will be brainstormed and discussed. Ideas for "messy play", environmental experimentation, activity planning, and process affirmation will also be reviewed.

Info/Register: PA Keys website (www.pakeys.org)

Supporting Conversations About Race and Culture in Early Childhood Settings: Historic Perspectives and White Privilege - Session 2 of 4

Monday, March 14, 2016 - Monday, March 28, 2016

PAEYC Online

This module will briefly review American history from the perspective of People of Color—American Indians, African Americans, Latinos, and Asian Americans. The policies and institutional structures will be examined for equity back stories. The impact of these policies will be linked to equity and social justice today. Participants will have an opportunity to discuss and explore components of a model to effectively move toward change.

Supporting Conversations About Race and Culture in Early Childhood Settings: Planning Supportive Environments for Children and Families - Session 3 of 4

Monday, March 28, 2016 - Monday, April 11, 2016

PAEYC Online

In this module participants will begin to examine ways in which to plan supportive environments for children and families. We will begin by examining young children's identity development (e.g. social identity relative to race). Participants will identify and discuss classroom strategies for addressing biases.

Info/Register: PA Keys website (www.pakeys.org)

Supporting Conversations About Race and Culture in Early Childhood Settings: Planning Supportive Environments for Children and Families - Session 4 of 4

Monday, April 11, 2016 - Monday, April 25, 2016

PAEYC Online

This module will continue to examine ways in which to plan supportive environments for children and families. Emphasis will be given to the importance and value of enlisting and including families in the process. Participants will identify barriers and strategies to support family – teacher interaction/communication and will examine how their program supports diverse children and families.

The Role of Children's Toys: Open-Ended, Commercial and Electronic

Thursday, April 14, 2016

6 - 9 p.m.

The Early Learning Hub in Hazelwood, 5006 Second Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15207

Whenever walking down the aisles of a toy store or flipping through toy and material catalogs, you are faced with a multitude of choices: dolls, push/pull toys, stacking/construction toys, digital media toys, etc. We are often overwhelmed by the choices and do not know where to begin when attempting to purchase children's toys. When asked, parents and educators typically say that they want for children's toys to not only be fun but "educational." What does that mean though, especially since most children not only play with whatever toy is purchased, but also the box the toy was packaged in! This session discusses what "toys" are and why they are influential in young children's growth and development. A variety of play materials will be reviewed, including open-ended, commercial, and electronic. Participants will discuss and reflect upon how children's toys impact the various aspects of children's play.

Info/Register: PA Keys website (www.pakeys.org)