

MAISD



Muskegon Area
Intermediate School District

is proud to present:

Teaching
Learning
 **C**reating

**The Room Around You:
Enhancing Learning Environments**



A Conference for Early Childhood Educators

**August 18-19, 2008
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**Muskegon Community College
Overbrook Theatre
221 S. Quarterline Road, Muskegon, Michigan**

Teaching **L**earning **C**reating

The Room Around You: Enhancing Learning Environments

**The 2008 Early Childhood Conference
will feature:**

- **An exciting variety of sessions focused on enhancing learning environments in the classroom.**
- **Renewed energy for the new year.**
- **Positive Behavior Supports, ELLCO, and High Scope.**
- **Puppets, Transitions, and Scaffolding Children's Play.**
- **Time to share ideas.**



Monday, August 18, 2008

8:00 - 8:30 a.m. Registration - Overbrook

8:30 - 10:00 a.m. Keynote - Overbrook

The Whys of Room Arrangement, Dr. Pamela Phelps

The early childhood environment is much more than play materials and centers. The arrangement and the organization of the play area and materials will either support the children's optimal growth and development or create behavior problems and frustration for both adults and children. This presentation offers information that will help adults, working in pre-school environments, to choose play materials and arrange them for optimal experiences.

Dr. Pamela Phelps is Vice-President of the Creative Center for Childhood Research and Training, (CCCRT), a non-profit corporation, that provides training and program consultation for adults working with young children. CCCRT conducts and supports research and makes presentations to professional and non-professional groups on a variety of subjects concerning young children and their families. Dr. Phelps is an international consultant to the Republic of Indonesia on early childhood education and has conducted multiple national symposiums and workshops in that country. Author's website: www.cccrt.org.

Dr. Phelps has over 40 years experience working with young children and their families. For the past 30 years, she has been the Owner/Director of the Creative Pre-School in Tallahassee, Florida. Creative Pre-School has been chosen as a national and state model for the inclusion of young children with disabilities, and is a "Gold Seal" program in Florida. It is also the home of The Creative Pre-School Model Program Curriculum: Beyond Centers and Circle Time (published exclusively by Kaplan Early Learning Company of Lewisville, North Carolina).

Sponsored in part by Kaplan Early Learning Company



10:15 a.m. - 2:45 p.m. Breakout Sessions (See inside page.)

3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Creative Connections - Overbrook

Music & Movement in the Room Around You, Local Early Childhood Educators

Sing, dance, move, and strut your stuff with local Early Childhood Educators as they share their favorite music and movement to help your days flow smoothly. Transitions, openings, closings, fillers, and fun!



Monday, August 18, 2008

8:30 - 10:00 a.m. [Keynote - Overbrook](#)

10:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. [Breakout Session 1](#)

Ma Beyond Centers and Circle Time, *Dr. Pamela Phelps*

BCCT is a play-based program in which adults recognize the stages of children's play and provide rich stimulating play opportunities that enable children to reach their potential. Focus is upon understanding the stages of play and how to use that knowledge to scaffold play experiences.

Mb From Circle Time to Notes Home: Using Boardmaker Symbols to Enhance the Learning Environment of Your Early Childhood Classroom!, *Mary Purtee*

Learn how to integrate pictures and symbols throughout the entire school day using Boardmaker software. Leave this session with a multitude of ideas for utilizing symbols and pictures to enhance language and learning for *all* students in your early childhood classroom.

Mc Give It Time: Creating a Classroom Environment that Encourages Extended Experiments with Common Materials, *Catherine Loomis*

Using common materials, teachers can create an environment for experiments and activities that are fun and creative. This presentation will be a slide show of Catherine's classroom and play yard. You'll see children and teachers using fabric, sheets, pipes, cardboard, and other common stuff in fun ways.

Md ELLCO ~ Early Language & Literacy Classroom Observation, *Melba White Newsome*

Are early childhood classrooms giving children the best possible start in language and literacy development? Are you looking for a tool that specifically addresses environmental factors in early literacy and language development? The ELLCO is a field-tested observation toolkit designed for pre-kindergarten to third grade, that can help strengthen classroom quality and build better literacy programs. This workshop will introduce the toolkit used in over 150 pre-school classrooms, where reliability was 90 percent or better. We will cover: The Literacy Environment Checklist, Classroom Observation and Teacher Interview, and Literacy Activities Rating Scale from the toolkit.

Me Designing Your Classroom Around the Key Experiences, *Ginelle Skinner, High Scope Educational Research Foundation*

Learn how to design your classroom so that it incorporates the key experiences. Learn what materials to add to your interest areas so children can have key experiences. Also learn how to plan specific parts of the day to allow for these experiences that are so important to children's development.

1:00 - 2:45 p.m. [Breakout Session 2](#)

Mf Beyond Centers and Circle Time, *Dr. Pamela Phelps* (See Ma)

Mg From Circle Time to Notes Home: Using Boardmaker Symbols to Enhance the Learning Environment of Your Early Childhood Classroom!, *Mary Purtee* (See Mb)

Mh Give It Time: Creating a Classroom Environment that Encourages Extended Experiments with Common Materials, *Catherine Loomis* (See Mc)

Mi ELLCO ~ Early Language & Literacy Classroom Observation, *Melba White Newsome* (See Md)

Mj Key Experiences, *Ginelle Skinner, High Scope Educational Research Foundation* (See Me)

3:00 - 4:00 p.m. [Creative Connections - Overbrook](#)

**Music & Movement in the Room Around You, *Local Early Childhood Educators*
(See description on keynote page.)**

Tuesday, August 19, 2008

8:00 - 8:30 a.m. Registration - Overbrook

8:30 - 10:00 a.m. Keynote - Overbrook

Classroom Reflection Time: What Does Your Room Really Say About Your Teaching Practices?, *Dot Hill*

Creating an environment that encourages child initiation, participation, and appropriate social interaction should be the goal of every pre-school teacher. The physical classroom environment plays a great part in either creating or interfering with children's learning. Classroom professionals must conduct critical and honest assessments of their environments to ensure they are appropriately designed to meet the needs of their children versus meeting their own personal needs. Are you posting the same old stuff on the walls each year? Do you have to have your desk in the same place each year? How are children involved in designing your classroom environment? This session will challenge early childhood professionals to examine or re-examine their process(es) for designing their learning environment.

Dot Hill has been in the field of education for over 30 years as a teacher in both public and private schools, as a community college instructor and administrator, an executive administrator for non-profit human services agencies, and a national trainer and consultant.

Dot Hill's interest in classroom environments began in the sixties while working with severely emotionally disadvantaged and autistic children. During her graduate work, she was responsible for conducting classroom observations and assisting Head Start programs in creating developmentally appropriate environments.

While employed at the Region IV Chapel Hill Training Outreach Office in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, she coordinated and co-facilitated along with the authors of the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS), a statewide teleconference for child care professionals in North Carolina.

She continues to work with early childhood programs in classroom designs, environments, and teacher/student observation.

10:15 a.m. - 2:45 p.m. Breakout Sessions (See inside page.)

3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Creative Connections - Overbrook

Puppets In Play, *Ingrid Crepeau*

After 23 years in pre-school classrooms, Ingrid has many stories of the potent educational value of using puppets with young children and their teachers in creative play. Meet Victor Vampire, the puppet who became a gifted speech therapist. Watch the very hungry caterpillar transform into a butterfly through the magic of an ordinary brown paper bag. Experience the amazing teddy bear, who can encircle an entire classroom of children with one giant bear hug. Ingrid and her puppet friends promise to leave you with a smile and an enthusiasm for puppet play with your children.

Starting at the age of 6, Ingrid Crepeau has been a puppeteer for 54 years. She has won two (2) Emmies, was nominated for a Grammy, has been given a Henson Foundation Grant, and has had one of her puppets installed in the Smithsonian's permanent collection. Still what she likes most is to play with puppets!

Tuesday, August 19, 2008

8:30 - 10:00 a.m. Keynote - Overbrook

10:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Breakout Session 1

Ta Classroom Environment Makeover, *Dot Hill*

If you had an opportunity to have a classroom makeover, where would you start, who would you recruit for assistance, and what materials would you select? These are all important elements for creating and designing an appropriate environment. This session provides an opportunity for participants to learn and share ideas about their classroom environments, as well as review components of classroom assessment tools in the market today.

Tb A Show of Hands: Using Puppets with Young Children, *Ingrid Crepeau*

The purpose of this workshop is threefold: 1) give teachers new ideas for using puppets to support curriculum, 2) help develop teachers' confidence in using puppets, and 3) offer management techniques so puppets don't become weapons. Designed especially for teachers of young children, this step-by-step demonstration on how to animate puppets includes creative dummy jiggling, the *Anything* puppet, and more. Teachers learn how to transform accessible materials into puppets that are easy to manipulate and fun to watch. Fundamental puppeteering techniques of eye focus, lip sync, funny voices and Ingrid's *school of laughter* will help the teachers to use this powerful and motivating teaching tool - The Puppet!

Tc Early Childhood Classrooms: Creating Spaces for Exploration, Learning, & Creativity, *Angelyn Leaver*

Participants will be transported to the Muskegon Area Career Tech Center Early Childhood Development Pre-school Laboratory for this session. The laboratory setting will be used as a starting point to talk about what constitutes a balanced learning environment. Some of the topics explored will include: factors that affect the organization of space, setting up activity areas, and criteria to consider when choosing materials and resources.

Td Terrific Transitions, *Mary VanHouten*

Got two minutes? Join us for a make-it, take-it session to fill those two minutes with fun, creative learning activities that your children will love; and they won't know they are transitioning during their day. These transitions are a great way to get COR anecdotes and individualize for each child. Come ready to have a good time and leave with activities to use in your classroom this fall.

Te Positive Behavior Supports for Young Children, *Rylee Beauvais & Pam Land*

Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) is a framework and philosophy for teaching children how to be successful in the school setting. In this session, you will learn how to use behavioral occurrences as a way to teach children how to better meet their own needs. It is a positive approach with the goal of establishing preventative environments that build relationships and provide the conditions for teaching children appropriate social skills and behaviors.

1:00 - 2:45 p.m. Breakout Session 2

Tf Classroom Environment Makeover, *Dot Hill* (See Ta)

Tg A Show of Hands: Using Puppets with Young Children, *Ingrid Crepeau* (See Tb)

Th Early Childhood Classrooms: Creating Spaces for Exploration, Learning, & Creativity, *Angelyn Leaver* (See Tc)

Ti Terrific Transitions, *Mary VanHouten* (See Td)

Tj Positive Behavior Supports for Young Children, *Rylee Beauvais & Pam Land* (See Te)

3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Creative Connections - Overbrook

Puppets In Play, *Ingrid Crepeau* (See description on keynote page.)

Registration Information

The Room Around You: Enhancing Learning Environments

A Conference for Early Childhood Educators

August 18-19, 2008 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Muskegon Community College

One registration form per person. Form may be reproduced as needed.
Faxes accepted at (231) 773-1028
or register on-line at www.muskegonisd.org/development.

FACILITY LOCATIONS:

- ◆ **MAISD** - 630 Harvey Street
 - ◆ **Head Start** - 630 Harvey Street
 - 1** **Wesley Campus** - 913 Wesley Avenue
 - 2** **Wally/Science Center** - 1624 Wesley Avenue
 - 3** **Muskegon Area Cancer Task Center** - 280 Harvey Street
-
- 4** **Muskegon Community College (MCC)**
 - 5** **MCC Stevenson Center for Higher Education**

Target Audience:
Early Childhood Educators

College and SB-CEU Credits:
Available at an additional cost.

Cost: \$125.00 per person
(includes refreshments, lunch,
and materials)

Deadline:
Monday, July 21, 2008
No refunds after this date.

Questions: Call Cindy Rhine
at (231) 767-7266.



Photos: By registering for this event, I give the MAISD permission to use my image to promote future professional development opportunities.

No phone registrations accepted.

Please send registration form, with purchase order or check made payable to MAISD, no later than Monday, July 21, 2008, to:
Registration Secretary, MAISD, 630 Harvey Street, Muskegon, MI 49442
Faxes accepted at (231) 773-1028.

• REGISTRATION FORM •

The Room Around You: Enhancing Learning Environments

Breakout Choices

(Please identify breakouts by letters)

| | 10:15-12:00 Session 1 | 1:00-2:45 Session 2 |
|---------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Monday | | |
| 1st choice | | |
| 2nd choice | | |
| 3rd choice | | |

Breakout Choices

(Please identify breakouts by letters)

| | 10:15-12:00 Session 1 | 1:00-2:45 Session 2 |
|----------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Tuesday | | |
| 1st choice | | |
| 2nd choice | | |
| 3rd choice | | |

Please identify breakouts by letters and list 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice options for each time period. Participants will be assigned 2nd or 3rd choice only if 1st choice is not available.

Name: _____

Home Address: _____ Phone: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Position: Administrator Teacher Classroom Assistant
 Parent Other

School District: _____ School Building: _____

Program: Head Start MSRP Even Start
 Tuition Pre-K Other

E-Mail Address: _____

Special Dietary Needs _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ Purchase Order Number: _____

It is the policy of the MAISD that no staff member, candidate for employment, program participant, or recipient of services shall experience discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, creed or ancestry, age, gender, height, weight, marital status, or disability. The MAISD is an equal opportunity employer. Inquiries related to issues of discrimination on the basis of disability should be directed to the Assistant Director for Special Education at (231) 767-7249. All other discrimination inquiries or requests for special accommodations to participate in a program, event, or activity should be directed to the Human Resources Program Director at (231) 767-7213.