

Massachusetts Association for the Education of Young Children

presents



Children: Our Link to the Future

A Conference for Early Educators & Administrators

March 24 & 25, 2017

Westford Regency Inn &
Conference Center
219 Littleton Road
Westford, MA 01886



CELEBRATING OUR 13th ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE

**Massachusetts Association for
the Education of Young Children**
PO Box 1771
Sagamore Beach, MA 02562

.5 CEUs available for each day pending approval!

Massachusetts Association for the Education of Young Children

KEYNOTE SPEAKER & REGISTRATION

Early Childhood Professionals: The Heroes of Our Time

Richard Cohen, M. A.

This powerful, fun, thought-provoking keynote address includes music, opportunities for reflection, interactive discussions with the audience about the stresses and triumphs of the early childhood teacher/caregiver, singing, poetry and (believe it or not) dancing in the aisles! Audiences come away cheering, energized and filled with honor for the unique contribution they are to society.



About Richard Cohen

Richard Cohen, M.A. has proudly been an early childhood professional for thirty years.

For the last twenty years, Richard has traveled the world as a motivational speaker/instructor, facilitating fun, innovative, thought-provoking, interactive adult learning experiences for communities of early childhood teachers, administrators, caregivers and parents. Currently Richard is a full-time professor of Early Care and Learning at St. Louis Community College in Ferguson, Missouri.

Conference Registration Form

Registration closes on **March 1, 2017**. Register early!

- A free continental breakfast consisting of fresh fruit, assorted fruit breads and muffins, danish and croissant, coffee, tea, and fruit juices will be available in the exhibit hall both days.
- LUNCH In an effort to reduce the price of the conference, we will not be providing lunch either day. We hope that allowing you the option to make your own lunch choice will keep the conference affordable to all.
- There will be two options for lunch: Friday & Saturday: The cost is \$22 and must be pre-paid with your registration. The hotel will also offer pre-made sandwiches and salads for sale. Selections will be different both days. Vegetarian options will be available. • Within five minutes of the hotel (by car) is every fast food restaurant you can think of. You are free to leave the premises and purchase food to go.
- There will be no refunds after March 1, 2017. Cancellation prior to March 1, 2017 will incur a \$25 processing charge, no matter what the circumstances.
- All refund requests must be made in writing.

Two Ways to Register

1. Online at www.massaeyc.com

OR

2. Mail a check or money order payable to **MassAEYC** along with the registration form to:
MassAEYC
PO Box 1771
Sagamore Beach, MA 02562

(Please Print Clearly)

Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Position: _____ Program: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Registration Fees	Fri	Sat	Both
NAEYC Member	\$90	\$90	\$160
Non-member	\$115	\$115	\$220
Student NAEYC Member	\$65	\$65	\$125
Student Non-NAEYC member	\$80	\$80	\$160
Groups of 4 or more from the same organization that are NAEYC members	\$80	\$80	\$160
Groups of 4 or more from the same organization that are Non-NAEYC Members	\$100	\$100	\$200
Lunch-Soup & Salad	\$22	\$22	\$44

Workshop Selections	1st choice	2nd choice	3rd choice
Friday Workshop			
Saturday morning workshop			
Saturday afternoon workshop			

In order to qualify for CEUs for the Saturday Conference you must select a workshop in the same core competency area for both the am and pm session.

PAYMENT	Registration Fee	Lunch fee (optional)	Total
Friday			
Saturday			
Both days			
TOTAL			

SCHEDULE OF WORKSHOPS | Friday, March 24, 2017

Workshops

9:30 A.M.—3:45 P.M.

F-1. Creating Early Childhood Environments that Welcome and Support Children with Gender Expansive Behavior and Children and Families with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Parents/Guardians. Ellie Friedland, Associate Professor & Co-chair, Early Childhood Education, Wheelock College **Core Competency #2**

Interactive workshop to develop and practice: Strategies and skills to create welcoming environments for gender non-conforming children and LGBTQ families and their children. Understanding and supporting children with gender expansive behavior, and their families. Understanding the special issues and needs of LGBTQ parents and their children. Advocating for change by confronting homophobia and heterosexism.

F-2. Designing and Offering Professional Development for Educators. Jody Figuerido, President: The Institute for Education and Professional Development, Inc. **Core Competency #8**

Professional development or “training” should be engaging and effective. Through thoughtful design, training can result in more competent educators resulting in better outcomes for all young children. Professional Development design includes considering the following; who, what, when, where, and how. In this training, participants will learn about the characteristics and motivation of adult learners, the elements of professional development design, and implementation strategies. Information will be provided regarding applying for and meeting the requirements for continuing education credits or MA Department of Early Education and Care training credits.

F-3. The Science of Brain Development: The Role of the Early Childhood Provider. Katherine Begin, MA, Early Childhood Consultant **Core Competency #1**

The early years are critically important because a child’s early life experiences create the foundation for lifelong learning, behavior, physical and mental health. Current brain research offers us great insight into our critical role as an educator and care provider.

F-4. Planning and Implementing Activities in a Mixed-Age Program. Linda Schumacher, Early Childhood Specialist **Core Competency #5**

Children grow and learn naturally in mixed-age groups. Younger children watch and learn from the “experts” including important cognitive and social skills. Older children can explore the same materials more deeply and gain self-confidence by teaching and interacting with younger children. However it can be challenging to balance safety, active learning, and the individual needs of each child. Participants will explore what the research shows about multi-age groups in early childhood, and, through discussion and interactive activities, plan to meet the needs of a multi-age group of children.

F-5. Strengthening Families Approach and the Protective Factors. Rachel Wallace, M.ed, Lead Toddler Teacher **Core Competency #3**

The Strengthening Families approach was developed by The Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) after conducting research on early care and education programs across the country. Starting in 2001, the CSSP began documenting the role early education and care programs can have in the reduction of child abuse and neglect. As a result of this study, a new framework and approach to the prevention of abuse and neglect emerged. The researchers found a positive link between good early childhood education and care programs and the reduction of abuse and neglect. This training will include a history of the Strengthening Families Approach, risk and protective factors, strategies to support families and the early childhood educator self-assessment.

F-6. Games for Young Mathematicians: Mathematics Learning, Persistence, and Growth Mindset in Preschool. Kristen Reed & Jessica Young, Research Scientists **Core Competency #5**

Children are never too young to have meaningful mathematical experiences. In this session, participants will play mathematics games, watch video of children engaging in mathematics, and discuss early mathematics and persistence. Participants will leave with new ideas and resources.

F-7. Inspiring Early Childhood Leadership: Key Strategies to Ignite Passion and Transform Program Quality!

Susan MacDonald, Professional Speaker, Coach and Author

Core Competency #8

This unique workshop integrates well-researched inspirational and motivational leadership techniques with the current standards for high quality early education & care. Participants will explore how leaders can find new & empowering ways to adapt to the evolving world of early childhood education.

F-8. The Gift of the Teachable Moment. Johanna Booth Miner, Director/owner Live & Learn Early Learning Center & Sarah Miner, Director Live & Learn Early Learning Center

Core Competency #5

In a world that is fast paced and goal oriented it is hard to remember to follow the lead and interest of the children. Time schedules and “to-do lists” often take priority over the slug wandering slowly or the discovery of what lives under the log! Nature gives us a host of discoverable moments no matter where you are. Come and explore how to follow the children’s wonder and discover nature based curriculum that grabs their interest. Participants will examine intentionally gearing the environment and curriculum for every child. Come gain helpful classroom hints and share your success stories or get help brainstorming techniques for challenges.

F-9. Ready, Set, Tell! Shawn Middleton, Storyteller

Core Competency #5

Add Storytelling to your teaching repertoire! This is an uplifting, high-energy and comprehensive workshop. Participants will feel refreshed and excited to be able to introduce storytelling into their classrooms. Participants will learn stories, songs, finger plays and games from around the world that can be used immediately in their curriculum. Teachers will learn different storytelling techniques to foster proactive listening, oral language, and writing skills and the sheer enjoyment of the magical imagination of stories.

F-10. Proactive Workshop for Better Classroom Management: Finding Solutions to Challenging Behaviors. Megg Thompson, Certified Behavior Consultant **Core Competency #2**

When trying to find solutions to challenging behaviors in a classroom, it is important to start by asking the question, “Who is this child?” Discovering the child’s natural temperament, strengths, preferences, communication style, needs, and motivations is essential in determining how to structure your relationships and the environment to meet the needs of all children. You’ll explore how you can adjust your temperament/environment to benefit all children.

F-11. Tech Beginnings: Developmentally Appropriate Coding and Robotics Activities for Young Children. Ann Gadzikowski, Early Childhood Coordinator, Center for Talent Development

Core Competency #5

Tech experts tell us that “coding is the new literacy” but when should young children begin learning about computer programming? In this session we’ll explore developmentally appropriate activities that introduce coding and robotics concepts using a rich variety of teaching materials, both traditional and new.

F-12. Building Environments and Activities that Engage Young Children. Debra Johnston Malden, Professor

Core Competency #5

Early Childhood Educators realize the importance of creating meaningful environments for children. In this workshop, Educators will examine their own family child care or center setting, and learn how to ensure meaningful interactions that encourage children’s minds, bodies and spirits are actively engaged.

F-13. Building Structures with Young Children. Dotti McDevitt, M. Ed, Training Consultant **Core Competency #5**

This workshop addresses the developmental benefits of building structures with young children. Participants will explore materials and accessories, which may be used to engage children in discovery & meaningful play with the processes of building structures through open-ended & focused play.

SCHEDULE OF WORKSHOPS | Saturday, March 25, 2017

Morning Workshops 10:15 A.M.—12:15 P.M.

- A-1. Navigating the Language Immersion Preschool Classroom**
Mirjam Schnupf, M.Ed & Yvonne Aust, M.A.
Core Competency #5
Gain practical tips, tricks and tools to foster language learning in a language immersion preschool classroom. Participants learn how to navigate language barriers and gain a toolkit for different classroom situations. Explore how to adapt these tools for your setting.
- A-2. Primitive Reflex Integration: Developing the Brain from the Bottom Up!** Christina Grace Schlupf, Co-Owner of Brain Fit Academy, Inc. **Core Competency #1**
School readiness begins in utero. Addresses interrupted development of Primitive Reflexes, automatic movement patterns which set the neurological system up for physical, emotional and cognitive success. Come learn this pro-active approach for any age and any stage of child development.
- A-3. Enhancing Early Literacy Skills through Read-a-louds.**
Dawn Denaro, Director/Lead Teacher **Core Competency #5**
Participants will be encouraged to learn new and intentional ways of incorporating literacy skills into their circle and read-a-loud times. Participants will be inspired to pre-read text, choose meaningful vocabulary words, and enhance comprehension, all while connecting curriculum to Common Core and Early Learning Standards.
- A-4. Can the Teachers Come Out To Play? Supporting Children's Learning Through Our Play.** Jessie Trowbridge, M.A.
Core Competency #5
In this rejuvenating, hands-on workshop, early childhood educators will engage in play with open-ended materials. We will discuss the role of play in development, the relationship between learning standards and play, and how emphasizing play can enhance curriculum and enrich the classroom experience.
- A-5. The i-Child: Straight Talk About Technology, Devices, and Young Children.** Katherine M. Begin, MA
Core Competency #2
Babies to school-agers are digital consumers using TV, computers, gaming systems, smartphones and tablets. Technology presents great opportunities, but these opportunities come with great risks. This workshop explores the positive and negative influences of technology upon the developing child.
- A-6. Creating a Mindful Classroom Using Fun Self-Regulation Skills.** Kellie Norrgard, Mindfulness Instructor
Core Competency #2
Bring your questions and challenges to the front! We will explore hands-on activities to support Mindfulness and Self-Regulation skills. You will learn step by step strategies that empower you to create a Mindful Classroom.
- A-7. Can a Princess Marry a Princess? Gender and family structure in the early childhood classroom.** Kendra Bucklin McDuffee, Lead Teacher, Pathways to Nature Preschool at Mass Audubon's Boston Nature Center **Core Competency #5**
This workshop will explore gender as it relates to the preschool classroom. Participants will have an opportunity to evaluate real-life examples of gendered curriculum and discuss pros and cons. Please wear comfortable "play clothes" as we will be moving around, interacting with typical classroom materials including art supplies.
- A-8. Beyond Counting: Math All Day, Every Day for Under 5s**
Marlene Kliman & Audrey Martinez-Gudapakkam, TERC
Core Competency #5
Explore hands-on activities combining math with literacy, crafts, movement, and science. Learn playful ways to help children investigate patterns, measurement, reasoning, and shapes—important for school success. Presented by creators of a math program developed for YMCA Early Learning Readiness.
- A-9. Fine Motor Skills...Write Out of the Box.**
Marianne Gibbs, EdD, OTR/L **Core Competency #1**
Occupational therapist and NAEYC presenter shares rationale and engaging activities with a twist for the WHAT's, HOW's, and WHY's of hand skill development to support future, efficient hand writing and scissor skills of young children 3-6 years old. Transformational workshop for all!
- A-10. Integrating Art, Music, Storytelling and Writing.** Eric Velázquez, Author and Illustrator **Core Competency #5**
This workshop integrates culture, art, dual language acquisition and literacy to illustrate how to merge students' cultural backgrounds into everyday lessons. Educators will learn how to incorporate music and art with reading and writing to create personal stories that also teach new vocabulary while expanding the student's world.
- A-11. Wearing Multiple Hats. Teaching Colleagues' Kids.**
Johanna Booth-Miner & Sarah Miner, Live & Learn Early Learning Center **Core Competency #8**
In Early Childhood there is often the juggling of many roles. One of the hardest juggle is that of having a colleague's child in your class. Boundaries are blurry to say the least. All children come wrapped in families that are supported and welcome in our classrooms. When that family member is there all the time we can feel judged, put on the spot for "special favors", or have a family member who has access to information that is not needed to be shared. In this workshop we shall explore what pushes our buttons. Through scenarios and small group work the participants will look at resolution, conflict management and values clarification.
- A-12. Math + ART.** Joe Cepeda, Author and Illustrator
Core Competency #5
This workshop integrates science, mathematics and drawing as a way to explore and practice the arts. Joe's passion for merging the disciplines exploration on how to integrate art into everyday lessons thereby motivating and engaging children and fostering a spirit of adventure.
- A-13. Proactive Workshop for Better Classroom Management: Finding Solutions to Challenging Behaviors.**
Megg Thompson, Certified Behavior Consultant
Core Competency #2
When trying to find solutions to challenging behaviors in a classroom, it is important to start by asking the question, "Who is this child?" Discovering the child's natural temperament, strengths, preferences, communication style, needs, and motivations is essential in determining how to structure your relationships and the environment to meet the needs of all children. You'll explore how you can adjust your temperament/environment to benefit all children.
- A-14. How to Build Resiliency as a Center Director.** Patricia Sinclair, Resilient Leadership **Core Competency #8**
Why do some leaders bounce back from adversity and challenge? Why do others fall apart? Find out which character strengths make all the difference — and how you can develop them yourself.
- A-15. Sharing Your Power.** Richard Cohen, M.A.
Core Competency #8
Discover, through a revealing role-play, the ways in which we use our power for and against the children we serve.
- A-16. Una introducción a la competencia cultural.** Hannah Riddle, Trainer & Founder **Core Competency #3**
Explorar y practicar el concepto de la competencia cultural. La diversidad se presenta en varias maneras en nuestro trabajo con niños pequeños, sus familias y nuestros compañeros. En esta sesión aprenderás como trabajar con los desafíos con calma y seguir desarrollando la habilidad de competencia cultural.

SCHEDULE OF WORKSHOPS | Saturday, March 25, 2017

Afternoon Workshops

1:30 P.M.—3:30 P.M.

- P-1. **Tender Topics**, Richard Cohen, M.A. **Core Competency #2**
Talking with children about difficult subjects like race, sex, death and war can often prove challenging. This workshop provides strategies and, through role-plays, practice.
- P-2. **Introduction to Cultural Competence**, Hannah Riddle, **Trainer and Founder Core Competency #3**
Practice and explore the concept of cultural competence. Diversity presents itself in many ways when working with young children, their families and colleagues. Learn how to gracefully work through these challenges and develop cultural competence.
- P-3. **The Toddler's Mathematical Mind: The Montessori Approach**, Toko Odorczyk, Outreach Coordinator at Montessori School of Greater Hartford **Core Competency #2**
Children, from the day that they're born, are mathematicians. Toddlers have the ability to understand concrete forms of math long before counting and traditional mathematical symbols are introduced. The workshop will focus on the unique methods in which toddlers process information and the many ways in which the Montessori Teacher aids the small child in the development of their mathematical mind.
- P-4. **Remember the Days When you were Six or Seven Years Old? Shawn** Middleton, **Storytelling with Shawn Core Competency #5**
You're laying down on your back in the backyard or on a trail when you gazed up at the sky and your imagination ran wild. The clouds, trees, rocks and animals came together with characters and an adventure. Before you knew it, you created a story in your head. This is an inspiring workshop that will bring your class back to nature while learning some incredible storytelling techniques. You will walk away with new nature stories and outside activities to use with your students.
- P-5. **Bullying**, Megg Thompson, Certified Behavior Consultant **Core Competency #2**
All children should be free to grow up in a world without oppression. Yet the statistics related to the form of oppression called bullying continue to increase. This pattern of intentionally inflicting harm on others for the sole purpose of intimidation must stop. In this session, you will contrast peer conflict to bullying, and learn how and when to step in to protect children from each other.
- P-6. **The Preschool Classroom Without Walls**, Tracy Martin-Turgeon, **The Children's Workshop Core Competency #5**
In this interactive preschool training, participants will engage in activities and get ideas on how to move their classroom learning environment outdoors. They will have opportunities to create and design spaces for an outside classroom which will include; fine motor, gross motor and a focus on STEAM activities. In this fun learning environment participants will learn how to incorporate strategic thinking, communication skills, and enhance cognitive skills with their students in an outdoor environment. When children spend more time outside it improves and helps children intellectually, academically, and socially. This is not a sit back and listen kind of workshop get ready to gear up and have a fun filled afternoon!
- P-7. **A View from the Swing Set: We'll be Outside Looking at Play**, William H. Strader, Ed.D & David Reeves, Marketing Director, Grounds For Play **Core Competency #5**
"Play in the lives of young children, has come into a stronger focus over the past few years. Our "lens" is Outdoor Play Spaces, how they are designed and created to support children's play (in all [5+1] developmental domains)!"
- P-8. **Sticks, Stones and State Standards: Learning through Nature Play**, Lauryn Cannon, Preschool Teacher Naturalist & Claire Harris, Lead Teacher/Assistant Director **Core Competency #5**
Climbing trees, turning over rocks, splashing in puddles: how can we use nature play to support developmental goals in early childhood? Join us for a discussion on how nature play can be an extremely valuable mechanism for framing optimal learning experiences both within and outside the classroom.
- P-9. **Not "Two" Young for Math**, Michael Ruzza, Early Childhood Consultant **Core Competency #5**
No child is too young to learn math. It is all in the approach. Come see how you can and in many cases already, teach your child necessary math skills.
- P-10. **To Pin or Not to Pin**, Dotti McDevitt, Training consultant **Core Competency #5**
Need an activity? Grab your phone! Gone are the days of heavy curriculum books and subscriptions to magazines. Teachers now go to Pinterest for ideas. But are all of these pins developmentally appropriate and do they meet the standards?
- P-11. **Surviving Multi-generational Staff and Creating Strong Teams: How do I work with Her?** Johanna Booth-Miner & Sarah Miner, Live & Learn Early Learning Center **Core Competency #8**
Today, it is very common in early childhood to have a multi-generational teams. Each generation has its unique mindset, work style, and ways of communication. Directors need to recognize how to motivate team members individually and capitalize on strengths each member brings to the team. Teaching teams need to understand attitudinal and behavioral differences among team members of different generations. This workshop will look at the 4 generations presently in the ECE workforce.
- P-12. **How to Handle Children with No 'Off' Button**, Tracy Cheney, Education Consultant **Core Competency #2**
Do you have a particularly challenging child in your class? One moment he's playing in the Block Center with his friends, the next moment he is tearing everyone's structures down. During Circle Time, he might be engaged and then he is hitting and kicking to annoy his peers. What's a teacher to do???
- P-13. **Music for the Mind and Heart**, Fran Friedman, Ph.D., Children's Musician and Educator **Core Competency #5**
Have fun! Learn songs! Learn Songs for the Mind: songs with activities that enhance academic competence. Discover Music for the Heart: songs and strategies that nurture kindness in young children, so very important for the positive development of young children.
- P-14. **Una introducción a la disciplina positiva**, Jennifer Davis **Core Competency #2**
Abordar el concepto de la disciplina positiva. Las oportunidades de practicarla se presentan de varias maneras en nuestro trabajo con niños pequeños, sus familias y la comunidad. En esta sesión aprenderás cómo manejar los desafíos con calma y seguir desarrollando una práctica consistente de la disciplina positiva desde el centro hasta el hogar.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE & INFORMATION

Friday Schedule

8:00 - 9:15 A.M.	Check in/Breakfast
9:30 - 12:00 P.M.	Morning Workshops
12:00 - 1:00 P.M.	Lunch/Exhibits Open
1:15 - 3:45 P.M.	Afternoon Workshops
5:00-7:00 P.M.	Excellence in Education Awards Reception

Saturday Schedule

7:30-8:30 A.M.	Check in/Breakfast/Exhibits
8:45-9:00 A.M.	Welcome/Announcements
9:00-10:00 A.M.	Keynote Speaker Richard Cohen
10:15-12:15 P.M.	Morning Workshop
12:15-1:15 P.M.	Lunch/Exhibits
1:30-3:30 P.M.	Afternoon Workshop

At the Excellence in Education Awards Reception we will present three awards this year. In 2005, the Massachusetts Association for the Education of Young Children established the Gwen Morgan Emergent Leader Award. This award is given on a yearly basis, when merited, to an individual that has taken advantage of a leadership opportunity to improve the quality of care for children and families, or to advance workforce and professional development opportunities for early education and care professionals. Nominations are due by February 15, 2017. In 2009, the Men's Interest Forum launched the Steve Shuman Men in Early Education Award to honor individuals who work tirelessly for gender balance and equity in the profession of early childhood education. The Men's Interest Forum has also added a new award called the Emerging Professional Award. Nominations for this year's award can be sent to Craig Simpson at cs4202144@yahoo.com. Please join us for drinks and appetizers as we honor this year's winners. Nomination forms for all the awards can be found on our website www.massaeyc.com.

The MassAEYC conference committee is proud to host the 3rd annual Mass AEYC Poster Exhibition on Promising Practices in Education. This is an exciting opportunity to showcase *your* promising practices in early childhood education for others in the field. Exhibitors will choose an aspect of their work with young children and display it in poster format for others to view and learn from. As an exhibitor, you will have the opportunity to share your poster with others and engage in professional dialogue. It will be a valuable forum where you can present your innovations in the field as well as network with other educators. We invite all educators to submit an application to participate in the Poster Exhibition.

Exhibits will be available from 8:00 AM-4:00 PM on Friday and from 7:30 AM to 3:45 PM on Saturday. MassAEYC and the conference committee assume no responsibility for any statement of fact or opinion presented at this conference, nor does acceptance of advertising or exhibits imply endorsement of products or services.

DIRECTIONS TO THE WESTFORD REGENCY INN & CONFERENCE CENTER

Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center
219 Littleton Road
Westford, MA 01886

The Westford Regency is off Route 495, exit 32. It is right down the road on the right. Watch for the stone wall.

Accommodations

Westford Regency Inn 219 Littleton Road, Westford MA
978-692-8200

Double Room Rate: \$115 per room/per night. Tell the hotel you are attending the MassAEYC Conference.

Amenities: Health club, indoor pool, jacuzzi, full service restaurant, in-room irons, hair dryers.

Deadline for reservations is February 23, 2017.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Chair: Dotti McDevitt & Marley Couchon

Committee Members

*Jo Ann Borinski
Hannah Riddle
Brenda Powers
Katey Grossman*

*Sarah Sian
Nancy Toso
Deborah Abelman
Isabela Garcia*

We extend our thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of this conference.

Any questions? Call 617-875-0928 or email officemassaeyc@gmail.com