

A5. How to Design Programs for Preschoolers and Kindergarteners

Target Audience: Environmental Educators ONLY

Designing programs for children ages 3 – 6 does not mean watering down the current programs you offer older, elementary-age children. This age group has decidedly different needs, so your planning requires creativity, ingenuity, and respect for their viewpoint. This workshop's presenter will discuss the following ideas to help you build the most optimal programs for preschoolers and kindergarteners: proper ratios; hands-on experiences; creating enriching, high-quality indoor and outdoor spaces; classroom management techniques; and suggestions for using appropriate language with children.

Presented by Ligia Diaz, Bilingual Family Child Care Case Manager, CHILDSPAN

Child Age Group Addressed: 3 – 6 years

Experience Level: 3 and 4

A6. Nature Education and the RI Early Learning Standards:

A Natural Connection

Target Audience: Environmental Educators ONLY

The Rhode Island Early Learning Standards (RIELS) focus on the *whole child*, not just their cognitive or academic abilities. With this focus, nature education has invaluable resources to offer. During this session, the presenter will briefly discuss typical development of children ages 3 - 6, the eight domains of the RIELS, and practical and appropriate ways to connect the Standards with nature education.

Presented by Phyllis Carella Penhallow, RIELS Consultant

Child Age Group Addressed: 3 – 6 years

Experience Level: 3, 4, and 5

Afternoon Workshop Topics

1:00 – 2:30 PM

(Indicate your preference on your registration form.)

B1. Native Plants and Animals of Rhode Island

Target Audience: Preschool and kindergarten teachers ONLY

Did you know that our state has many flora and fauna unique to this area? Come join zoo educator Chris Hitchener for some fun, simple, and interactive ways to learn about these plants and animals with your preschool children.

Presented by Chris Hitchener, Early Childhood Coordinator, Roger Williams Park Zoo

Child Age Group Addressed: 3 – 6 years

Experience

Level: 3 and 4

B2. Take a Shoreline Discovery Walk!

Target Audience: Preschool and kindergarten teachers ONLY

In this workshop, participants will explore the shoreline along Fields Point (the area outside of Save the Bay) to discover the diversity of life abundant in this area, as well as exploring the habitats of animals. (As this workshop will be primarily outdoors, please wear comfortable clothing and footwear suitable for walking!)

Presented by Cherisa Freidlander and Ashley Jordan, Environmental Education Specialists, Save the Bay

Child Age Group Addressed: 3 – 6 years

Experience

Level: 3, 4, and 5

B3. Mother Nature Shares Her Secrets: Entertaining Environmental Experiences for Young Children

Target Audience: Preschool and kindergarten teachers AND environmental educators
Mother Nature, aka Anne-Marie Forer, storyteller/musician, will share tips and techniques for developing stories and programs about plants, animals, and the environment for young children. Learn to tell a story, as well as use songs, finger plays, puppets, and rhythm instruments to enhance your nature study.

Presented by Anne-Marie Forer, Storyteller/Musician and Owner, Tunes-n-Tales

Child Age Group Addressed: 3 – 6 years

Experience

Level: 3 and 4

B4. Gardening: Delight and Discovery from Dirt!

Target Audience: Preschool and kindergarten teachers AND environmental educators

Beyond its aesthetic value, creating and cultivating a garden is a fantastic way to teach children science, nature, math, language arts, and cooperative learning. During this workshop, discover ways to create gardens—from big to small—and the learning opportunities that will naturally result.

Presenter to be announced

Child Age Group Addressed: 3 – 6 years

Experience

Level: 3, 4, and 5

B5. Ages and Stages of Children: 3 - 6 Years

Target Audience: Environmental Educators ONLY

During this workshop, learn about the important milestones for children ages 3 – 6 in the following developmental areas: cognitive, social and emotional, fine/gross motor, and language and literacy. Armed with this knowledge, environmental educators will be well prepared to create developmentally appropriate and sensory-rich programs for preschoolers and kindergartners.

Presented by Donna Carpenter, Education Services Manager, Children's Friend and Service

Child Age Group Addressed: 3 – 6 years

Experience

Level: 3, 4, and 5

B6. Leading Exploration/Nature Walks: Safety, Guidance, and Management Issues

Target Audience: Environmental Educators ONLY

In this hands-on workshop, gain practical experience for leading an engaging and age-appropriate field walk with your children. The presenter will explore interpretive techniques and safety guidelines for groups of every size and background, and will demonstrate how to create an effective game plan for teaching in the great outdoors. This workshop features an interactive PowerPoint presentation and an outdoor discovery walk. Participants will leave with a packet of materials and curriculum resources to use on their next nature excursion.

Presented by Catherine Arming, Director of Education, Norman Bird Sanctuary

Child Age Group Addressed: 3 – 6 years

Experience

Level: 3 and 4

Directions to Save the Bay Center

100 Save the Bay Drive, Providence, RI 02905

(401) 272-3540

FROM POINTS NORTH OR SOUTH OF PROVIDENCE: Take Route

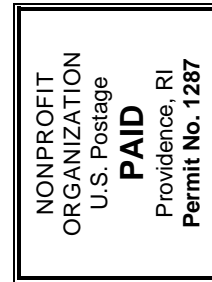
95 to Exit 18 (Thurbers Avenue). Follow signs to Allens Avenue, and turn right at the bottom of the hill (southbound onto Allens). Follow Allens 1.1 miles (five traffic lights) to Harborside Boulevard. When you see the large Johnson & Wales University marquee on your left, turn left, driving through the campus toward the water. At the end, you will take a right onto Save the Bay Drive, which leads to our building.

On May 25, 2007, the Department of Homeland Security installed barriers at the end Harborside Boulevard to protect the Port of Providence and Univar, Inc., an industrial chemical company. The barriers are easily negotiated by passenger vehicles traveling at reduced speed. The right-hand turn onto Save the Bay Drive is just beyond the last barrier.

CARPOOLING IS DEFINITELY ENCOURAGED!

Please dress comfortably!

Note: For inclement weather announcements, please visit CHILDSPAN's web site: www.childspan.net/conferences.php.



Children's Friend and Service
153 Summer Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

2008 Keys to Quality Conference

Nature as the Epicenter of the Preschool Classroom

Saturday
November 15, 2008

Save the Bay Center,
Providence

A conference collaboration between



CHILDSPAN

Rhode Island's Child Development and
Education Training System

and

RIEEA

Rhode Island Environmental Education
Association

Sponsored by:



Children's Friend and Service

RI Department of Human Services

Preschool and Kindergarten Teachers Registration Form

Pre-registration is required.
Registration Deadline: Friday, November 7, 2008

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY: 

Name _____

Agency Name _____

Home Address _____

Phone #s: Day _____ Evening _____

Email Address _____

Cost: \$40.00 per person

(Price includes continental breakfast and lunch, and is non-refundable.)

Make checks payable to:
Children's Friend and Service

Mail to: **CHILDSPAN**
500 Prospect Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860

Your Workshop Selections

You must fill out your first, second, and third choices for workshop selections in order for your registration to be processed. Please place a "1," "2," and "3" next to your top three choices—with "1" denoting your first choice—in both sessions.

Every effort is made to give each individual her or his first choice; however, as workshops reach capacity, it is necessary to give participants their 2nd or 3rd choice. *Registration forms are processed in the order in which they are received.*

| <u>Morning Session</u> | <u>Afternoon Session</u> |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| _____A1 | _____B1 |
| _____A2 | _____B2 |
| _____A3 | _____B3 |
| _____A4 | _____B4 |

Please include with your registration any special accommodation you may require, or call Jessica at (401) 721-6419 no later than ten (10) days before the conference.

Workshops are designed for audiences with specific levels of experience. For example, Level 1, the lowest, refers to persons new to the field with minimal specialized training, while Level 5, the highest, refers to persons with Bachelors or advanced degrees and 2 years of care or education experience.

Notes:

Environmental Educators Registration Form

Pre-registration is required.
Registration Deadline: Friday, November 7, 2008

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY: 

Name _____

Agency Name _____

Home Address _____

Phone #s: Day _____ Evening _____

Email Address _____

Cost: \$40.00 per person

(Price includes RIEEA 2009 membership, continental breakfast, and lunch. No refunds will be offered.)

Make checks payable to:
RIEEA

Mail to: **CHILDSPAN**
500 Prospect Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860

Your Workshop Selections

You must fill out your first, second, and third choices for workshop selections in order for your registration to be processed. Please place a "1," "2," and "3" next to your top three choices—with "1" denoting your first choice—in both sessions.

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| <u>Morning Session</u> | <u>Afternoon Session</u> |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| _____A3 | _____B3 |
| _____A4 | _____B4 |
| _____A5 | _____B5 |
| _____A6 | _____B6 |

Please include with your registration any special accommodation you may require, or call Jessica at (401) 721-6419 no later than ten (10) days before the conference.

Notes:

Opening Session

No Child Left Inside!

On, Friday, September 19th, the U.S. House of Representatives approved the **No Child Left Inside Act of 2008**. The No Child Left Inside Act was created to give new incentives and support to school systems to provide environmental education. NCLI also recognizes that high-quality environmental education often requires students to use math, reading, science, and writing skills as they pursue engaging activities. During this opening session, learn about NCLI, what work still needs to be done, and how it will influence and have positive impact on early childhood programming. You will also meet an educator who is transforming outdoor spaces for young children's optimal development.

Schedule of the Day: November 15, 2008

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|--|
| 8:30 to 9:00 |
| Registration & Continental Breakfast |
| 9:00 to 9:05 |
| Opening Remarks |
| 9:05 to 9:45 |
| Opening Session: No Child Left Inside Presentation |
| 9:45 to 10:00 |
| Transition Time to Workshops |
| 10:00 to 12:00 |
| Morning workshops |
| 12:00 to 12:50 |
| Lunch |
| RIEEA annual meeting & CHILDSPAN remarks |
| 12:50 to 1:00 |
| Transition Time to Workshops |
| 1:00 to 2:30 |
| Afternoon Workshops |
| 2:30 to 3:00 |
| Closing remarks |
| Round Table sessions / Networking |
| Certificates and PDC credits |

Professional Development Information

DCYF/In-service Credits: All participants will receive six (6) in-service hours. Certificates will be provided to all participants who stay for the entire conference.

PDC Credits: Rhode Island-certified teachers (individuals with four-year degrees) as well as teacher assistants (TAs) are eligible to receive six (6) contact hours from the Rhode Island Department of Education. PDC credit applications will be available at the registration table at the end of the conference.

Morning Session Workshop Topics 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

(Indicate your preference on your registration form.)

A1. Infusing Nature into Your Curriculum: Indoor and Outdoor Strategies

Target Audience: Preschool and kindergarten teachers ONLY
Bringing the outdoors inside and your inside outdoors is an excellent way to enrich your curriculum. In this workshop, rediscover some old-fashioned, hands-on activities (with new twists!) to nurture a basic foundation and respect for the environment in your children.
Presented by Chris Hitchener, Early Childhood Coordinator, Roger Williams Park Zoo
Child Age Group Addressed: 3 – 6 years **Experience Level:** 3, 4, and 5

A2. Creating (and Using!) a Science Library for Your Program

Target Audience: Preschool and kindergarten teachers ONLY
Good books teach science through language arts and literacy. During this workshop, learn about exciting environmental literature you can use to teach your children about the natural world, as well as activities to enhance the stories.
Presented by Denise Fortier, Director of Statewide Environmental Education, and Lisa Maloney, Education Specialist, Audubon Society of Rhode Island
Child Age Group Addressed: 3 – 6 years **Experience Level:** 3, 4, and 5

A3. Sustainable Preschool Classrooms/Programs for a Brighter Child, World, and You

Target Audience: Preschool and kindergarten teachers AND environmental educators
Sustainability means living in a way where the needs of the present are met without compromising the needs of future generations; it means living within the capacity of natural and built systems to sustain us. What can we do as educators of the very young to foster the principles and practices of sustainability in our classrooms and programs as essential behaviors and components of lasting learning? During this session, learn how to integrate sustainability organically into your learning environments (no pun intended!) and about great activities to share with preschool and kindergarten children.
Presented by Rebekah Greenwald, Director of Education, Apeiron Institute for Sustainable Living
Child Age Group Addressed: 3 – 6 years **Experience Level:** 4 and 5

A4. Next Steps for an Environmental Literacy Plan in Rhode Island

Target Audience: Preschool and kindergarten teachers AND environmental educators
The focus of this follow-up workshop from the opening session will be how to create a successful environmental literacy plan for the state. What are the next steps? Who should become involved? Learn why an environmental literacy plan is relevant to programs of all types serving young children.
Presented by Bridget Kubis-Prescott, Director of Education, Save the Bay, and Shareen Knowlton, Director of Education, Roger Williams Park Zoo
Child Age Group Addressed: 3 – 6 years **Experience Level:** 3, 4, and 5

Please note:
Space is limited to 150 participants:
100 preschool/kindergarten educators and
50 environmental educators.
Please register early in order
to secure a seat at the conference!