

2009 EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**8:00-9:15
KEYNOTE**

Turn Your Center Inside-Out: Build Resilient Children and Staff Scandinavian-Style

Two new terms appearing in professional literature are “play deprivation” and “nature deficit disorder.” Many of the escalating behavior problems and communication disorders in young children can be relieved when children have ample outdoor play time. Staff can find more appropriate ways to interact with children and readily observe their development during play when outdoors. Children build their brain power and self-esteem through plenty of time in active problem-solving, dramatic play, language use, and physical activity in fresh air. Presenter Pirkko Zweifel was raised in Finland where her mother was a child care provider and school dietician; Co-presenter Lita Haddal has worked for over 20 years in preschools in Norway. Both are enthusiastic advocates of the Scandinavian formula for quality child care: play, good food and rest- all taking place in fresh air with nurturing, educated adults.

Pirkko Moilanen
and Lita Haddal,
Child Care
Information Center

9:30 -10:45

1A: Reduce/Reuse/Recycle Crafts

Don't take the garbage out until you've had a chance to build a curriculum out of it! In addition to helping the environment, crafting can encompass all curriculum areas, to teach life skills, science and math concepts, and so much more. Gain hands on experience--wood and other supplies provided. Bring your imagination and be prepared to have fun!

Cindy Gillett, CJ's
Puzzles & Crafts

1B: Gardening With Kids: Yes, You Can Do it!

Children discover why we need plants and how we use them. Teach your kids to build a food web and learn the different plant parts they eat. Learning is especially fun when they become a tree and change with the different seasons. It all begins with a tiny seed, and their appreciation for nature begins to grow.

Kelle Hartman,
Green Bay
Botanical Garden

1C: The Outdoor Classroom of Scandinavian Preschools

This breakout session will take the keynote presentation content to the next level, showing specific ways to incorporate outdoor play into the daily routine and how to plan for it when setting up both the indoor and outdoor environment. After all, there is no bad weather, only bad clothes!

Pirkko Moilanen
and Lita Haddal

1D: It's a Big Big World

Venture deep into the rainforest, high atop the world, to the tallest tree - the World Tree - home to a diverse group of animals and the show's metaphor for the world as a whole. As your kids explore the World Tree, they'll experience science, not as just a collection of facts, but as an exciting process of discovery.

Kristina Stadler,
Wisconsin Public
Television

Pastries and fruit served between sessions

11:00 -12:15

2A: Early Autism Intervention

Children with social and language difficulties share some similarities with those with attention problems, learning problems, developmental language problems, and autism spectrum disorders. During the toddler and preschool years, children are able to learn rapidly, and outdoor therapies can be an effective part of intervention and treatment.

Angela Bartol and
Teryn Watermolen,
Wisconsin Early
Autism Project

2B: Butterflies and Beyond

Experience a metamorphosis with your students in an outdoor classroom. Explore the lifecycles of flowers and butterflies, and learn their basic needs. Children become aware of the changes that occur with the seasons, observe the weather, and enjoy the sunshine.

Kelle Hartman,
Green Bay
Botanical Garden

2C: Outdoor Benefits for High Needs Children

Managing challenging behaviors gets easier when teachers build in outdoor time to soothe spirits and smooth tough transitions. Learn specific strategies for addressing common behavior issues.

Joan Helbing, EEN
Diagnostician,
AASD

2D: Elephants Have Wrinkles: Animal Songs for the Classroom

This session will feature songs, chants, action, and movement focused on nature. Walk away with ideas for props, flannel boards, books, creative play, and themes.

Colleen Hannafin &
Brian Schellinger,
North Side Music

12:15 – 1:00 LUNCH

1:15 – 2:30

3A: Nichols Nature Sense

Do you have a group of children who love to learn about science and the beauty of the world around them? This session is full of creepy crawlies, and great ideas for incorporating bugs and the outdoors into a life science curriculum including stories, songs and crafts.

Lori Nichols,
Nichols Nature
Sense

3B: Mosquito Hill

Mosquito Hill Nature Center is a great field trip destination, or a great source for bringing outdoor education to your home or center's playground or backyard! There are wonderful environmental experiences for any age level. Jump into the school year with great ideas for pre-planned fall, winter, or spring programs customized to your specific curriculum.

Mary Swifka,
Mosquito Hill
Nature Center

3C: It's a Big Big World (Repeat 1D)

Kristina Stadler,
Wisconsin Public
Television

1D: Get Moving with Infants and Toddlers

This workshop will explore the importance of music and how to nurture it at a young age. We discuss how to build a curriculum through the use of developmentally appropriate music for Infants through three years of age. Demonstration include lullabies, singing songs, fingerplays, toe plays, bounces, action & movement activities, and singing with books.

Colleen Hannafin &
Brian Schellinger,
North Side Music