

# Georgia Preschool Association Annual Conference

March 2 & 3, 2012 Cobb Galleria Centre

## “There’s a Song in My Heart” Workshop Descriptions

**\*\*\*All workshops presented at 10:00 and 1:00 on Friday and 8:00, 10:00, & 1:00 on Saturday unless otherwise noted.**

<b>• Keynote Session</b>	<b>“Better Bodies And Brains”</b>	<b>Dr. Jean Feldman</b>
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<b>***Friday 8:00 am ONLY</b>
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You learn on your feet, not on your seat! When children move, dance, and wiggle, more senses are activated and the message is more likely to get to the brain. Music and movement also emit endorphins which make you happy. In this session you’ll discover activities that will help children be their best physically, socially, and cognitively. Highlights include:

Songs to start your day and get your blood going

Routines for balancing, stretching, and relaxing

Activities where children will cross the midline

Dances to reinforce phonics and math skills

Ideas to make you jump, hop, pretend, and smile!

<b>• Additional Workshop - “Oldies But Goodies”</b>	<b>Dr. Jean Feldman</b>
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<b>***Friday ONLY</b>
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Whatever happened to “The Farmer in the Dell” and “London Bridge?” In this workshop you’ll revisit many of the songs and games you played as a child and you’ll discover how to use them as a springboard for developing skills. You’ll learn:

Songs to enhance oral language

Games to strengthen self-regulation

Dances to develop motor skills

And you’ll have FUN!

**“Movin” and Groovin’ to Learning Everyday”****Jack Hartmann****\*\*\*Saturday ONLY**

Combine the coolest kid’s music on the planet with the language, math, fitness & social skills you want your children to learn and you’ve got Learning Rocks. Nationally recognized children’s singer/songwriter Jack Hartmann, MA will sing “live” and demonstrate super fun movements & activities to enhance & energize your children’s learning every day.

Jack’s kid friendly rock, reggae, country, hip-hop, Latin & rap songs will focus on: language and reading skills, basic math, fitness fun and social skills. Don’t miss the great music, movement and learning fun!

**• “Get on Board the Transition Train”****Jack Hartmann****\*\*\*Saturday Afternoon Session ONLY**

Learn creative new songs, activities & movements to strengthen your program at transitions throughout the day. Jack has written & recorded 30 new songs on supporting and helping children to focus and learn during transitions. Some of the transition topics Jack will cover include:

Starting and ending the day in a positive way

Getting in line and learning language skills

Singing a song for learning walking in line behavior

Remembering washing hands rules with rap

Learning positive bathroom, lunch time and playground behavior

Making cleanup time “cool”

Getting the wiggles out as they practice fyming

Rest time, quiet time and music for optimal concentration

Building self-esteem

Making exercise and fitness fun

Circle time learning songs

• **“Sign and Sing”**

**Persis Bristol**

Parents and childcare providers as well, are learning about the benefits of signing with the children in their care. This workshop is designed to educate providers on the benefits of using American Sign Language and teach the basics for use in the child care center environment with songs and activities. Learning Objectives are

To highlight the benefits of signing with children

To give a brief introduction of American Sign Language

To teach vocabulary for meal time, play time, sleep time, and family time

To teach songs that are motivating and useful for these times

To show available books/signing resources

• **“Circle Time, Interactive Games, Non-Competitive Games and More to Engage All Learners”**

**Danny Darby**

The focus of this session is Circle Time. The main goal is to help teachers choose activities that match learning styles (M.I.), develop social skills, follow rules and reinforce skills being taught in a preschool classroom. Developing attention span, following directions and turn taking are skills that children need to be successful learners. Circle time provides an opportunity for children to develop important skills using non-threatening developmentally appropriate techniques, Circle Time can and will determine the tone of the day. Social skills are enhanced when children learn to share ideals and listen to others. In this session we will share age appropriate activities that allow for participation, such as interactive stories, finger plays, music, and movement and non-competitive games.

• **“Laughter For Learning & Fun”**

**Debbie Ellison**

\*\*\*Saturday ONLY

Do you need a good laugh? Who doesn't? Laughter Yoga, a worldwide movement to spread joy and peace in the world through laughter, is being facilitated in some schools in India. Teachers say it has re-energized and re-motivated them in their profession and caused a wonderful change in the atmosphere of the school. Laughter reduces disciplinary problems and stress; reduces bullying; brings more oxygen into the bloodstream and brain (improving cognitive skills and academic performance); increases energy, positive feelings, and creativity; improves relationships between students and

students and teachers; improves memory, concentration, and performance on exams; helps children develop emotional intelligence and motor skills; enhances self-confidence and self-esteem; and much more. Debbie Ellison, Certified Laughter Yoga Leader and Director of Laughter for Wellness, will present a fun, experiential laughter session. Come laugh, have fun, and experience the many benefits of laughter for parents, teachers, and children.

• **“Investing in Behavior Strategies with Long Term Returns”** **Donna House**

An important aspect of educating children today is to create productive citizens tomorrow. By investing in strategies which enhance a child’s emotional and social development, we can help achieve that goal. This workshop introduces research-based strategies we can use today.

• **Zoom! Whoosh! Pop! Learning Labs for Science”** **Meg Keener**

This workshop is filled with ideas for science “mini-labs.” Explore different areas of science using literature, movement, experiments, art and more! Participants will leave with five complete lessons to use at their schools on: Bubbles, Magnets, Ramps and Pathways, Color and Air.

• **“Language Development & Strategies”** **Lydia Kopel**

Language development for birth through 7 years will be discussed in detail. Various strategies for remediation and expansion of language will be explained and demonstrated. Participants will understand developmental norms for language. Participants will be able to use various strategies for remediation of language.

• **“What Do I Do with This Kid? The ABC’s of Helping Children with Autism Succeed”** **Jennifer Ledford**

This workshop will focus on (A) what to do if you think a child in your class has autism and how to talk to families, (B) How to avoid problem behavior, and (C) Easy changes to your classroom setup and teaching to help children with autism succeed.

• **“Have you ever had a Hankerin’ for Ugly Pie?”**

**Sallie Mann**

\*Preschool teachers will understand the importance and purpose of using the Georgia Early Learning Standards and using it to write age appropriate and effective lesson plans.

\*Preschool teachers will be exposed to “new” read aloud books and will participate in activities to extend the stories to incorporate the learning standards.

\*Preschool teachers will learn new songs which will provide a positive learning environment as well as provide language enrichment activities that be aligned with the learning standards.

\*Preschool teachers will learn some effective transition activities and songs to aid in cooperative movement from one activity to another.

• **“Hi Ho! Hi Ho! It’s Circle Time...Let’s Go!”**

**Cathy Mercier**

Are you experiencing the circle time blues? Join me in this workshop and we will share songs, games, finger plays, stories and skills to introduce to the children in your class. We will also discuss effective strategies to transition to circle time and keep the children excited and engaged in the circle time experience.

• **“Creating a Safe Environment That Allows Change”**

**Pat Minish**

**\*\*\*Friday 10:00 ONLY**

Does your supervision style encourage change? Learn how to set the stage for change in your program.

• **“The Director’s Role in Growing Teachers”**

**Pat Minish**

**\*\*\*Friday 1:00 ONLY**

We know that professional development is important, but how do we help teachers learn how to think critically and take personal responsibility for learning?

- **“Responsibility & Expectations of Teachers Pertaining to Safety & Security”**  
**Rodney Pires**

\*\*\*Friday ONLY

This workshop will address understanding the duties and responsibilities under the law for teachers pertaining to safety and security of children under their care. This workshop will cover security safe practices and proper emergency response standards pertaining to child care programs.

- **“Reducing the Risk and Liability”**  
**Rodney Pires**

\*\*\*Saturday ONLY Directors

Directors will understand their responsibilities and duties under OSHA 29 CFR 1900S & “Reasonable Care” under the State of Georgia Civil TORT Law.

- **“Where the Wild Things Are”**  
**Lisa Polk**

This class is designed to identify challenging behaviors displayed by young children and the factors contributing to them. Practical strategies and applications for handling these behaviors will be shared.

- **“Teaching Beginning Reading Skills”**  
**Betsy Primm**

Success in mastering basic reading skills in kindergarten and first grade gives children a lasting advantage throughout their school careers. This workshop will focus on what research has revealed about what works in terms of developing effective reading skills and will demonstrate specific strategies that participants can use with the children whom they teach or tutor.

- **“Playing It Safe”**  
**Dennis Puett**

Overall Safety of Play structures

Routine Safety Checks

Maintaining Safety Surfacing

• **“Read It Once Again”**

**Rae Schaper**

Literature and storybooks are used as supports for theme units in most preschool classrooms. Stories are changed often and young children are not always given the repetitive opportunity and time necessary that it takes to become familiar with key words and cognitive concepts found within the stories. Repetition helps to support language development and cognitive learning in the manner that is most productive to children.

Repetitious storybook curriculums use the story itself as the theme of the unit. They furnish the teacher with objectives, activities, and assessments necessary to provide the child with an educational program that meets their basic needs in each of the five domains commonly addressed in the preschool classroom. This seminar is designed to help preschool professionals select material and activities that coordinate with student objectives to provide a unit that will stimulate growth in language skills, cognitive goals, social interaction, adaptive behaviors and motor skills.

• **“Planning Schedules, Routines, and Transitions”**

**Kim Sewell**

This is an interactive workshop that explores the importance of structured schedules with clear-cut routines and transitions focusing on age and stage appropriateness.

• **“Confess to Stress”**

**Kyle Taft**

This workshop is designed to be a different approach to understanding and combating teacher stress and burn-out.

• **“The Art of Storytelling”**

**Vicki Warren**

This workshop is designed to develop effective storytellers. Participants attending this workshop will learn ways to incorporate dance, crafts, songs, games and props into storytelling. Participants will explore the rich tradition of storytelling while learning ways to bring “story-time” to life.