

**FIRST LOOK** at some of the conference highlights

# opening minds

## The Chicago Early Education, Child Care and School-Age Conference

January 25-28, 2012  
Hyatt Regency  
McCormick Place  
Chicago, IL



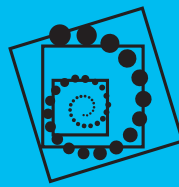
chicago metro  
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association for the education of  
young children

[www.chicagometroaeyc.org](http://www.chicagometroaeyc.org)

**REGISTER  
NOW AND  
SAVE!**



You're invited!



opening minds

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
Registration

9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m.  
Workshops

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
Registration

9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m.  
Workshops

12:00 noon–5:00 p.m.  
Commercial Exhibits

**Music and Make & Take Festival**  
3:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m. (See page 10)

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
Registration

8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.  
Commercial Exhibits

9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m.  
Workshops

7:00 p.m.  
Wine Tasting and Reception  
**SERVICE TO YOUNG CHILDREN AWARDS**  
(See page 10)

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

7:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.  
Registration

8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.  
Commercial Exhibits

9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m.  
Workshops

WORKSHOPS LISTED IN THIS PRELIMINARY PROGRAM ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, PENDING ADDITIONS AND CANCELLATIONS. FULL DESCRIPTIONS AND LOCATIONS WILL APPEAR IN THE FINAL PROGRAM.

Attend the largest early care and education conference in the Midwest featuring professionals from around the world. Hear the latest developments in research. Get proven ideas to return to your job with renewed enthusiasm and the practical edge you need to create results.

04 Days  
15 Content Areas  
300 Workshops  
25.5 Credit Hours

### PROFESSIONAL CREDITS

At Opening Minds you can earn:

- Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDUs)
- Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for Licensed Social Workers
- Early Intervention Credits
- Child Care In-Service Training Certificates
- Child Development Associate (CDA) Hours

**FOR UP-TO-DATE  
WORKSHOP LISTINGS, VISIT  
[WWW.CHICAGOMETROAEYC.ORG/OPENING-MINDS](http://WWW.CHICAGOMETROAEYC.ORG/OPENING-MINDS)**

**Don't wait until  
last minute to plan  
your days at  
Opening Minds!**

With Opening Minds' Interactive Conference Planner, you can:

- **Create and print your custom schedule.**
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- **See full descriptions of workshops.**

Visit  
[www.chicagometroaeyc.org/  
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up-to-date workshop schedule.

# Teach the Digital Child

# TECHNOLOGY

See all workshops  
with dates and times at  
[www.chicagometroaeyc.org/opening-minds](http://www.chicagometroaeyc.org/opening-minds)

## AppDance: A Hands On Experience with the Latest Apps for Young Children PreK-3

Warren Buckleitner, Editor, Children's  
Technology Review and Brian Puerling,  
Director of Technology Education, The  
Catherine Cook School *Thursday*

If you have them, bring your gadgets—  
iPads, smart phones or mobile learning  
devices to this interactive fun session.



Warren Buckleitner has  
been reviewing children's  
technology products since  
the 1980s. He is the  
editor of Children's  
Technology Review and  
creator of the Dust or Magic Institute and  
the Mediatech Foundation. He is a regular  
contributor to The New York Times and  
Scholastic Parent & Child Magazine. He is  
a former preschool and elementary school  
classroom teacher who holds a Ph.D. in  
Educational Psychology.



Brian Puerling, Director of  
Technology Education at  
the Catherine Cook  
School is author of the  
upcoming book, *Teaching  
in the Digital Age: Smart  
Tools for Age 3 to Grade 3*, available  
Spring 2012. Brian is the recipient of the  
PBS Innovative Educator Award and PBS  
Teacher's Choice Award.

## Window to the World: Childhood Through the Screen



David W. Kleeman,  
President, American  
Center for Children and  
Media *Saturday*

Drawing on TV  
programming from  
around the world and videos widely  
available online, the session will consider  
the use of carefully chosen, age-  
appropriate videos in preschools, to  
explore the great diversity and similarities  
in people's lives, around the world and  
down the road.

## Mobile Technology in the Classroom: Leadership Issues



Harry C. Walker, Principal,  
Baltimore County Public  
Schools *Friday*

Participants will examine  
leadership issues related  
to the use of mobile  
one-to-one technology in the classroom.  
Topics include program proposals,  
funding, management issues, program  
monitoring, a rubric based evaluation for  
apps and internet resources. Specific  
experiences from an iPod Pilot Program  
in a Baltimore county school and  
national models will be shared.

## Skype: Use Video-Conferencing Resources to Support Literacy and Social Skill Development

Cora Boucher, Teacher, Assumption B.V.M.,  
Pulaski, Wisconsin *Thursday*

In a world of growing technology, video-  
conferencing offers the ability to connect  
multicultural classrooms while enhancing  
student performance.

## Using Smartpens to Improve Classroom Learning, Documentation and Home-School Connection

Erin Stanfill, Teacher, Burley School, Chicago  
Public Schools *Friday*

Smartpens synchronize your written notes  
with recorded conversation to capture  
student learning in the moment. Teachers  
can utilize this technology to simplify their  
documentation and assessment processes,  
create interactive resource centers for  
students, and publish notes online to help  
parents and students revisit classroom  
learning at home.

## One iPad, Two iPad, We All iPad

Tracey Conners, Principal and Renee  
Wilberg, Teacher, Fair Park Elementary  
School *Thursday*

This workshop will explore one school's  
initiative in bringing technology to the  
youngest learner. This session will examine  
and identify the benefits of iPads into the  
preschool, kindergarten and primary grade  
classrooms.

## Illinois Leaders Talk Technology for Young Learners

Perspectives on the role technology plays in young children's cognitive  
and linguistic development. *Friday*

### Cindy Zumwalt

Interim Division Administrator  
Division of Early Childhood  
Illinois State Board of Education

### Karen McCarthy

Principal Consultant  
Division of Early Childhood  
Illinois State Board of Education

### Harriette Herrera

Illinois Early Learning Council Chair Linguistic  
& Cultural Diversity  
Adjunct Faculty  
DePaul University

### Kathleen M. Sheridan PhD

Chairperson of the Department of Early  
Childhood Education  
National Louis University

## More Tech Workshops

- Using Technology to Enhance Teacher-  
Parent Communication: Creating a  
Classroom Blog *Friday*
- Implementing the new NAEYC/Fred Rogers  
Center Statement on Technology Tools and  
Interactive Media: Intentional, Appropriate  
and Effective Practices *Friday*
- Using iPads with Children Preschool to  
First Grade *Saturday*
- Just Picture It! Enhancing Curriculum with  
Digital Photography in and Around the  
Classroom *Friday*
- My First Media: Learn to Instruct Young  
Children in "Mindful Viewing"  
*Thursday*

## It's More than Just Numbers Served: Understanding Your Impact in the Community through Outcome Evaluation

**Debra Hass, The Donor's Forum and Kathy Ryg, President, Voices for Illinois Children**

*Wednesday 9 a.m.–12 p.m.*

Need to measure your impact in the community but unsure of where to begin? This workshop will provide a down-to-earth approach to evaluation, explaining key concepts and providing participants with an understanding of both process and impact evaluation techniques. The session will also integrate the perspective of funders to help participants develop a plan for conducting outcome evaluation in their organization.

**Debra A. Hass** has served as a senior policy associate at the Women Employed Institute with extensive experience in the areas of education and employment. She has also worked as a foundation program officer focused on early childhood development, an adult education instructor, and coordinator of a homeless literacy program. She is currently vice chair of the Immigrant Children's Advocacy Project and instructor of Evaluation of Social Policies and Social Programs at the University of Chicago.

**Ms. Kathy Ryg** has worked tirelessly to improve early learning opportunities for young children, bolster after-school programs and services for youths in need and increase schools' quality and accountability. Her consensus-building approach to identifying and tackling public-policy challenges has earned her dozens of honors, most recently the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform's 2010 Paul Simon Service Award in recognition of her efforts in government reform.



## Principal Mentoring: Anticipating, Advising and Anchoring Effective Leadership in Action

**Beth Herbert, Winnetka Public Schools, Principal Mentor**

*Friday*

The job of today's school principal is defined by its enormous demands and fast-paced rhythm. More than ever, school leaders need a critical friend—a mentor—to listen to them reflect on their leadership practice and sort out their thinking.

## Schoolwide Approaches to Educating English Language Learners

**Dr. Sonia Soltero, Associate Professor, Director Bilingual-Bicultural Education, DePaul University** *Thursday*

Dr. Soltero outlines a multi-pronged and multi-level approach to create linguistically and culturally responsive K-12 schools. She offers powerful examples illustrating school challenges and successes; schoolwide curricular planning and program design as well as leadership and advocacy recommendations to improve ELL educational equity and success.

## Public Library Services for Early Childhood Educators, Caregivers and Children

**PANEL: Kelly Durov, Children's Services Manager, Park Ridge Library; Phyllis Davis, Head of Youth Services, Matteson Public Library, and Vicki Rakowski, Assistant Director of Youth Services, Lisle Public Library** *Friday*

Learn about low cost materials, services and continuing education credits provided through your local library.



## More Administration & Program Operations

### What Color is Your Brain?

**Sheila Glazov**  
*Wednesday 2–5:30 p.m.*

Learn a fun and fascinating approach to understanding yourself and others. Discover how to communicate more effectively, relate in a non-judgmental manner, and create harmonious relationships with your team members, children and parents.

### Psychological Aspects of Educational Leadership

**Naama Zoran, Developmental Psychologist, Educational Systems Consultant, Kiryat Ata, Israel**  
*Thursday 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.*

One of the main keys for creating high quality leadership is the level of understanding of the deep meaning that lies behind behaviors throughout the system. This presentation will examine the psychological knowledge about human behavior, inner motives for actions, resistance patterns, group dynamics and problem solving strategies.

### Investigating Child Care Workers

**Valerie McDaniels, Associate Deputy Director of Child Protection-Cook County, and James W. Robinson, Public Services Administrator-Investigations, DCFS** *Thursday*

This workshop will provide an overview of what happens during an investigation of a licensing facility. Child welfare laws, the investigative process, safety and protective plans, and the appeal process will be discussed.

### Manual de Padres

**Alicia Cardoso and Cynthia B. Arias**  
*Saturday*

Taller diseñado a revisar los términos y pólizas que deben ser establecidas con base a las regulaciones estatales (DCFS) en el contrato de servicios y manual de padres. También servirá como una guía para el establecimiento de las pólizas de servicios y protección a proveedores de cuidado infantil.

# ON & PROGRAM OPERATIONS

## Pathways to Quality Care & Education

### Quality and Reflective Practice Initiative: The CHICAGO STORY

Patty Oji & Deborah Zapalik *Friday*

Research shows teacher-child interactions are directly linked to child outcomes. The City of Chicago partnered with Teachstone and the University of Virginia in utilizing the CLASS tool to assess and implement professional development supports to augment effective teacher-child interactions. There's more to the Chicago Story! Learn about the synergy between CLASS, Creative Curriculum/GOLD, tailoring supports to their unique environment, implementing to scale, overcoming the digital divide as well as other valuable lessons learned.

### CLASS Overview for Administrators

Teachstone and Chicago Center for Educational Advancement *Friday*

The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) is an observational tool that provides a common lens and language focused on what matters-the classroom interactions that boost student learning. The CLASS has been validated in thousands of classrooms and is used to support research, monitoring, evaluation and professional development efforts nationwide.

### Teaching Strategies GOLD™ Online: An Observation-Based Assessment for Children Birth through Kindergarten

Suzanne Scheel, Teaching Strategies *Friday*

Teaching Strategies GOLD Online Assessment System is a seamless, efficient approach to ongoing, observation-based assessment for all children birth through Kindergarten. Teaching Strategies GOLD online demonstration will be included in the session.

### Preparing for NAEYC Accreditation and Re-Accreditation

Dawn Delgado and Guadalupe Valdivia, Metropolitan Family Services *Thursday*

Hear from a newly NAEYC Accredited center on how they organized their self-study, portfolios and center to achieve NAEYC Accreditation and one of the highest levels you can achieve on the QUALITY RATING SYSTEM.



## Quality Counts

	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Quality Counts QRS Orientation</b> Quality matters in child care. Learn about the statewide Quality Counts Quality Rating System (QRS) that recognizes family child care and center based providers for quality with QRS award certification. Providers serving children on the state Child Care Assistance program (CCAP) can also receive a bonus to standard payment rate. The Orientation covers eligibility requirements, application process, and supports and resources available. A provider must attend the session prior to applying for QRS.	9 – 11:15 a.m.		9 – 11:15 a.m. (en español)
An Introduction to the Environment Rating Scales (ERS)	1 – 5:15 p.m.		1 – 5:15 p.m. (en español)
Getting Ready for the Business Administration Scale (BAS)			9 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Getting Ready for the Program Administration Scale (PAS)		1 – 5:15 p.m.	
For more information on NATIONAL ACCREDITATIONS THAT COUNT including NAEYC Accreditation Mentoring services, contact us at: 312.427.5399			

## A Systemic Approach to Standard-Based Curriculum and Instruction

**Kristin Camp, K-12 Curriculum Coordinator, Champaign School District Unit 4** *Friday*

How can science education leaders make great curriculum and instruction systemic, so that all students reap the benefits of good science instruction? The science department in Champaign Schools District Unit 4 in Champaign, Illinois has devoted resources to allow the adoption process to be systemic. Science leadership teams have contributed to the creation of a District Science Program, including a Science Curriculum Framework based on the current National Science Education Standards. This session will describe the science program development and adoption process and how professional development in science is critical to the science program implementation.



## A Colorful Life: Making Picture Books for Young Children

**Lois Ehlert,**

**Author/Illustrator** *Friday*

Caldecott-Honor recipient and acclaimed Wisconsin author/illustrator, Lois Ehlert, shares insights, inspirations, and behind-the-scenes stories from her latest book, RRRALPH, which she wrote herself, and TEN LITTLE CATERPILLARS by Bill Martin, Jr., author of CHICKA CHICKA BOOM BOOM. Sponsored by



## Action Research:

### A Guide to Impacting Teacher and Student Effectiveness

**Sabrina Silverstein, District of Columbia Public Schools and Frances Rust, University of Pennsylvania** *Friday*

Participants will learn what action research is and see how action research can be used to enhance teacher effectiveness, encourage critical conversations, develop professional learning communities, and impact student achievement.

## Introducing MELBA (Modules for Early Learning Benchmark Activities):

### A New Resource for Illinois Early Childhood Educators

**Jean Mendoza and Susan Fowler, University at Urbana-Champaign** *Thursday*

The presenters introduce the Illinois Early Learning Project's "Modules for Early Learning Benchmark Activities" (MELBA), designed to help Illinois caregivers and teachers find ways to help children meet benchmarks.



## Enhance Development & Learning

- **Interventions Can Be FUN with Little Ones!**  
*Janet LeMieux, Assistant Principal, and Kelly Stonecliff, Pre-K Teacher, Antioch District 34* *Thursday*
- **Literacy, Math and Science**  
*Betsy Wycislak, Kindergarten Teacher, Oswego Community Unit District #308 and Sigrid Grace, 2nd Grade Teacher, Almont Community Schools* *Saturday*
- **Creating Nurturing and Effective Preschool Environments: Using Environmental Arrangements and Meaningful Interactions to Support Kindergarten Readiness Skills**  
*Shanna Davis, Assistant Professor, The Chicago School of Professional Psychology* *Friday*
- **Moving Beyond Themes: Facilitating Studies in the Preschool Classroom**  
*Suzanne Scheel, Director, Teaching Strategies Inc.* *Thursday*
- **Two Need to Eat, One Needs to be Changed and the ITERS Will Only Allow Me to Feed One at a Time!**  
*Deb Clark and Therese Sullivan* *Friday*
- **Every Child Ready to Read**  
*Janet Colwell, Senior Children's and Programming Associate, Warren-Newport Public Library* *Friday*
- **Blocks Rock! Endless Opportunities for Learning**  
*Anna Owen, Early Childhood Resource Specialist and Connie Shugart, Project Coordinator, Western IL University* *Thursday*
- **Science in Head Start Classrooms: A Model**  
*Carina Ruiz, Museum Educator and Glenda Gonzalez, Public Programs Educator, Chicago Academy of Sciences' Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum* *Wednesday*
- **Authentic Assessment for the Future**  
*Angela Fowler, Interim Director of ECE, Columbia College* *Saturday*
- **How Children REALLY Learn to Read and Practical Tips for Teachers**  
*Sarah Dennis, New Schools Project Facilitator, and Christine Maxwell, New Schools Project Director, Erikson Institute* *Thursday*
- **Transportation Safety for Young Children**  
*Karen Finstad, Afterschool Programs Manager, Active Transportation Alliance* *Wednesday*
- **Using Technology to Enhance Teacher-Parent Communication: Creating a Classroom Blog**  
*Alissa Lonergan, Teacher, Pilgrim Community Nursery School* *Friday*
- **An Intentional Teacher, One of the Best!**  
*Mary Pinkney, Manager of Education Services, and Nykisha Barefield, Site Director, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet-ECSD* *Friday*
- **Down with Naked Numbers**  
*Mary Hynes-Berry, Faculty, Erikson Institute* *Thursday*
- **Let's Get Comfortable with STEM Concepts: What We Can Learn from Fred Rogers**  
*Hedda Sharapan, Director of Early Childhood Initiatives, The Fred Rogers Company* *Thursday*

## Extended 3 hour Master Class

### THE MUSIC IMPERATIVE:

#### The How, What and Why of Participatory Music

**Carole Peterson Stephens, Macaronisoup.com** *Friday*

Children learn by moving through their environment and music helps them MOVE! We'll explore what makes a song developmentally appropriate, simple teaching techniques that really work with active music, and why children MUST sing and move for proper brain and body growth.

# UM & TEACHING PRACTICES

## Immediate Use Ideas

### Thursday

- How to Integrate the Challenging Child into the Classroom
- The Best New Books for Preschool Children
- Using Music and Movement to Help Little Ones Develop Language
- Transitions Overload: Musical Ideas for Every Moment of the Day
- Reading Aloud: Definitely Allowed - Enhancing Meaningful Conversations with Read Alouds
- Emergent Literacy, Language and Math
- Learning Through Music and Books
- Joy of Music: Making the Classroom Come Alive
- Making Circle Time Work for Every Child
- Look on the Bright Side! Ideas for Challenging Exceptionally Bright Young Children in a General PreK or Preschool Classroom
- The "Sense"-able Preschool Classroom
- Re-Use It: Creating Art with Natural and Recycled Materials
- I've Got Your Number! DAP Math Skills Through Hands-On Activities

### Friday

- The ABCs of Art: Learning Through and About Art
- I Can Read Songs: A Simple, Joyous Boost in Early Literacy Skills
- The Power of Synthetic Phonics
- Rah, Rah Literacy and the PIT Crew
- Introduction to the Project Approach
- Music Throughout the Day
- Rhythm and Readiness, Musical Classroom Themes for Ages 1 – 6
- Supporting Brain Development in the Early Childhood Classroom
- Let's Talk About Talking
- Enriching Your Classroom Through Storytelling
- Building a Study Through Children's Interests
- Science and Math Through Arts Processes
- Musical Math: Preschool and Kindergarten Activities

### Saturday

- Integrating Music and Movement in Your Classroom
- Emergent Literacy, Language and Math Learning Through Music and Books
- Building the Brain: Outside In
- Creativity in the Classroom
- Keep It Moving! Integrating Gross Motor and Fitness Activities into the Classroom
- Psicomotricidad y aprendizaje
- Desarrollo sensorio-perceptual
- DANCE, SING, SHAKE, RING!
- Right Now Music: Active Songs for Winter
- Phonological Awareness through Music: Pre-Reading/Literacy Activities for Preschool and Kindergarten
- Circle Time Potpourri: Old Tunes/New Ideas, Creating Lyrics for the Teaching Moment



## Health and Wellness

### Caring for Our Children



*Wednesday,*  
**3 hour session**  
Marilyn Krajicek, EdD, RN, FAAN, Professor, Chair of Division of Informatics, Health Systems and Leadership (IHSL)

Program Director; Nursing Leadership: Pediatric Special Needs National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education The third edition of *Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs* is out! Dr. Krajicek will discuss the new and significant changes in the standards, as well as talk about resources available to all who care for young children.

### Lead Poisoning Prevention and Illinois Lead Laws *Saturday*

Valeria Hubbard, City of Chicago and Mary Burns, Loyola Childlaw Center

### Programa de Prevención por envenenamiento de plomo *Saturday*

Mary Burns, Loyola Childlaw Center and William Villalona, City of Chicago

### Building Bridges for Children's Success: Thinking like a Mental Health Consultant (Infant/Toddler)

*Friday, 3 hour session*

Janice Katz, Clinical Psychologist

### Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention: Train the Trainer Workshop

*Thursday & Friday, 3 hour sessions*

Mary Salisbury and Denise McCaffrey, Prevent Child Abuse Illinois

### Hearing and Vision Screening: Who, When and Why *Thursday*

Wanda Stallings, Living Healthy Inc.

### Medication Administration in Early Education and Child Care Settings

*Friday, 3 hour session*

Renee Bevis, Child Care Health Solutions

### Immunizations: Understanding Health Files and Answering Parents' Questions

*Thursday*

Renee Bevis, Child Care Health Solutions

### Parents and Teachers as Allies *Friday*

Leah Shapiro, CFC #7 and #9, INCCRRA, LS/ECE and Paulette Mercurius, Chicago DFSS

### When a Wheeze is More than a "Cold" as well as Recognition of Food Allergies *Friday*

Diane Ozog, M.D., S.C.

### Asthma 101™: What You Need to Know *Saturday*

Jenn Watts, RRT-NPS, C-NPT, Advocate Hope Children's Hospital

# Cultivate Emotional Balance

## SOCIAL EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### How Do Emotion Regulation Skills Influence Empathy Across Early Childhood?



**Kalina Michalska, Ph.D., Developmental Psychologist, University of Chicago** *Thursday*

This workshop will focus on the construct of emotion regulation from a developmental perspective, emphasizing the mechanisms that contribute to its development in the early years of life. The case will be made that the ability to control one's emotions plays an important role in healthy social functioning, in particular, empathic responding and prosocial behavior.

Dr. Michalska has worked with Dr. Larry Gray in the Department of Behavioral Pediatrics at the U of C Children's Hospital investigating the biological markers for early regulatory processes in infancy. She presently conducts functional MRI studies of empathy, theory of mind and moral reasoning with typically developing children and adolescents as well as children with aggressive conduct disorder.

### Ain't Misbehavin': What Children Communicate with Their Behavior

**Linnet Mendez and Mollie Reed, Educational Therapists, Virginia Frank Development Center** *Thursday*

This presentation will outline the Phase Model, which comes out of the work that is done in the Virginia Frank Development Center's Therapeutic Nursery/Kindergarten Program. It is a relationship-based framework for understanding how children and adults who care for and teach them respond with different emotional states and behaviors over the year.

### Boys in Tutus? Girls with Two Moms? What's a Teacher To Do?

**Kate Slivovsky and Beth Wilson, Chicago Children's Museum** *Thursday*

Panelists share challenges they faced in early childhood due to emerging sexual identity, gender expression, and gay parents. Explore tips and resources about how to nurture confidence in every child.

### Fairness Re-Examined: How to Avoid Over-Reliance on Discipline



**Nancy Bruski, Clinical Social Worker, Wise Choice** *Friday*

Fairness is a commonly misunderstood concept, and by understanding its true meaning, teachers can avoid searching for consequences/punishment and find ways of focusing on problem solving strategies that build self esteem and create community in classrooms. Specific interventions provided.

### Stuck on Stickers? Stop!

**Carol Weisheit, Illinois STARnet** *Saturday*

Are you wondering if there is a better way to interact with children than to bribe them with stickers, candy or by saying "good job?" If so, come join us for a lively discussion of the dangers of using praise and rewards for children's behavior.

### Empower Professionals, Parents & Children

- **Building Social and Emotional Awareness through Music and Books** *Thursday*
- **Sunshine Circles: Promote Positive Relationships in Your Classroom Using Interactive Play** *Friday*
- **Feeling Positive: Music to Prepare Children for a Life of Engagement, Enjoyment and Meaning** *Saturday*
- **The Mutt-i-grees Curriculum: Teaching Social-Emotional Skills** *Saturday*
- **Manners, Motivation and Mayhem: Making Sense of Prosocial Skills with 101 Strategies for Positive Guidance** *Saturday*
- **Using Practical Communication and Deep Play Strategies to Scaffold Every Child's Development of Self-Worth/ Esteem, Humanity-Esteem and Self-Regulation** *Saturday*
- **Thinking About the Power of Your Relationship** *Saturday*
- **Have You Hugged a Teddy Bear Today?** *Saturday*



## Self-Regulation: Getting to the Root Causes

### Understanding and Responding to Children Exposed to Violence

**Vivian Moore and Te' Aira Malone-Zuccaro, Metropolitan Family Services** *Friday and Saturday*

Seeing or hearing violence at home, in the neighborhood or on television can have a serious affect on young children. Learn how to identify children who have been exposed to violence and how you can be of assistance by increasing awareness.

### The Science and Technique of Teaching Self-Regulation to Young Children

**Ellen Tanner, Occupational Therapist, Oak Park District #97** *Saturday*

Discover how happiness and learning blossom, when children are motivated and able to direct their attention to the present moment. Learn the neuroscience behind self-regulation and easy techniques for teaching it.

# Education Starts at Home

## FAMILY & COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

### The Dynamics of Family Relationships



#### The Children are Watching

**Dr. Carlos Cortés,**  
Professor Emeritus of  
History. Creative/Cultural

Advisor for Nickelodeon's Peabody-award-winning children's television series, "Dora the Explorer," and its sequel, "Go, Diego, Go!"

*Thursday*

What do children see, hear and know? Dr. Carlos Cortés talks to us about informal curriculum and how the role of families, peer groups, neighborhoods, churches, organizations, institutions, mass media and other socializing forces educate us throughout our lives. Learn how young people develop their beliefs and feelings about others and how you can effectively use the media as a multicultural curricular tool.

#### Engaging Families of Children who are Culturally, Linguistically, and Ability Diverse

**Johnna Darragh Ernst, PhD,** Heartland Community College *Wednesday*

This presentation will include skills and techniques designed to create classroom communities that welcome and engage all families within early childhood classrooms. Challenges,

and how to overcome them, that practitioners may encounter when setting up thriving partnerships with families of all children served will be the focus of this presentation.

#### Knock, Knock... Is Anyone Home?

**Peggy Kiefer, Parent Educator,** Naperville School District #203 *Thursday*

This workshop will focus on the positive aspects along with the challenges that accompany home visiting. It will highlight some of the current research on home visitation and the comprehensive needs of families we are encountering in this day and age. It will discuss the importance of building a trusting relationship with your families and how your presence may be enough of a support to ease small bits of stress that many live with on a daily basis. It gives parents the opportunity to ask questions – in their own environment, which is often less threatening to them, and hopefully get them to the place where they feel empowered to ask those questions of others. It is also an opportunity to create collaborative problem solving sessions as well as community collaboration in order to benefit the whole family. Would you answer the door?

### Family Support & Parent Education

#### Mis Padres, Mis Maestros/My Parents, My Teacher - An Educational Video

*Nina Duenas and Leticia Ramirez, El Valor Saturday*

This presentation promotes the message - through an educational video - about the importance of early childhood development and the role that parents have during the critical first three years of their children's lives. Participants will also learn activities and interactions to do with babies during everyday routines.

#### Using Digital Video to Transform Coaching with Parents

*Teri Meisner, Education Manager and Rebecca Stadel, Teacher, Heartland Head Start Saturday*

After viewing video of parent/child interactions, the teacher will use Reflective Coaching strategies in coaching the parent on ways to enhance their child's cognitive skills using a homemade game.

#### Engaging Families in the Classroom: High Quality Read-alouds in School and at Home

*Marie Peterson, Education Manager and Karen Ross, Teacher Assistant, Heartland Head Start Friday*

Participants will be introduced to ways that promote parent involvement within the classroom. Examples will be given on how teachers model effective strategies for parents and how parents can apply these learning experiences at home.

#### All Parents Can Participate

*Janet Becker, Director and Barb Metzger, Parent Coordinator, Princeton Elementary #115 Thursday*

This session provides an overview of proven ways to get parents involved with their child's education: volunteering in the classroom, story bags, family nights and parenting classes.

### More About Family Support

- Barriers to Parental Involvement: An Ecological Perspective to Addressing Challenges to Strengthen Families
- Inside the Mind of a Young Parent
- Inspiring Trust and Enabling Competence: Using "Parent Chats" to Collaborate with Families
- Putting Children First: Fatherhood Initiatives
- Building Our Own Neighborhood in a Pre-School Classroom
- Engaging Parents - An Investment that Pays
- Inviting Family Partnerships

### Extended Sessions

#### Recognizing and Responding to Signs of Family Stress

**Jamilah R. Jor'dan, Assistant Professor, Chicago State University and Celina Orozco, Bilingual Lead Trainer, Strengthening Families Illinois**

*Thursday*

This training helps participants get in touch with their own stress, recognize early signs of family stress, and understand the connection between stress and inappropriate behaviors. Strategies to manage stress are also explored.

#### Engaging Latino Families: It's All About Family Support!

**Mariana Osoria, Center Director, Family Focus** *Wednesday*

This presentation will build knowledge; provide tools and resources to engage Latino families in early childhood education programs utilizing the Principles of Family Support as a successful strategy.

# Resources You Need for Every Child to Succeed

## SPECIAL NEEDS

See all workshops with dates and times at [www.chicagometroaeyc.org/opening-minds](http://www.chicagometroaeyc.org/opening-minds)

### Whole Brain Development and Interventions

**Dr. Val Scaramella-Nowinski PsyD, Pediatric Neuropsychology, Founder & Director Neuropsychology Diagnostic Center**

**Drina Madden, M.A., C.A.S., Developmental Specialist Assessment and Treatment**

*Friday 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.*

Exciting possibilities unfold when you learn about bridging brain science and education. Totally different parenting and teaching approaches become apparent. Totally different early childhood environments emerge. Learn about enhancing the potential and success of young children.

### Is it really ADD?... Tips and Tools for Treatment

**Douglas N. Neal, Psy.D., NPS Center for ADD**  
*Wednesday*

Dr. Douglas N. Neal, Psy.D. clinical psychologist will address the complexity of diagnosis and treatment of ADD. A person with ADD often has other neurological conditions which necessitates a multi treatment approach. Judy Fitzpatrick, ADD coach, specializes in equipping parents and teachers in the unique challenges for the classroom and practical everyday family life. As brother and sister, Doug

and Judy's humor and relaxed yet straight forward approach empowers both the professional and parent with tools and hope.

### Early Intervention, The Sooner We Start, The Further They'll Go

**Patricia Singler, LIC Coordinator, Easter Seals Metro Chicago/Child & Family Connections** *Thursday*

Participants will get an overview of the Early Intervention system in Illinois as they learn about the identification and referral process, eligibility determination and available services. A developmental therapist will outline the role of the developmental therapist in supporting the child and their family.

### Assistive Technology and its Impact on the At Risk Child

**Marcia Kilpatrick, Occupational Therapy Director, ICG Rehabilitation Services and Iris Corral, Director, Through a Child's Eyes**  
*Thursday*

This session provides an overview of the appropriate equipment available to families involved in Early Head Start, Therapies, Early Intervention or PreK. The workshop addresses the psychosocial component of assistive technology and its impact.

### Understanding Selective Mutism

**Kathy Slattery, Project Director/Early Childhood Resource Specialist, STAR NET Region II** *Thursday*

Children with Selective Mutism can talk in some settings, such as home, but not others, such as in the classroom. Attend this session to learn more about this puzzling condition.

### Supporting Children's Readiness for Social and Academic Growth

**Nicole Brachfeld, Director of Therapy, Mobile Therapy Centers of America**  
*Saturday*

This presentation will explore the affects sensory processing and behavior have on a child's ability to learn. This training will provide strategies on the 'why, when, what and how' in teaching and addressing social emotional skills. Emphasis is placed on looking at behaviors in the context of development and the environment it occurs in.

### Things Every Child with Autism Wishes You Knew

**Keith Pentz, National Education Advisory, Kaplan Early Learning Company** *Saturday*

This session will address an understanding of and provide specific strategies to be used with children who have been identified and placed under the autism spectrum umbrella.



Information/resources on special needs supported through the generosity of STAR NET.



# Connect Children with Natural Learning Places

# NATURE

See all workshops with dates and times at [www.chicagometroaeyc.org/opening-minds](http://www.chicagometroaeyc.org/opening-minds)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Illinois Nature World Forum

Wednesday  
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

 A champion of the World Forum Foundation's Nature Initiative

### MORNING:

Chicago Metro AEYC and its nature partners reveal their position on technology, unstructured time, outdoor play, risk and natural curiosities in children's growth, development and learning.

Last year, MANAGING RISKS associated with taking children outdoors was cited as a primary concern to connecting children with nature. We will have a panel on hand to address the practical and legal considerations, including:

**Mr. Charles (Reb) Gregg, J.D., Dean of Outdoor Bar**, attorney in Houston working primarily with recreation and adventure-based programs and is a leading practitioner, lecturer and writer in managing legal liability issues for such programs.

**Ms. Kathryn M. Vanden Berk, JD**, a Chicago practitioner who specializes in non-profit law issues.

### AFTERNOON:

Round Table Discussions to Move Illinois' Early Childhood Environmental Literacy Plan forward.



Professional Practice Sponsor



Chicago Metro AEYC warmly welcomes Claire and Mindstretcher's Staff all the way from Scotland!



**Claire Warden**  
Author and CEO of Mindstretchers LTD.



**Dan Phillips**



**Kate Hookham**

Wednesday through Saturday

### RISK

- Create risk policies to support a play based environment.
- Practical use and case studies of indoor and outdoor environments
- Use Photography and video to identify risk and hazards

### CONSULTING CHILDREN

- Creating manageable systems to show the child voice in planning for learning
- Practical methods of consulting using Talking and Thinking Floorbooks and Talking Tubs
- Using technology to record thinking

### INSIDE, OUTSIDE and BEYOND

- Create a management plan to support transition from inside to outside
- Practical ideas for taking indoor interests outside
- Use iPads and video to explore indoor and outdoor learning

### CURRICULUM

- Exploring quality learning environments for a range of curricula
- Case studies to show depth and range of learning in natural playscapes
- How to use graphic representation to explore links across the curriculum

### More Nature Workshops

- **Inspiring Your Naturalists in an Urban Environment**  
*Melissa Tobias and Joe Phillips, Sustainability and Wellness Teachers, Academy of Global Citizenship* **Wednesday**
- **Partnering with Nature: Schlitz Audubon Nature Preschool**  
*Patti Bailie, Preschool Director and Lorna Hilyard, Preschool Teacher* **Wednesday**
- **Urban Conservation & Nature Education for Early Childhood Programs**  
*Michael Rizo, USDA Forest Service International Program, Sara Avalos, El Valor* **Wednesday**
- **Apples to Acorns: Using Nature to Support Learning in Nature:** *Sue Stolzer, National Louis University* **Wednesday**
- **Raising Monarch Butterflies in the Classroom**  
*Sean Shaffer and Liza Fischel, Chicago Park District* **Friday**
- **Explore! The Child's Nature**  
*Marilyn Brink and Mark Freedlund, Chicago Zoological Society* **Saturday**

### Transforming Urban Spaces Into Natural Learning Places: Successful Outdoor Classrooms

*Susie Wirth, Arbor Day Foundation & Dimensions Educational Research Foundation & Kevin Carnes, President of Educational Division, Lakeshore Learning Materials* **Saturday**

A well-designed, nature-rich outdoor classroom spurs outcomes in all curriculum areas. Discover evidence-based design principles for creating effective outdoor learning environments and insight on making them work in urban settings.



# SPECIAL EVENTS

## Third Annual Chicago Opening Minds Higher Education Early Childhood Faculty Forum



**Thursday, January 26, 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Higher Education Faculty of Early Childhood Teacher Education Programs are invited to the Third Annual Opening Minds Forum. Listen and converse with Dr. Carlos Cortés, University of California, Riverside, as he presents:

*Toward the Greater Educational Inclusion of English Language Learners in Early Childhood Programs*

For nearly three decades, the Contextual Interaction Model (CIM) has been one of the fundamental theoretical formulations in the education of English Language Learners. The author of CIM, Dr. Cortés will discuss the model's basic principles, the development of thinking about the societal curriculum (one of the model's critical elements), and the instructional and research implications for college and university faculty. In particular, he will examine the role of the mass media, drawing upon his experience as Creative/Cultural Advisor for "Dora the Explorer" and "Go, Diego, Go!" and research for his book, *The Children Are Watching: How the Media Teach about Diversity*. In addition, he will address the issues of professional teaching standards and performance-based assessment.

We will conclude the day with round table topics that support Higher Education faculty as they address linguistic and cultural diversity in Early Childhood coursework.

*This project is made possible with funding from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act through the State's Early Childhood Advisory Council and Workforce Development Committee of the Early Learning Council in cooperation with the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development and the Illinois Department of Human Services and, the Illinois Resource Center Early Childhood.*

RSVP required: [highered@chicagometroaeyc.org](mailto:highered@chicagometroaeyc.org)

For more details: <http://www.chicagometroaeyc.org/opening-minds/higher-ed-faculty-forum>

## Music and Make & Take Festival

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!**

**Thursday, January 26**

**3:30–7:30 p.m.**

Sing, move, dance and learn at Opening Minds' Thursday night festival! Don't miss your chance to experience music and art and explore your creativity!

For complete schedule and full details visit [www.chicagometroaeyc.org/opening-minds](http://www.chicagometroaeyc.org/opening-minds)



## Service to Young Children Awards Reception

**Friday, January 27, 7 p.m.**

\$15 to members, non-members and guests.

## Yoga and Zumba classes

**Thursday & Friday mornings**

Don't Miss—Yoga and Zumba classes 'FREE' of charge for overnight guests.



# THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



## ACCOMMODATIONS

### Hotel Discounts & Information

Enjoy the luxury of Hyatt Regency McCormick Place at a special Opening Minds Conference discount!

Rates per night are:

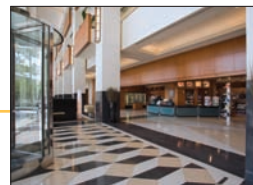
\$141 —Single/Double

\$151—Triple

\$161—Quad

\*Upgrade to Regency Club for only \$22 per person per night.

For more information and reservations, please visit <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/OpeningMinds2012> or call 1-888-421-1442. Be sure to ask for the "Opening Minds 2012" room rate.



### Upgrade to Regency Club!

Regency Club rooms entitle guests to use of the club lounge, including continental breakfast, Hors D'Oeuvres, and desserts.

- The continental breakfast includes coffee, tea, juice, whole fresh fruit, muffins, pastries, bagels, and assorted cereals. Breakfast is served from 6:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.
- Hors D'Oeuvres are served daily from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Items include finger sandwiches, a vegetable tray, mixed nuts and chips with salsa and guacamole.
- Coffee, soft drinks, juices and light snacks are also available from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.
- Dessert is served from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

### Here's how to make your Regency Club Reservations:

Guest can make Regency Club Reservations on-line by visiting <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/OpeningMinds2012>.

Once you have entered your arrival and departure dates, you will see options for Regency Club.

*Rates do not include occupancy tax. After January 10, 2012 reservations for Regency Club will no longer be available. Please reserve your Regency Club reservation early.*

*A One (1) Night's Room & Tax Deposit will be required to guarantee all reservations. Deposits are fully refundable if room is canceled 72 hours prior to the arrival date. Early departures after check-in are subject to a fee of one night's rate plus tax.*

Enjoy special evening events and entertainment at the hotel!

### Not Familiar with Chicago?

Visit [www.choosechicago.com](http://www.choosechicago.com) for theater, restaurant, museum and shopping information. You can also download maps, check the weather and a whole lot more!

# REGISTRATION & INFORMATION



## Register Early & Save

Send your completed registration form and check, money order or credit card information by December 16, 2011 and save. If you miss the early deadline, you may send the regular registration fee of \$150 until January 13, 2012. Otherwise, you may register at the conference for \$160 per person.

## PERMISSIONS

By entering the event premises, you consent to photography, audio recording, video recording and its/their release, publication, exhibition, or reproduction to be used for web casts, promotional purposes, telecasts, advertising, inclusion on web sites, or any other purpose by Chicago Metro AEYC. By entering the event premises, you waive all rights you may have to any claims for payment or royalties.

## CPS VENDOR NUMBER AND PURCHASE ORDERS

Our Chicago Public Schools vendor number is 47706, and the vendor name is Chicago Metropolitan Association for the Education of Young Children. Public school districts may use purchase orders, but must attach one registration form for each person attending.

## SOLICITING

It is Chicago Metro AEYC's intention to provide participants with quality educational and networking experiences. Speakers are not permitted to sell, promote, or otherwise give significant exposure to any company or organization's materials, products and/or services. Please report any inappropriate practice at one of the three information tables throughout the conference.

## CONFERENCE SPECIAL FOR MEMBERS! (LIMITED TIME)

Become a member of Chicago Metro AEYC and receive a discount on individual early conference registration.

## BECOME A MEMBER!

When you become a member of Chicago Metro AEYC, you will receive:

- Membership in three organizations for the price of one! Your membership in Chicago Metro AEYC also includes membership in Illinois AEYC and NAEYC.
- 6 online issues of Young Children, NAEYC's journal.
- The NAEYC print publication package of your choice: 6 issues of Young Children or 5 issues of Teaching Young Children-for the Preschool Professional.
- Comprehensive members receive 5 new NAEYC books each year.
- Discounts and special privileges at Chicago Metro AEYC's conferences and events.
- Networking and leadership opportunities where you can connect with other and develop your expertise.

## CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

Professional Development Funds (PDF) Mini-Grants are now available for Individuals working in child care/after school care programs. PDF Mini Grants are made possible with the generous support of the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS). Apply NOW as funds are limited. For more information if you are in COOK COUNTY, contact Jacqueline Melendez at Action for Children 773-564-8756 and Tracey Bradley 773-564-8804. Outside Cook County? CONTACT INCCRRA at 800-649-1884.

## PLEASE TAKE NOTE

The Opening Minds Conference is about children, not for children. For safety reasons, we cannot allow children or strollers at the conference. If you intend to bring your children to Chicago, please be sure that you have arranged for their care in advance. Your hotel may be able to direct you to services in the area.

## TIPS FOR PLANNING YOUR TIME AT THE CONFERENCE

1. Visit [www.chicagometroaeyc.org/opening-minds](http://www.chicagometroaeyc.org/opening-minds) to get an up to date schedule of workshops offered at Opening Minds.
2. Schedule time to visit the exhibit hall.
3. Plan to arrive at Hyatt Regency McCormick Place at least one hour before the first presentation.
4. Go to the registration area or information booth to obtain your final program.



## DIRECTIONS: GETTING TO HYATT REGENCY MCCORMICK PLACE

Hyatt Regency McCormick Place is located at 2233 S. King Drive. Chicago, Illinois.

The phone number for the hotel is 1-800-233-1234. See page 11 for hotel discount information.

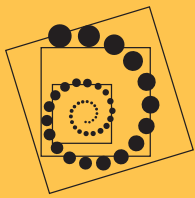
## DRIVING AND PARKING:

Conference participants may park in either Parking Lot A or the Hotel Parking Garage. Lot A cost: \$19 per day. (This lot does not include overnight parking). Hotel Parking Garage cost: \$19 per day for Self-Park. If you should park in the Hotel Parking Garage,

be sure to pick-up a validation coupon in the Hotel Lobby or the Registration Booth prior to departing the conference for the day. Overnight & Valet Parking is valid for Hotel guests at the regular rates-validated coupon may not be utilized.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:

Public transportation to the conference center includes the Metra Electric Train and the CTA King Drive #3 Bus. From downtown, you can catch this bus going south on Michigan Avenue. For Metra train information, call 836-7000 or visit [www.metrarail.com](http://www.metrarail.com), click on Schedules and choose Metra Electric line. By taxi, the conference center is less than five minutes from the Loop.



# opening minds

The Chicago Early Education,  
Child Care and School-Age Conference  
January 25–28, 2012  
Hyatt Regency, McCormick Place  
Chicago, IL

**REGISTER ONLINE** at [www.chicagometroaeyc.org](http://www.chicagometroaeyc.org). It's fast, easy and safe! You will receive your confirmation letter by e-mail immediately. (You may not register with a purchase order online.)

How did you hear about Opening Minds 2012?  Direct mail  Web search  Friend  E-mail  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

### CHICAGO METRO AEYC MEMBERSHIP

	Number of Memberships	Cost	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> Comprehensive Membership (receive selection of NAEYC books) .....	_____	x \$120	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Membership .....	_____	x \$75	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Membership (for full-time students) College Name: _____ School ID #: _____	_____	x \$40	\$ _____

Choose your NAEYC subscription (included in membership)  *Teaching Young Children magazine*  *Young Children magazine*

**ALREADY A MEMBER?** Enter your membership ID number to receive the discount! ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

### CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

	Number of Registrants	Member Price	Non-Member Price	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> GROUP EARLY REGISTRATION. 5 or more people.* See below for details. Postmarked by December 2, 2011. Must attach a list of attendees' names.	_____	\$115	\$115	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL EARLY REGISTRATION. Postmarked by December 16, 2011.	_____	\$110	\$130	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL REGULAR REGISTRATION. Postmarked by January 13, 2012.	_____	\$150	\$150	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> LATE REGISTRATION. After January 13, 2012.	_____	\$160	\$160	\$ _____
<b>WINE TASTING &amp; RECEPTION</b> Friday, January 27, 7 p.m., at the Opening Minds Conference	_____	\$15	\$15	\$ _____

DONATION? I would like to advocate for best practice by supporting Chicago Metro AEYC's professional development services. Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of:

\$15  \$25  \$50  \$100  \$250  \$500  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to Chicago Metro AEYC.**

**Fax registration forms to: 312.427.5028**

**Mail registration forms to:**

**Chicago Metro AEYC**

**30 E. Adams St., Suite 1000, Chicago, IL 60603**

**Questions? Call 312.427.5399**

\***GROUP REGISTRANTS** must pay with a school or agency check, purchase order or credit card. The names of all participating attendees must accompany registration form.

CPS vendor # is 47706.

### NO REFUNDS AVAILABLE

**PERMISSIONS:** By entering the event premises, you consent to photography, audio recording, video recording and its/their release, publication, exhibition, or reproduction to be used for web casts, promotional purposes, telecasts, advertising, inclusion on web sites, or any other purpose by Chicago Metro AEYC. By entering the event premises, you waive all rights you may have to any claims for payment or royalties. inclusion on web sites, or any other purpose by Chicago Metro AEYC. By entering the event premises, you waive all rights you may have to any claims for payment or royalties.

Please fill out the following in its entirety.

Check here if you have a disability that requires special accommodation. Attach explanation or call 312.427.5399.

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Job Title \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Center/School/Agency \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Name at Center/School/Agency (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

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opening minds

**January 25-28, 2012**

**REGISTER NOW AND SAVE!**

**Opening Minds is for anyone who  
cares for or works with children!**

**YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO IT ALONE™**

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