

Professional Development in Cambridge

Workshops held at: Cambridge Family YMCA, 820 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA

Quirky Kids: Understanding and Supporting Young Children Who Don't Easily Fit In*

Wednesday, September 30, 2009 7:00 – 9:00 pm Fee: \$25
Cathy Parshley

EEC Core Competency: Growth and Development

Do you work with a child who is different from others in ways that are difficult to understand? They may be out of sync with their peer group, have difficulty managing their emotions, have unusual interests or demeanors, have a specific developmental delay or diagnosed special need, or struggle with anxiety. We will identify characteristics of these “quirky kids” and you will develop a deeper understanding of them. You will leave with specific strategies to support them in your program.

SPECIAL BEHAVIOR SERIES

Register for individual workshop sessions, or take all 3 for a more in-depth look at children's behavior! Gain a deeper understanding of how positive guidance strategies can support young children's interactions and appropriate behavior.

Candy Podolsky Fee: \$25 per session
EEC Core Competency: Guiding and Interacting

Basic Discipline Strategies for Young Children

Tuesday, October 20, 2009 7:00 – 9:00 pm

What are the definition and goals of “discipline”? Gain a better understanding of what discipline means and strategies such as natural consequences and cooling off periods for angry children. Examine children's motivations, and learn how to help children with problem-solving and conflict resolution in ways that respect each child. Discover how to develop a plan that incorporates positive discipline strategies into your everyday work.

The Power of Positive Language

Tuesday, November 3, 2009 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Can you imagine how children feel when all they hear are negative statements about themselves or others? We will explore the impact of negative language and practice turning negative statements into positive ones. Discussion will include strategies for helping children speak positively, as well as some sensory secrets to help children pay attention.

Understanding and Dealing with Challenging Behavior*

Tuesday, November 17, 2009 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Despite our best discipline efforts, we all have children in our programs who exhibit more challenging behaviors. We will examine the motivation of these behaviors and learn strategies and techniques to deal with the children and situations more effectively.

What's So Funny? Using Humor with Young Children

Monday, December 7, 2009 7:00 – 9:00 pm Fee: \$25
Rita Rzezuski

EEC Core Competency: Guiding and Interacting

Young children love to be funny! Learn how the use humor of with children (in conversations, activities, reading, etc.) helps build their self-esteem, which then helps children develop positive social skills. We will examine a variety of ways that you already use humor in your program, and explore additional strategies for the appropriate use of humor with young children.

The Floortime Approach: Meeting Individual Needs in Early Childhood Groups*

Monday, January 11, 2010 7:00 – 9:00 pm Fee: \$25
Cathy Parshley

EEC Core Competency: Growth and Development

Discover how the Floortime approach, a technique of interacting one-on-one with a child (often on the floor), can help you address and support children's individual needs. Floortime helps you better understand the developmental challenges some children face and helps move them to higher levels of social interaction and play. You will learn specific strategies involved in carrying out a successful Floortime session and we will discuss how to integrate Floortime into the day to benefit each child. This approach can be used successfully with infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

Creating Effective and Positive Learning Environments

Tuesday, February 23, 2010 7:00 – 9:00 pm Fee: \$25
Jada Carlson

EEC Core Competency: Learning Environments and Curriculum

The environment has a great impact on how we learn and behave. You will learn the value of designing a positive environment in which the children in your program can thrive. We will examine classroom arrangement, learning materials and positive approaches to classroom management. You will leave with an individualized action plan to help you implement the strategies discussed.

Red Flags for Children's Mental Health*

Wednesday, March 17, 2010 7:00 – 9:00 pm Fee: \$25
Anita Preble

EEC Core Competency: Guiding and Interacting

It is often difficult to assess emotional and behavioral issues of young children. What falls within the bounds of “normal” behavior? What are some of the behaviors that are indicative of mental health disorders in children? We will examine distinguishing factors to use when deciding if a child and family should be referred for mental health services, how to make a plan, and what to do next. Discussion will include stressors that particularly affect young children, fostering resilience, and what can be put into place at your program to decrease vulnerabilities in children.

The Special Needs of Parents of Infants

Monday, April 12, 2010 7:00 – 9:00 pm Fee: \$25
Anne Marie Smith

EEC Core Competency: Partnering with Families and Communities

Parents of infants (especially first time parents) often require a different style of communication. Examine how to communicate effectively with parents of infants by learning how to share developmental information in a non-judgmental way, as well as how to communicate with parents about sensitive issues. Discover how to approach discussions with an open-minded attitude, and how to partner with parents when there is a difference in caretaking philosophy. Establishing trusting relationship with parents will help produce a positive, stable environment to support infants' optimal development.

Sizzling Summer Programs

Wednesday, May 5, 2010 7:00 – 9:00 pm Fee: \$25
Rita Rzezuski

EEC Core Competency: Program Planning and Development

Make your summer program feel like a camp experience for young children! We will examine how to design special summer schedules and activities that reflect the uniqueness of the season. You will learn how to entice children to explore and discover new learning opportunities. We will consider summer curriculum and field trip ideas, as well as water play and safety issues.

Second Language Acquisition in Young Children*

Monday, June 7, 2010 7:00 – 9:00 pm Fee: \$25
Anastasia Galanopoulos

EEC Core Competency: Growth and Development

Raising and teaching bilingual children is more and more a reality for both parents and educators today. Examine what research tells us about bilingualism and language delay, and explore both the benefits and challenges of the second language acquisition process. You will learn strategies for working with children whose first language is not English that you can implement in your program right away.

Nature in the City

Tuesday, July 20, 2010 7:00 – 9:00 pm Fee: \$25
Lorraine Harris

EEC Core Competency: Learning Environments and Curriculum

It's easy to plan nature activities if your program is surrounded by a natural environment. But what if it isn't? What if your outdoor space is filled with steel and concrete? What if outside time for your infants and toddlers is limited to stroller rides? Discover how even the smallest, darkest outdoor or indoor space can have a piece of the natural world...for children of all ages.