



Yom Limmud

A Conference for Early Childhood Educators

Cultivating Environments for Learners and Teachers to Thrive

Tuesday, November 5, 2019 | 7 Cheshvan 5780

9:00am - 1:00pm

(Registration begins at 8:30am)

Har Zion Temple

1500 Hagys Ford Rd. | Penn Valley

TO REGISTER:

jewishlearningventure.org/event/eceyomlimmud2019

**Registration Deadline
October 18th**

\$25/person

Late Registration: \$30/person

PQAS credit will be available



For more information, please contact Ellen Glassman:

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EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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Cultivating Environments for Learners and Teachers to Thrive*
Tuesday, November 5, 2019 | 7 Cheshvan 5780
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SCHEDULE

8:30am	Registration
9:00am	Welcome and Greetings
9:30am	Session 1
11:00am	Brunch
11:30am	Session 2
1:00pm	Conference Concludes

REGISTRATION

Please register your teachers online:

jewishlearningventure.org/event/eceyomlimmud2019/

The registration deadline is October 18th.

The registration cost is \$25 per person. The late registration fee is \$30 per person. Sessions will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please note: Sessions that do not have sufficient pre-registration to allow for robust interaction, which is essential to the learning, may be cancelled.



LEARNING EXPERIENCES

1. Boost Brain Power with Fitness, Yoga, Mindfulness, Stories and Songs!

Presented by: YOYO Kusters

Get ready to move, sing and play during this FUN, interactive workshop to build strong bodies and brains! Research shows that exercise and music stimulate new brain growth directly linked to memory, and positively change our mood and behavior. Pool noodles, hula-hoops, parachutes, and puppets partnered with sing-a-long songs will help you create a dynamic story time, a mid-day brain break or a fun transition activity.

Yvonne Kusters, fondly called "YOYO" by kids, is the creator of the educational curriculum for teachers - LET'S PLAY TODAY®, co-author of the interactive book MOVE!, co-producer of two children's music CDs, a popular kids performer in the band Lolly & YoYo, a nationally-certified fitness educator and a mom of two young kids. She performs interactive music, fitness and yoga inspired shows in front of thousands of children nationally every year and can even be seen on Sprout's TV - Sunny Side Up Show. YOYO is the creator of the "GO with YOYO! Exercise TV Show for Kids" that promotes healthy active screen time at home or in the classroom.

2. Building Jewish Values using Children's Literature

Presented by: Ellen Walters

Make your classroom a haven for Jewish values. Using both secular and Jewish children's books, we will explore the values in the stories and see how values can inform early childhood practice and work with families.

Ellen Walters, M.Ed has been an early childhood teacher, director and professional development facilitator for many years. For thirteen years she was the Director of Early Childhood Education at Jewish Learning Venture where she led the Director's Council, many learning sessions, and PJ Goes to School trainings. Ellen continues to implement trainings in early childhood centers throughout the Philadelphia area.

3. Classroom Management for Preschool to K

Presented by: Nancy Nicewonger

The participants will explore learning experiences in the classroom for children ages 3-5 years old, with a focus on classroom management, and identify best practices that teachers can use to support student outcomes. Participants will examine and analyze the level of needs for classroom management when exploring moments of transition, peer engagement, problem solving (based on an activity or new situation), and times of instruction. Participants will be given opportunities to model their current strategies, and will be challenged to take on new ideas based on current Child Development research, such as CASEL (The Collaborative Academics for Social and Emotional Learning).

Nancy has worked in early childhood education for 27 years. Working as a director, Pre-K teacher, infant teacher and in many other roles has taught her the value of the early childhood teacher. Working with First Up gives her a chance to talk to others about experiences in education. Nancy has a love for working with groups who are interested in conflict resolution. She has lived in New England, North Carolina and Pennsylvania. She has taught in rural and urban areas, in both private and public school settings. She currently lives with her husband in Pennsylvania, has 2 grown children, a dog and a parakeet.

LEARNING EXPERIENCES

4. Did You STEM Today?

Presented by: Anita S. Block

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in Early Childhood sounds daunting, but you can do it. This workshop will provide you with easy to implement experiments and lessons that engage your students, sharpen thinking skills and create enduring understandings of the world around them.

Anita Block, MEd, is currently the Interim Director of Aduath Jeshurun Preschool and Infant Center. She was previously the interim director at the Kehillah Center in Wallingford and Tiferet Bet Israel in Blue Bell as well as the director of the Lokoff Early Learning Center for Federation Early Learning Services. Prior to re-entering the field of early childhood education, Anita was the Director of the NESS (Nurturing Excellence in Synagogue Schools) for Auerbach Central Agency for Jewish Education (now Jewish Learning Venture). She also served as the Director of the Replication Initiative for PELIE (Partnership for Effective Learning and Innovative Education) to replicate NESS in San Francisco, Detroit, and Pittsburgh. Anita has also served as the Principal of Perelman Jewish Day School, Forman Campus. From 1984 through 2005, Anita worked at Main Line Reform Temple. She was the director of the Early Childhood Center for 14 years before becoming the Director of Education responsible for both the Early Childhood Center and the Religious School. Anita also teaches for Gratz College in the NEXT program and in the Early Childhood Department as the instructor of the Child Development Associate (CDA) course for the State of Pennsylvania. She is a PQAS Certified Instructor for the Pennsylvania Keys to Quality Assurance and has presented at various local and national conferences. Anita holds an M.A. in Jewish Studies from Gratz College, an M.A. in Early Childhood Education and Administration from Arcadia University, and a B.S. in Elementary Education from Saint Joseph's University.

5. Early Childhood Educators & Early Intervention Providers: Establishing Successful Collaboration Approaches for the Classroom

Presented by: Shannon Rosenman, OTR/L

Every early learning center includes children struggling with development, behavior and/or learning and who, therefore, may receive early intervention services. Early intervention providers MUST find a way to work effectively with classroom teachers who may spend up to 8 hours/day with a student. In this training, it is my goal to get input from participants and share specific recommendations so center directors and classroom teachers may function as active, contributing members of a child's early intervention team.

Shannon is an experienced, licensed Occupational Therapist specializing in working with children, and coaching/consulting with their families and educators. Her experience includes work in public schools, hospitals and outpatient settings. For the past 20 years, Shannon has worked in early intervention programs and as a preschool consultant. This included a position of "Inclusion Specialist" for a group of early learning centers. In that role, classroom teachers & center directors taught her about the routines and priorities for an early childhood classroom. They collaborated so she could guide them to adapt classrooms & teaching strategies to be equitable & responsive to ALL children.

LEARNING EXPERIENCES

6. Facilitating Functional Speech/Language/Social Communication for Young Learners

Presented by: Susan P. Paul, M.A., CCC/SLP

Educators and families are facing a variety of challenges that were not an issue when we were young. Our children learn in a variety of ways and require the skills and knowledge of educators who understand and will assist them in their learning process even when each child presents with his/her own set of behavioral and communication challenges. This workshop will provide early childhood educators with strategies to foster positive and functional communication in the classroom that will prove beneficial for all of our children regardless of how they learn best.

Susan Paul is an ASHA certified speech/language pathologist with over 30 years of experience. She attended the University of Maryland and received her B.A. and M.A. from Temple University and received her teaching certificate from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. As a private practitioner, Susan has consulted with preschools, schools, and early intervention programs, and has provided individual and group therapy, including social communication groups. In her group private practice, Communiverse®, she and her associates pride themselves in fostering effective and functional communication techniques by utilizing the most recent research, and a team approach, while drawing on each individuals' strengths. In her capacity as an expert in the field of autism, Susan was featured on Friendly Neighborhoods, a cable television program produced by LaSalle University. Susan has presented workshops to both professionals and laypeople on the topic of autism and early language, learning and literacy development. Susan and her husband, Larry, along with their three children are active members at Congregation Or Ami in Lafayette Hill. Susan has served as HR Chair, Membership Committee Chair, Vice-President and served on the Board and Executive Committees for several years.

7. If You're Happy (or Sad, Stressed, Angry, or Worried) and You Know It, It's OK

Presented by: Shannon Funt

In the course of our day, we experience an array of emotions...some are our own, some are from our partners, coworkers or parents, and many (many!) more are witnessed in the tiny humans we care for. Emotions come in all shapes and sizes, and even though we all have them, most of us weren't ever taught what to do with them, leaving us in a state of constant stress (yet we won't admit it), anger (which is never our fault!), worry, being overwhelmed, etc. Join us for this intimate and interactive workshop, where we'll learn how to navigate the emotional terrain of our homes, schools and classrooms with more grace, ease, and love, using techniques including mindfulness, meditation, and EFT (emotional freedom technique).

Shannon Funt is a recovering over-thinker and under-feeler. After becoming a mom 7 years ago, she was drawn to mindfulness as a means to calm her new-parent anxieties and type-A controlling tendencies. Since then, Shannon has continued her emotional re-education, immersing herself in the world of meditation and personal development, and starting a coaching practice to help teach other parents how to find peace in the present moment. www.shannonmfunt.com

LEARNING EXPERIENCES

8. Kindness Counts: How to Create Culture of Kindness in Your Classroom

Presented by: Lori Rubin

In this workshop, participants will explore how to create a community that values kindness. We will look at different ways to connect students with the idea that one good deed leads to another. Join us for an interactive experience, which will leave the learner with new and innovative ideas!

Lori Rubin has worked in formal and informal Jewish education for over twenty-five years. Currently the Chief Program Officer at Jewish Learning Venture, Lori has served as Director of both congregation-based supplementary and early childhood schools in the Philadelphia area, and Director of Education at Camp Havaya. These varied experiences, which include work across movements, enable her to identify ways to reach, build relationships with, and develop unique programs for families at all stages of their Jewish journeys.

9. Play in Nature: It's Good for All of Us!

Presented by: Karen Lefkowitz

Learn about the many benefits of play in nature including its role in brain development and observing for formative assessment across all learning domains. Strategize to create play in nature opportunities in all ECE settings. Enjoy hands-on activities and experience what play in nature can do for you!

Karen Lefkowitz is a specialist in cross-disciplinary planning and using play to inspire learning. Trained as an artist as well as an educator, with a passion for science and the natural world, Karen keeps current on research in brain science, health, and pedagogy. As an advocate for children and the caregivers who support them, her work brings theory into practice. In her current role as a Technical Assistance and Professional Development consultant, she works across a wide range of childcare settings, which enables her to observe issues that teachers face daily and need support around. She has a 20-year career in education ranging from classroom preschool teaching to training teachers through continuing education/Act 48 credits.

10. Process vs. Product: Expressive Arts for Young Children

Presented by: Gabrielle Kaplan-Mayer

In this workshop, we'll consider the reasons that expressive arts are so important for child development. We'll also try out a variety of visual arts activities that emphasize the creative process rather than the creation of a "product."

Gabrielle Kaplan-Mayer directs 'Whole Community Inclusion' at Jewish Learning Venture and has worked in Jewish education for over 20 years.

11. Self Regulation Toolkit: Helping Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers

Presented by: Jaime Bassman, OTR/L

Unsure how to support infants, toddlers and preschoolers who struggle with regulating their attention span, activity level and/or emotions? Learn from an early intervention occupational therapist about new strategies to add to your toolbox including helpful visuals.

Jaime Bassman, OTR/L is a pediatric occupational therapist whose speciality is working with infants and toddlers and their caregivers. She is also a founding member and inclusion consultant/trainer for the Whole Community Inclusion initiative of Jewish Learning Venture.



LEARNING EXPERIENCES

12. Stress Management and Mindfulness for Teachers, Parents & Kids

Presented by: Peter Moses

Teachers, parents and children can learn to work and play for optimum health and productivity. Participants will rediscover innate abilities to adapt to changing professional and personal circumstances. Topics will include mindfulness practices and games, relaxation, present-tense orientation, time & information management, keys to well-being and more stress-free relationships.

Peter J. Moses, BA Ed. directs a national program for early childhood music enrichment as well as mindfulness for youth, educators and families. He has also been a wellness program facilitator for more than 20 years, offering workshops and seminars successfully at several AEYC chapters, corporations and at private universities.

13. You Don't Have to Be a Yoga Teacher to Add Yoga and Mindfulness Into Your Classroom.

Presented by: Beth Rabinowitz M.S.Ed.

Learn easy techniques to add mindfulness and yoga into your classroom. These skills will add an important component throughout your day and give children the tools to build upon. You will leave with a hands on easy guide of ideas and participate in some make and take projects.

Beth Rabinowitz's career expands over thirty years in the field of early childhood education. She is committed to not only our youngest learners, but their families and her community. She is a strong believer in quality early childhood education, advocating for qualified teachers and providing environments that enhance the whole community. She has been a Jewish preschool director for sixteen years and is currently her Synagogue's young family engagement director as well. Beth has presented at various early childhood conferences and was a long time board member of the Early Childhood Educators of Reform Judaism. As a certified yoga instructor and children's yoga instructor she enjoys bringing all her favorite passions into her career

14. Playing with Hebrew in the Preschool Classroom: How to Effectively and Naturally Include Hebrew in Your Classroom

Presented by: Sharon Levinson

Learn how to bring Hebrew into your classroom in a focused and organized way through teacher directed play. Our methods are loved by students, teachers, directors and parents!

Sharon Levinson is an Elementary certified teacher with close to 30 years of experience in a variety of classroom settings, including public school, Religious School and as the owner of Wee Play Language, a program that teaches foreign languages to preschoolers. Sharon created the method and curriculum used in Wee Play Language and the program has enjoyed many years of success in close to 50 different preschools. It is a completely hands-on program, with each student always having his/her own set of the lesson's manipulatives in front of them. The lesson takes place as the teacher and class play together with the "toys", almost completely in the foreign language. This is done in a very focused and organized way but the students just perceive it as play. From the first class, learning takes off at a rapid pace!