Friday March 11, 2011

Session I  8:15-9:15

F11 Infant
SIDS & Shaken Baby Syndrome: Reducing the Risk!

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and Shaken Baby Syndrome are unique to our youngest children. Both are associated with significant risk factors that can be recognized and modified through appropriate actions on the part of knowledgeable caretakers. Come and learn the latest information for reducing the risk for both SIDS and Shaken Baby Syndrome. Core Competency: IV

Christine Poe
Clinical Assistant Professor
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN

F12 Infant/Toddler
Infant/Toddler Development is the Cradle of Faith

The capacity for faith takes place in the child from birth to 36 months. Brain, moral and personality development come together with the attachment, interaction and attitudes of parents/caregivers and their faith. Connection is made between theory and research to provide practical applications for parents and teachers of infants & toddlers to “rock” this cradle. Core Competency: I, IV, & V

Dr. Elaine Gunderson
Former Professor/Early Childhood Educator

F13 Director
Dealing with Reasonable Accommodation of Children and Employees and Optimal Documentation in Dealing with Dept of Human Services.

Join this session to discuss the new law changes in the area of disability discrimination, discuss methods for documentation of reasonable accommodation efforts and discuss philosophy for written interactions with Dept of Human Services (DHS). Learn ways to optimally document what you do well when interacting with DHS, including while completing the new Risk Assessment audit requirement. Core Competency: VIII

Sheila Engelmeier
Attorney
Engelmeier & Umanah
Minneapolis, MN

F14 Kindergarten/Elementary
Finding Books Kids Want to Read
With so many great books, choosing the right one can be challenging. This workshop will give tools to help kids find books that fit. This workshop also covers research on boys and literacy, ideas for creating literacy-rich learning environments and extending reading experiences. Core Competency: IV & V

**Maggie Snow**  
Librarian  
Hennepin County Library  
Minnetonka, MN

**F15 Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten**  
**Hickory Dickory Dock---Using Nursery Rhymes in Your Classroom**

The benefits of teaching nursery rhymes are many. Learn ways to use them throughout your day to increase phonemic awareness, auditory skills, vocabulary and to develop both fine and gross motor skills. Core Competency: I, II & IV

**Lynne Mulso**  
Early Childhood Educator  
Sherburne, MN

**Elizabeth Sherman**  
Center Manager  
Community Action Head Start  
Saint Paul, MN

**F16 Pre-K/Kindergarten/Elementary**  
**Music to the Max!**

Great action songs as powerful teaching tools plus memorization of scripture made quick and easy with Bible Bops! Guaranteed ideas and songs to use right away with students! Also included will be organizational tips, discipline ideas and motivational phrases to get children to do their best while singing. Warning! Be prepared to sing, move and have fun! Core Competency: I, II, IV & V

**Angela Naeve**  
Musician/Teacher  
Gilmore City, IA

**F17 Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten/Elementary**  
**Practical Supports for Dual Language Learners**

Children learning two languages go through an amazing process! As early childhood teachers, we can play an active and interactive role in this process as well as offer specific support and encouragement to help dual language learners find and use their voices. Come and learn a few new ideas & share a few new ideas with others! Core Competency: II

**Sue Starks**  
Faculty  
Concordia University  
St Paul, MN

**F18 General**  
**Happy Healthy Busy Children**
Come and hear how our Center is making healthy habits a priority. We will share creative and fun ways to get children active. We’ll also find ways to inspire parents to get involved with their children and provide nutritional tips and recipes for healthy eating. Core Competency: I & VI

Janet Betsinger – PE teacher  
Jan Stockman - Director  
Cross View Early Childhood Center  
Edina, MN

F19 General  
Children’s Development: What to Expect and When to be Concerned

This workshop will provide an overview of the red flags for developmental delays in young children, strategies for sharing your developmental concerns with the families, and local referral resources. Participants will receive useful brochures describing typical child development and red flags for atypical development and other resource information. Core Competency: I

Corinne Woosley  
Faculty  
MCTC & DCTC

Session IIA or Lunch 11:30-12:30

F23 Director  
DHS Licensing Update (2 hour session; lunch served during session)

Update of Licensing information and legislative changes. Core Competency: VII

Cathy Mears  
Department of Human Services  
State of Minnesota

F24 Pre-K/Kindergarten/Elementary  
Show Me Yours and I’ll Show You Mine!

Don’t freak out! Join a facilitated discussion about children’s sexual behaviors as one strategy to prevent child sexual abuse and promote healthy sexual development. Resources will be provided to explain what healthy sexual development is, how to encourage it, how to determine whether a behavior is a problem, and where to go for guidance. Core Competency: IV

Deb Colling  
Executive Director  
Professional Learning Alternatives, Inc.  
Forest Lake, MN

F25 Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten  
Supporting Language Development
How does language develop? What is typical for different ages and stages? This workshop will help to answer these questions and provide strategies to promote language development in the classroom. Core Competency: I & II

**Laurie Cummings**  
Child Development Instructor  
Hennepin Technical College  
Eden Prairie, MN

**F26 General**  
**For Heaven’s Sake: Parenting Preschoolers Faithfully**

We are all called to parent children faithfully. It is the most powerful way to grow Christian adults. It is the way we live the promises made at the baptismal font. How can we make sure that all of the care we give Jesus’ little ones is faith forming? How might we partner with the parents of the precious little children in our care? Join Marilyn Sharpe, author of the book by this title, parent educator, parent, grandparent, and woman who is passionate about the passing of a life-transforming faith to all of God’s Children. Core Competency: I, IV & V

**Marilyn Sharpe**  
Principal, CFLE  
Marilyn Sharpe Industries  
Edina, MN

**Session IIB or Lunch  12:30-1:30**

**F21 Infant/Toddler**  
**Musical Babies**

Babies are musical beings! Music is a natural way for babies to learn. Learn unique strategies enhance infant development with musical activities. Participants will engage in hands on activities. Core Competency: I, II, IV & V

**Dianna Babcock**  
Director of Early Childhood Arts  
MacPhail Center for Music  
Minneapolis, MN

**F22 Infant/Toddler**  
**There’s Something About that Kid...**

Something just doesn’t seem right. You have concerns and questions about the development of a particular infant or child in your care. This session will answer questions frequently asked by early childhood professionals such as: What do I do if I have concerns about a child’s development? How do I bring up my concerns with a parent? How can I best interact with this infant or toddler to maximize his/her potential at this age? This session will provide information about early intervention services and how to refer families in your county. Core Competency: I

**Jayne Cox-Lindsay**  
Services Coordinator/Supervisor  
Help Me Grow – Ramsey County

**Lisa Keitel**  
Child Find Outreach Specialist  
Help Me Grow – Ramsey County
F27 Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten
Raising Empowered Children

Learn how to create an environment in which children learn to discipline themselves via the internalization of control, simultaneously reducing discipline problems while raising positive mental health and increasing the level of kindness and respect demonstrated by children in care. Discuss strategies you can add to your tool box that will foster accountability, respect, self-esteem and relationship building in children; understand how mastery of these skills generates self-advocacy and more positive behaviors and rewards, thus empowering each child so gifted by his caregivers. Core Competency: IV

Deb Colling
Executive Director
Professional Learning Alternatives, Inc.
Forest Lake, MN

F28 General
Triple “A” Christians: Surrounding Kids with Awesome Adults

Our children all need to be surrounded by Christian adults who are Authentic, Available and Affirming. But where will we find them? We’ll grow our own! Teachers, parents, grandparents, caregivers, church members, neighbors...we are all candidates! Join Marilyn Sharpe, parent educator and woman with great passion for cross generational faith formation. Come to learn how to go, make disciples, who go and make disciples, who go make disciples of all God’s Children. This is Jesus’ call to all of us. No child has too many of these God-bearing adults. Core Competency: I, IV & V

Marilyn Sharpe
Principal, CFLE
Marilyn Sharpe Industries
Edina, MN

F29 Pre-K/Kindergarten/Elementary
Makin’ Motion Fun!

This session will focus on games, activities, and strategies to keep kids moving and having fun! Core Competency: II, IV, & VI

Kevin Simpson
Physical Education Teacher
District 622
Stillwater, MN

Session III  1:45-3:00
*Note: All afternoon sessions are 2 hour sessions.

F31 Infant/Toddler
No! Mine! Please?!...Helping Children Express Their Wants, Needs and Feelings
Research shows us that children with emotional literacy present with fewer behavior challenges and greater school success. Learn what you can do to promote healthy and emotional literacy skills in toddlers and preschoolers that enable them to identify, understand and respond to emotions. Core Competency: II

**Jen Spaeth**  
Master Trainer/Preschool Teacher  
Rainbow School  
Rochester, MN

**F32 Infant/Toddler**  
The Happiest Toddler on the Block

This training will explore Dr. Harvey Karp’s innovative approach to work with “uncivilized” toddlers. By learning Dr. Karp’s “The Ten Basics for Raising a Happy Toddler” we will discover techniques to help calm outburst, stop tantrums before they start and build loving and respectful relationships with the toddlers in your care. Core Competency: IV

**Erin Bluhm**  
Early Childhood Trainer  
Bluhm & Grow Childcare Consulting  
Elgin, MN

**F33 Director**  
The Professional Development Journey: Reaching your Ultimate Destination with Success

One of the best ways to promote quality in your classroom or your program is to engage in intentional professional development (PD) planning. Taking care of your own development needs actually helps you to take better care of the needs of the children you serve. This session looks at a simple way to uncover your PD needs, to create a realistic PD plan, and to arrive at your ultimate destination – a quality program and a fulfilling career! Core Competency: VIII

**Sharon Bergen**  
Executive Director  
MNAEYC & MNSACA  
St Paul, MN

**F34 Kindergarten/Elementary**  
The Wonders of Gender Differences

Beyond girls need to be strong and boys need to nurture, discover skills and techniques to assist you in teaching boys and girls. What is the latest brain research on gender differences? What are gender based learning strategies? What are some practical tips for raising and educating boys and girls? Learn how the male and female brain differs, what specific challenges each gender faces, and practical suggestions for raising healthy, competent, and empathetic children. Explore the wonders of gender differences and what children need from the adults in their lives.

**Marcia Treno**  
Wyzata Public Schools
F35 Toddler/Pre-Kindergarten
“I Want Mommy!” – Emotional Coaching with Young Children

Are your students crying, uncooperative and fighting? Learn how to effectively use the techniques of emotional coaching to calm children who are experiencing separation anxiety and intense behavior outbursts. Also learn how to use this technique to communicate with parents who are upset or distraught. Core Competency: IV

Amy Timm
Early Childhood Trainer
Director of Excelsior Covenant Preschool
Excelsior, MN

F36 Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten
Activities to Promote Language

Experiment with games and activities that promote all areas of language development: auditory, visual, speaking and printing. Core Competency: I & II

Laurie Cummings
Child Development Instructor
Hennepin Technical College
Eden Prairie, MN

F37 Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten
Keeping Play Alive for Young Children

Children today are experiencing a pronounced absence of play in their early years. David Elkind (2007) refers to it as a “silencing” of play. Research tells us that developmentally, play is imperative for young children's overall growth and development. In addition, there is significant evidence of play's strong connection to learning. As early childhood educators, how do we meet the rising demands of heightened accountability alongside of ensuring that children have opportunities to play and enhance their overall development? Drawing upon research, as well as our collective knowledge and experience, we will delve into this question and the numerous facets during this workshop. Core Competency: I & II

Sue Starks
Faculty
Concordia University
St Paul, MN

F38 General
Why Even the Little Ones have Mental Health Disorders and How We Can Help Them at School

This session will include a description of the early warning signs of children’s mental illness and the roots of these problems. Learn how to integrate mental health supports and services into education program planning. Most importantly, learn how to help children and their families deal with these tough issues.
F39 General
Using Drama, Poetry, Music and Movement to Foster Creative, Whole Brained Thinking

Through demonstrations and audience participation, this “how to” workshop will focus on using drama, poetry, music and movement with young children to engage both hemispheres of the brain. Performance practices and vocal/movement techniques will also be discussed. Core Competency: I & II

Dr. Jeffrey E. Burkart
Professor of Education Media/Communications, Emeritus
Artist in Residence and Director of Drama Ministry
Concordia University
St Paul, MN

Saturday March 12th Sectionals

Section I 8:15-9:15

S11 Infant/Toddler
Enriching Toddler Environments

Learn practical ways to transform your classroom into a meaningful space that will stimulate development and support learning. Areas discussed will be room arrangement, centers, furnishings, colors and more. Core Competency: II

Jamie Lynch
Instructional Specialist
Child and Family Study Center
University of Wisconsin, Stout
Menomonie, WI

S12 Toddler
Let’s Pretend: Designing Dramatic Play Areas for Two and Three Year Olds

This session will explore the what, how and whys of dramatic play for the young child. Visuals such as photos, video clips and props will be used to explain the various themes and learning opportunities involved in this area of play. Several books relating to each dramatic play theme will be presented. Core Competency: II

Kathy Preusse
Senior Instructional Specialist
S13 Director

Stories of Success for Inspiration

Wondering how you can truly make a difference in your community? Join us to hear about two inspiring programs that have done just that. All Saints Preschool in Minnetonka developed a no-cost Pre-K program for native Spanish speaking families in their neighborhood. Seward Child Care Center in Minneapolis forged a relationship with a neighboring nursing home to reap the benefits of their cross-generational “Grand-Friends” program. You will leave inspired and eager to brainstorm. Core Competency: V & VII

Mike Huber
Teacher/Administrator
Seward Child Care
Minneapolis, MN

Carla Nelson
Director
All Saints Preschool
Minnetonka, MN

S14 Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten

Thank You: Fostering Gratitude, Peacefulness and Optimism

We all love to hear a child say “Thank you.” Yet, you can't force a child to feel grateful, peaceful, or optimistic. Find out what you can do to help children learn the meaning and gain an appreciation for these values. Core Competency: IV

Shelley Butler
Adult Education Writer, Children’s Book Reviewer
Author of “The Field Guide to Parenting”
Shoreview, MN

S15 Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten/Elementary

Arts vs. Crafts

This class is based on Bev Bos’ concept of process oriented art. Providers will learn and discuss ways to enhance and promote creativity and self-esteem through children’s art activities in a process oriented way rather than product oriented. Core Competency: II

Mandi Ospina
Early Childhood Trainer
Shoreview, MN

S16 Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten

Wiggly Music for Preschoolers

They're going to wiggle anyhow, so why not pick preschool praise songs that are full of motions, sign language and wiggling! In this workshop you will: Sing preschool songs that incorporate “hands-on” active participation, get ideas for creating rhythm instruments and streamer sticks, and celebrate a preschoolers' ability to worship God as they sing. Core Competency: I, II IV & VII
S17 Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten  
**Kitchen Science**

Get ready to see what can happen with common cooking ingredients. Mix up all kinds of science experiments from ingredients found in your kitchen. It’s the perfect place to make some exciting discoveries about the world of science. Come and explore the wonders of simple science and learn easy, effective activities to use in your program tomorrow.  
**Core Competency:** II

**Bev Herr**  
Early Childhood Trainer/Consultant  
Kinder Crossing Child Development Center  
Woodbury, MN

S18 General  
**Thriving with Food Allergies in the Classroom**

Accommodating for a child with food allergies in your class can really throw a wrench into your best-laid plans, unless you’re prepared! This presentation will equip you to easily manage the rising number of food-allergic children. You’ll learn about food allergy basics, recognizing and treating a reaction, working with parents and creating a safe school environment so you can have a successful year!  
**Core Competency:** VI

**Wendy Wessel**  
Executive Director  
Food Allergy Support Group of Minnesota  
Brooklyn Park, MN

Session IIB or Lunch  11:30-12:30

S22 Infant/ Toddler  
**Creating Rooms of Wonder: Teacher Made Materials for Infants & Toddlers**

Help your classroom come alive! Studies have found that introducing novelty in the classroom can enhance brain development. Learn new ways to turn things you already have into teacher made materials and enhance the learning process of the children in your classroom.  
**Core Competency:** II

**Marcia Wolf**  
Instructional Specialist  
University of Wisconsin – Stout  
Menomonie, WI

S23 Director  
**Improving Morale can Improve Quality without Blowing the Budget**
Creating an upbeat work environment doesn’t have to break the bank. A team player attitude starts with you! Nothing speaks more highly of a program than long term staff. It’s the little things that can do wonders to reduce turnover. Learn strategies to motivate staff with budget-friendly, morale boosting techniques. Core Competency: VIII

Jane Pierzina  
Owner/Director  
Sunshine Learning Center  
Menomonie, WI

S24 Kindergarten/Elementary  
Power of Play

Learn a powerful program for transforming gym time and active play into a community and social skill building experience for all kids. See difficult behaviors and over-competitiveness quickly remedied as kids learn to play well together. Core Competency: IV

Joshua Knapp  
Trainer & Consultant  
Fiddlehouse LLC  
Shoreview, MN

S25 Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten  
Winning Cooperation through Encouragement

In this class, will look at how a child’s self esteem affects their behavior. We will look at how encouragement differs from criticism and praise and what the effects each of these methods have on children. We will learn a variety of ways to help children understand different character traits while being able to identify their own uniqueness. Core Competency: IV

Becky Elrasheedy  
Independent Contractor  
St Paul, MN

S28 General  
Making Peace with War Play

It is very common for preschool children to engage in war play. Many teachers either ignore or ban this type of play, but neither approach truly meets the needs of children. Learn developmental-appropriate ways to address war play and how to effectively communicate with parents and co-workers about war play. Core Competency: I, III & IV

Mike Huber  
Teacher/Administrator  
Seward Childcare Center  
Minneapolis, MN

Session IIB or Lunch  12:30-1:30
**S21 Infant/Toddler**

**Sign Language for Hearing Babies and Toddlers**

This is an introduction to the benefits of using American Sign Language (ASL) with your child. Children are not only auditory learners, they also learn visually and kinesthetically (touch and experience). Using sign language with your child encompasses all learning styles. You child will hear you when you say the word, he/she will see you make the sign and will also experience & feel the word as they learn to sign. Core Competency: I, II, IV & V

Lydia Zabar  
Certified Instructor  
My Smart Hands Minnesota  
Minneapolis, MN

**S26 Pre-Kindergarten**

**Plan with a Purpose**

Are you wondering how you can increase concept development in your environment? In this training, you will receive strategies for integrating, co-creating and taking the children’s background knowledge to plan for a theme. You will learn tactics for taking standards or objectives you are currently using to assess children and integrate those into your planning. You will see pictures of classrooms co-constructed by teachers and students, and example of a lesson plan filled out with these strategies in place and examples of how to track what your children are learning. Core Competency: II & III

Dena Roberts  
Early Childhood Coach/CLASS Coach  
Resources for Child Caring  
Apple Valley, MN

**S27 Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten**

**Creative Environments that Work**

Create classroom environments in early childhood programs that work for students and staff. Guidelines will be shared for using what you have more efficiently, without busting the budget! Core Competency: II

Karla Whittey  
Preschool Director/Teacher  
Luther Preschool/Martin Luther Schools  
Bismark, ND

**S29 General**

**Behavior Equation**

Children’s behavior is composed of three components, but only one of which we have control. Find out the three components and how we can influence their behavior. We will talk about specific behaviors or challenges and how to work at making changes using techniques and tools presented. Core Competency: I
Session III 1:45-2:45

S31 Infant
Grounded and Grasping, Babies Reach Up

Finding the really, real you that God created us to be. What does the spiritual seed within need to grow? Babies need warm relationships with a variety of God’s People. Review basic principles that guide the way adults enter into the baby’s world with respect and responsive care. Share your perspectives as we examine favorable conditions for building trust and growing strong bodies, hearts and minds. Core Competency: I & IV

Dawn Lees
Teacher/Supervisor
Mount Olivet Intergenerational Day Services
Minneapolis, MN

S32 Infant/Toddler
Literacy and Little Ones

Our older infants and toddlers can be captivated by literacy. This time with them fosters a love for reading however enjoying this time with them can mean that we take a different approach to sharing with them. Come learn a little more about how props, flannel boards, puppets and age appropriate extensions can make this an exciting time with your little ones. Core Competency: I, II & IV

Sara Mulso
Adjunct Faculty
Concordia University
St Paul, MN

S33 Director
Leading with a Purpose

THIS IS A 2 HOUR SESSION. FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THIS SESSION, PLEASE REGISTER FOR S43

As leaders, we create from ourselves, others and often nothing. As a leader, each of you is called to be of service to others. When leading with intention one must be present in the moment and hold others as Creative, Resourceful and Whole! When leading from this perspective, awesome outcomes are natural, which allows us to grow ourselves, the program and those we lead in ways we never imagined. Enjoy a discussion on what this journey looks and feels like. Core Competency: VIII

Patricia Brokman
Early Childhood Consultant, Coach & Trainer
**S34 Pre-K/Kindergarten/Elementary**  
**Quiet Time Activities for School Age Children and Your Non-Napers**

This workshop will provide participants with strategies you can use with your School Age Children when you need to bring their noise level down. It also has ideas to uses when they say “I’m Bored!” If you have ideas, come prepared to share!  
**Core Competency: IV**  
**Ellie Smith**  
Retired Child Care Provider/Consultant/Trainer  
St Paul Park, MN

**S35 Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten**  
**Growing a Curriculum**

Join us to learn to use gardening to teach math, science, literacy and social skills. Learn how to make a garden work in any space as well as what plants work well for children. All you need is a little space and a few green thumbs. No dirt required for this garden!  
**Core Competency: I**  
**Carrie Vono**  
Preschool Teacher  
Northwestern College Child Development Center  
Roseville, MN

**S36 Pre-Kindergarten**  
**Integrating Math, Science and Literacy into Dramatic Play**

Are you trying to find ways to spice up your dramatic play and make it more educational? In this training, you will receive ideas on how to co-create your dramatic play to integrate math, science and literacy. You will see examples of a candy store, a concession stand, a bakery and much more! You will leave with a supply list for each dramatic play theme presented. Don’t forget your camera!!  
**Core Competency: II**  
**Dena Roberts**  
Early Childhood Coach  
Resourced for Child Caring  
Apple Valley, MN

**S37 Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten/Elementary**  
**Bible Bops**

Bible Bops help memorize and teach scripture and include the reference in the song. Great for all ages and settings! What better thing can we teach our children than God’s Word? We’ll be boppin’!  
**Core Competency: I, II, IV & V**  
**Angela Naeve**  
Musician/Teacher  
Gilmore City, IA
**S38 General**  
**Cows in the Basement**

A child's life should be full of whim, fantasy, imagination, and goofiness, but all too often kids are being forced to grow up too soon. This session will look at how we as caregivers can feed their need for fun and fantasy...and have a good time ourselves while doing so. Core Competency: I, II & IV

Jeff Johnson  
Keynote Speaker  
Sioux City, IA

**S39 General**  
**The Nature of Playgrounds**

Today’s typical plastic “playground” virtually eliminates any of the most important elements of children’s play. But how did we get here? What effect does this have on children? Learn how playgrounds have changed in recent decades and discover some natural alternative that better support children’s growth and development. Core Competency: I, II, IV & V

Patty Born Selly  
Founder and Educational Consultant  
Small Wonders  
Minneapolis, MN

**Session IV 3:00-4:00**

**S41 Infant/Toddler**  
**Babies in the Rain**

Like it or not, since everything infants and toddlers encounter is new, exciting and a chance to learn, caregivers are “professional role models.” Sadly, too many small children are spending valuable learning time confined to swings, bouncy seats, and cribs or overexposed to developmentally inappropriate practices and materials because their caregivers are pressured, misguided, or uninformed. This session looks at these issues and ways caregivers can be more thoughtful, intentional and tuned-in to the dance of early learning. Core Competency: I, II & IV

Jeff Johnson  
Keynote Speaker  
Sioux City, IA

**S42 Toddler**  
**Art that's Fun & Easy**

Whether you’re a veteran toddler teacher looking for some fresh ideas or a new teacher wanting to learn the tricks of the trade, you will learn how to “add some color” to your toddler art curriculum through the use of a variety of art media that’s toddler centered. Core Competency: II
**Amy Fuhry**  
Toddler Teacher  
Shepherd’s Care Child Care Center  
Maple Grove, MN

**S43 Director**  
**Leading with a Purpose**

**S44 Kindergarten/Elementary**  
**Nature for Kids**

This class will provide participants quick, fun & easy nature activities you can use on Monday. We will be doing fun hands-on activities that you can take with you to do as soon as next week! **Core Competency: II**

**Ellis Smith**  
Retired Child Care Provider/Consultant/Trainer  
St Paul Park, MN

**S45 Pre-Kindergarten**  
**Spice Up your Summer...or Any Time of Year**

Using special content themes days to boost enrollment and beat the summer slump! Five special days focus on science, math, drama, art, and large motor skills. **Core Competency: II & V**

**Carrie Vono**  
Preschool Teacher  
Northwestern College Child Development Center  
Roseville, MN

**S46 Pre-Kindergarten**  
**Parent Involvement: Why Not?**

Positive parent-educator relationships are beneficial to children. Learn to identify and be sensitive to relationship barriers. Gather practical ideas and activities that support Parent Involvement. **Core Competency: V**

**Natalie Marose**
Early Childhood Educator

**S47 Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten**

**Creative Environments that Work**

Create classroom environments in early childhood programs that work for students and staff. Guidelines will be shared for using what you have more efficiently, without busting the budget! Core Competency: II

**Karla Whittey**  
Preschool Director/Teacher  
Luther Preschool/Martin Luther Schools  
Bismark, ND

**S48 General**

**How Does Your Engine Run? Using the Environment to Help Children Control Their Emotions:**

This workshop will examine specific strategies for promoting self-regulation skills in young children through environmental supports in the early childhood setting and how this skill relates to their positive mental health. Participants will have the opportunity to explore key characteristics of both the physical and the emotional environments which encourage self-regulation skill development.

**Cindy Croft**  
Director  
Center For Inclusive Child Care  
St Paul, MN

**S49 General**

**Science Stories**

Beautiful, authentic nature stories can be the perfect jumping-off point for scientific inquiry and investigation. In this hands-on presentation and discussion, you'll discover some guiding principles for choosing nature stories that inspire curiosity and foster scientific thinking skills. Work in groups to determine content and direction for your own scientific explorations through literature and the natural world! Core Competency: II

**Patty Born Selly**  
Founder & Educational Consultant  
Small Wonders  
Minneapolis, MN