

FAMILY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Going The Distance for Early Education

College of Education

WORKSHOP MENU & DESCRIPTIONS

Please share the information presented in our workshops with others, especially families. Whenever possible, please invite parents and adult family members to be included in the workshops.

Each of these workshop topics can be tailored to meet community goals for professional development. Most sessions are developed for 2 to 6 hours in length, depending on your needs and timeframe for scheduling. Please note that some of the workshops require a minimum of 4 hours, as noted by an asterisk* at the end of the title.

Some of the Family Development Program's Education Specialists are bilingual and can facilitate workshops in Spanish. If this is an area of need, please call for consultation.

Contact Monique Chavez at 505-277-5800 or machavez@unm.edu for workshop reservations.

SCHOOL-FAMILY-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Building a Positive Relationship with Families

Parents and teachers have the same goal when it comes to being with children – their healthy growth and development. Learn some new strategies for getting to know parents and to help them get to know you. The interactive methods used will help facilitate communication and give voice to the values, strengths, and concerns that are shared by parents and caregivers.

Setting Goals Together With Families for a Successful School Year

Using your own experience as a student in school, we'll begin the process of defining what a successful school year looks like. We'll explore the strengths and concerns of parents and teachers. Small groups will work together to create goals and an action plan to help implement them.

Building on Common Ground to Resolve Conflicts

Conflicts are a part of life. How we deal with conflict - whether with parents, co-workers or others - can either sever our relationship or make it stronger. Teachers and parents will practice a range of techniques to build skills for resolving conflict, including how to understand the problem and who owns it, active listening, framing difficult issues, self-composure, creative problem solving, and more.

Home Visits: Furthering Relationships with Families

Home visiting can be a way to get to know parents that is respectful and empowering. The home visitor's task is to attune her or himself to the family's unique rhythms, culture, and way of communicating. The family support principles presented in this workshop will help home

visitors learn to distinguish between pushing an agenda, and allowing the family's agenda to emerge, as well as ways to work together toward accomplishing the goals the family sets.

Celebrating Differences in Family Culture and Values

Learning about a family's culture and values helps to create a stronger bond between school and home. Activities in this workshop help identify what culture is and some different ways to think about it. We'll also look at how to celebrate family differences.

Family Stories/Family Literacy

Explore the importance of the stories we tell at family gatherings and how they help a child in literacy development. Participants engage in storytelling, discussion, and learning, and share ideas for literacy extensions, including book making. Teachers will gather ideas on how this can be used to encourage interaction between family and school.

Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Lots of grandparents in New Mexico are actively involved in their grandchildren's lives. Grandparents often have to redefine their roles and responsibilities when they take the role of caregivers. This interactive workshop will explore how to reconcile changing values and to build upon the strengths parents and grandparents bring into their children's lives.

Welcoming Fathers to Their Children's Learning

Fathers' involvement encourages their children's exploration of the world around them and helps them gain confidence in their ability to solve problems. Getting fathers involved may lead to higher achievement, educational goals, and better classroom behavior. This workshop will offer suggestions to welcome fathers to the learning environment and help them take a more active role in their children's learning.

Observing and Documenting Children's Growth and Development

By observing children you get to know them better and are more in tune with their strengths and personalities. Your observations provide the basis for activities and curriculum that address the specific capabilities and areas of growth for the children in your care. Documenting observations at home and school allows teachers and parents to exchange information about children. Participants in this workshop will strategize how to use and share focused observations in support of children's growth and development.

Professional Ethics: Raising the Bar of Excellence

This interactive workshop helps participants understand the difference between philosophical and ethical issues. Through activities, role-play, and group discussions, teachers of young children and parents will examine their role as it relates to ethical issues of confidentiality, dual relationships, documentation, accessing resources, and advocating for children. Come prepared to question and contemplate.

CREATIVE LEARNING

Emergent Curriculum: Following the Child's Lead

Just like adults, children learn best when their interests are valued. Teachers and parents will learn how to develop academically rich projects based on their students' interests. Participants will receive *Playing With Ideas*, a guidebook for those who enjoy thinking with children, and participate in a hands-on experience using materials that can contribute to the development of learning projects with children.

Discovering Together through Play

Parents and teachers get a chance to play, experiencing what it means for how children learn. We explore a rich variety of materials without an end result in mind. The importance of play to cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development is discussed in relation to these play experiences. As we view and talk about other's creative results, it also becomes clear how open-ended play touches upon all domains of learning. Membership to the *Wemagination Resource Center* may be purchased after participation in this workshop.

The Role of Play in Developing Literacy in the Home and in the Classroom

Play is the language of children. It can be the basis for very powerful learning. Literacy activities can extend and enhance a child's play. In turn, using play as a starting point can allow the child to understand the written word as directly related to his or her activity. This hands-on workshop will explore ways to add a literacy component to children's play.

Early Language, Early Literacy

Early language development is the essential building block to literacy. It's never too early to start children on the road to reading, writing, and making sense of their world. How do you start and what does early literacy development look like? What are some strategies and materials you should have in your home or classroom, and how can you use them? Expand your repertoire of ideas in this workshop.

Outdoor Learning in Nature

Go beyond the walls of home or center. There are many math, science and language opportunities waiting to be explored and discovered outside. Learn how to immerse yourself and your children for outdoor learning that will ensure a successful experience for all. Come prepared to spend some time outside to get the feel for the possibilities and explore the wonders of the natural world.

Fun with Math, Science, and Art

Math, Science and Art are everywhere: in the home, in the classroom and in the world. This workshop offers parents and teachers ideas on being more aware of the natural alliances among math, science, and art through a variety of hands-on activities tied to educational goals. "You can do math without science, but you can't do science without math." We don't know who said it, but this quote illustrates the easy integration between the two. We've included art as well because it is fundamentally tied to math and science concepts.

Early Childhood Math and Science with GEMS – Great Explorations in Math and Science

GEMS is a fun resource program that provides excellent inquiry-based science and math educational opportunities that integrate language arts. **GEMS** has a series of guides that help teachers (and parents as teachers) provide interesting, hands-on learning experiences. The materials and activities contain instructions that present guided discovery in math and science. Along the way, literature and language arts support the total development of the child.

Titles and Short Descriptions

Ant Homes under the Ground: Ant behavior with role-play, cooperative exercises, integrating math, science, and language development. **PreK-1**

Animal Defenses: An introduction to predator/prey and defensive behaviors in the animal world. **PreK-K**

Bubble Festival: Tabletop learning stations packed with math and science concepts.

K-6

Buzzing a Hive: Explores the complex social behavior, communication, and hive environment of the honeybee. Activities mix art, literature, role-play and drama.

K-3

Eggs Eggs Everywhere: Introduction to the wonder of eggs of all kinds; biology and life science. Activities integrate literature, math, role-play, drama and art; introduce sorting, classifying, & graphing.

PreK-1

Elephants and their Young: Learn about elephants through art, drama, and role-play. Math and science concepts include measurement, weight, volume, and comparisons.

PreK-1

Hide a Butterfly: The concept of protective coloration; learning to identify parts of a flower.

PreK-K

Ladybugs: Use ladybugs to present science and math relating to animal adaptation, ecology, and interdependence. Children learn about ladybug body structure, symmetry, life cycle, defensive behavior and foods. Live ladybugs optional. Great with Buzzing a Hive and Hiding a Butterfly.

PreK-1

Penguins and their Young: Math and science concepts and skills addressed as children learn about the adaptations and environment of the emperor penguins. Through role-play, drama, and games, integrate language learning with math and physical and life sciences.

PreK-1

Tree Homes: Appreciation for trees and the animals that live in them. Role-play and math with sorting, classification, and measuring.

PreK-1

Mother Opossum and Her Babies: Designed to develop math and science concepts. Activities integrate science, math and language.

PreK-1

Teacher guides are available for purchase, but are not required.

Please contact Monique Chavez at 505-277-5800 or machavez@unm.edu to place order.

Integrating Music and Movement for Healthy Development

Brain research informs us of the importance of integrating music and movement to maximize learning and to promote healthy development. Parents and teachers will explore ways to include essential movements for development and how music can be used to enhance learning and memory. In addition, participants will look at using observations to make movement and music an integrated and purposeful part of the daily routine at school. We will also consider ways to have it be a fun activity at home that can build upon family culture and traditions.

Managing the Learning Environment

Whether you care for children at home or in a center, there are methods to make the most of your space to create an environment that supports active learning. This includes the physical structure and materials. Placement of materials lets children know about your expectations for their behavior. Learn how to make your space child friendly, challenging, and supportive for you and the kids.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Child Development from Birth through Age 5* [Requires minimum of 4 hours]

Development occurs in a similar way for children. Yet differences -- such as family genetics, individual experience, and a range of cultural and social influences -- also affect development.

In order to promote development, it is important that teachers, parents, and caregivers are sensitive to both general guidelines as well as individual developmental characteristics. This workshop provides an overview of the developmental continuum and also explores more specific milestones for the particular age group of children served.

Understanding Children's Behavior and Temperament

Children have inherently different temperamental tendencies that play a role in their behavior. Along with parenting, culture, and the environment, temperament has a strong impact on the relationships between children and their caregivers. In group care, the variety of temperament traits can create a challenging mix of needs and demands that compete for the caregiver's time and attention. Understanding temperament will help caregivers work with children and adults more effectively.

Developing a Sense of Responsibility in Children

Learning to be responsible requires that children practice making choices and decisions. Children learn best when they make their own decisions and learn from them whether at home or in the classroom. We can help them by providing opportunities that are in keeping with their age and ability, setting some boundaries and learning to compromise. In this workshop we'll view the development of responsibility as a learning experience.

Intentional Discipline

We have continuous opportunities to reframe "discipline" as teachable moments where children can learn self-composure and empathy. Intentional discipline helps adults and children use their strengths to turn around situations when behaviors get out of control. In this highly interactive workshop, strategies are practiced for approaching discipline as a time of teaching and learning, tied to key research about how these strategies also connect to brain development. *This topic can be developed into a series of workshops.*

Exercise Your Options: Creating a Fit Future

Finding time to exercise can be difficult for adults and children. Building healthy eating habits and fitness time into your day can be rewarding and enjoyable. During this workshop we'll engage in some easy exercises for you and for children. We'll talk about food choices and proper portions. And we'll learn about the brain connection between exercise, food, and learning. Dress so that you have freedom of movement. Expect to have fun and be inspired!

Helping Children Become Problem Solvers

Problem solving is a learned skill - and even children as young as four can learn it. We'll use fun dialogues, games, and activities that will help you teach children to solve problems and resolve conflicts; be able to explore alternative solutions and their consequences; and learn to understand the feelings of others. Through your guidance, children will learn *how* to think.

How Witnessing Violence Affects Young Children, Part I* [Requires minimum of 4 hours]

This workshop creates a foundation for Part II. We identify the impact that witnessing violence has on children, and examine protective factors that enhance the ability of families, teachers, and children to cope with exposure to violence.

How Witnessing Violence Affects Young Children, Part II* [Requires minimum of 4 hours]

We'll examine the characteristics of a relationship that promotes trust and confidence. The specific attributes necessary to make a classroom a center for refuge and healing will be addressed. Caregivers will explore and experience the role that art and drama have in gaining

insight into children's thinking, and how art and drama can help a child process trauma and move toward healing.

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SPECIAL LEARNING PROGRAMS

The Family Development Program has two Learning Programs that are offered to a small group of community partners each year by special arrangement. Both programs provide a series of workshop modules that require a commitment of attendance by the same group of participants for all the sessions. **Additional costs for training materials are also required.**

If you are interested in learning more about these Special Learning Programs, please call Monique Chavez at 505-277-5800 to schedule an appointment with our Director or one of our Education Specialists.

FLECHA: Family Leadership for Education, Culture and Healthcare Access Developed by Louise Kahn for New Mexico SPARK

FLECHA is a dynamic program designed for parents of young children. A series of four 2-hour workshops provides information about resources to help families find the basic things they need to raise healthy children who are eager and able to learn in school and at home. Families can make the biggest difference for their children's success – by learning how the health care and education systems work, by using their family and cultural strengths to support their children, and by becoming Learning Advocates for their children and in their own community. The program promotes parent-to-parent peer teaching and learning. **FLECHA** is a facilitated learning process that needs a commitment from the same group of parents who want to be involved in all 4 sessions.

Mind in the Making: The Science of Early Learning Developed by Ellen Galinsky (President), Families and Work Institute

Mind in the Making integrates current research from leading scientists in brain development, neuroscience, psychology, and child development from more than 25 prominent universities. The 12 modules have been carefully designed to bridge theory and practice, based on the science of how young children learn best. Intended to transform teaching practice, **Mind in the Making** is a dynamic facilitated learning process that develops new understanding about the vital role of teachers as intentional learners who are pivotal for student success.

Mind in the Making requires a minimum of 15 participants who will attend all 12 learning modules (30 hours of required classroom time and 15 hours of documented observation, interviews, assignments).

The Office of Child Development recognizes **Mind in the Making** as a course equivalent for the 45-hour early childhood licensing requirement. Professional Development Credit through the University of New Mexico's Extended University is also available.