

Georgia Preschool Association

The President's Corner

Diane Lamb

Spring 2016

The Georgia Preschool Annual Conference was a huge success. We had over 1,200 people attending the two day event. It began with Dr. Jean Feldman "With a Song in my Heart". Singing makes everyone happy; and, everyone learned so much and had such a great time. I know all the new ideas and renewing and reviewing some of the tried and true ideas certainly gave you affirmation of what a wonderful job we are privileged to do.

Many thanks go to a number of people who worked so hard on this conference: first and foremost Diane Snyder, Training Chair; Tonie Sanders, Training Co-Chair; Beth Hefner, Training Co-Chair; Louise Clifford; Karen Coffeen; Kristi Olterman; Helen Geesey; Janis Smith; Nancy Bulger; Cathy Mercier; Betsy Primm; Denise Luders; Laura Newman; Amy Wraga; Donna House; Kyle Taft; Terry Graham; and Cassie Rasco. These folks are volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure that the conference is available to preschool staffs all across the state of Georgia.

Next year's conference

dates are already set for March 3 and 4, 2017. Go ahead and mark your calendars and plan on attending one of the best preschool conferences. Think about making it a team building event for your staff. Monies spent on training are the best monies you can spend.

I know everyone has spring fever and even a few allergies. But, this is a wonderful time of year to let the children enjoy the beautiful world around them. There are so many activities that you can do with children with the flowers, plants and just being outside. You may even want to take your classroom outside on a very beautiful day. Children learn in so many ways.

I want to share something I received a long time ago about children that really stuck with me.

Children Are...
 Amazing, acknowledge them.
 Believable, trust them.
 Childlike, all of them.
 Divine, honor them.
 Energetic, nourish them.
 Fallible, embrace them.
 Gifts, treasure them.
 Here now, be with them.

Innocent, delight with them.
 Joyful, appreciate them.
 Kindhearted, learn from them.
 Lovable, cherish them.
 Magical, fly with them.
 Noble, esteem them.
 Open minded, respect them.
 Precious, value them.
 Questioners, encourage them.
 Resourceful, support them.
 Spontaneous, enjoy them.
 Talented, believe in them.
 Unique, affirm them.
 Vulnerable, protect them.
 Whole, recognize them.
 Extra special, celebrate them.
 Yearning, notice them.

Each one of us has the opportunity every day to share something with a child. Sometimes it isn't anything, but a simple hello. These words received by children are certainly taken to heart. Don't miss an opportunity to encourage, cheer, affirm, notice and respect a child.

Again, thank you for being a member of the Georgia Preschool Association and if there is ever anything we can do for you please give us a call. You can visit the website at georgiapreschool.org.

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Chaplain's Message

Cathy Mercier

Thank you for your kindness!

It was so good to be with all of you at our Annual Conference! As some of you know, I was diagnosed with breast cancer in September and have undergone surgery and am currently receiving chemotherapy. To say this "rocked my world" would be an understatement! Through all this, the kindness people have shown me has been extraordinary! On my most difficult days, someone will hold a door open, smile at me as they pass by or offer a hug. I pray I will always be mindful of opportunities to show kindness... Here are some of my favorite quotes about kindness. I hope this brightens your day!

- "Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a harder battle." Plato
- "Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see." Mark Twain
- Tenderness and kindness are not signs of weakness and despair, but manifestations of strength and resolution." Kahlil Gibran
- "You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late." Ralph Waldo Emerson
- "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." Aesop
- "Three things in life are

important. The first is to be kind. The second is to be kind. And the third is to be kind." Henry James

- "A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees." Amelia Earhart
- "How beautiful a day can be when kindness touches it!" George Elliston

District 6

Diane Lamb

dlamb@georgiapreschool.org

A number of schools attended the GPA Conference at Cobb Galleria and returned to their respective schools with a lot of enthusiasm and knowledge. There were classes for everyone and Dr. Jean did a wonderful job as the keynote speaker. The date of next year's conference has already been set and I encourage you to make plans to attend. The dates for 2017 are March 3 and 4.

There will be a conference at Griffin First Baptist on Wednesday, July 20, 2016. This is a nice conference that is on the south side of Atlanta. You will receive 4 hours of BFTS training. Information for that conference will be coming to you before school is over.

Hopefully all schools are taking

advantage of this wonderful spring weather. There are so many ways to teach your class with the beautiful display nature is giving us right now. You may even want to consider doing a day of outside study. These are the fun things that children remember about their school years. If your school does field trips remember there are many places to go in your area that aren't too expensive. You can even talk with some of your local businesses to see if they would participate in a "hands on" field trip. Most areas have a nice park that you may want to visit. These are just suggestions that may enhance your school's activities.

In District 6 we now have a Southern Crescent Preschool Collaborative. This is a new organization that Debby Daniel-Bryant,

Director of First United Methodist Preschool in Griffin, has graciously agreed to organize. We have now met twice and our membership of directors has continue to grow. Our last meeting was on Thursday, April 14 at 2:00 p.m. at Newnan First United Methodist Church. Nancy Martin, Director, hosted and provided lunch for this event. If you are in the District 6 area and want to meet with us, please contact Debby at [770 228-0166](tel:770-228-0166). This is such a great way to share our knowledge and vast expertise.

If I can ever be of service to you feel free to call on me. Also, if you know a school that is not a member of the GPA I encourage you to refer them to this organization.



Change starts with You!

Our inspiration for this year's District 7 Training Event comes from Disney's new Zootopia movie. In preschool, *life is a little bit messy and we all make mistakes*. We all want to *make our broken world a better place*; that's why we need good teachers! Come spend the morning with area teachers learning skills to make your classroom a place like Zootopia where we

all live and learn together. And remember, *Change starts with you!*

Our District 7 Training event is planned for Tuesday, August 9. We hope to have 10 - 12 presenters and have commitments so far from some of our favorite presenters including, Donna House, Merry Bentley, and Cathy Mercier. We are adding some speakers that are new to our

area including Hope Long (STREAM), Lori Sugarman (Yoga), and Victoria Spratt (Math). If you have ideas for additional presenters or would like to present, contact us! Registration information will be posted at standrewumcpreschool.com and georgiapreschool.org



Conference Update

Diane Snyder

What a wonderful time we had at our 2016 Georgia Preschool Conference, "With a Song in My Heart!" A record crowd from recent history (over 1,200 in attendance!) witnessed a wonderful, inspiring keynote session from Dr. Jean Feldman, "Kids Just Wanna Have Fun - and Teachers Do Too!" The trend continued as we began the workshop sessions, with very few negative comments on the evaluation forms. We appreciate all of you who attended this year's conference and hope you will invite a friend to come with you next year!

We celebrated Directors this year, with special sessions at all workshop times and a unique session on Friday afternoon where Directors were treated to an introduction to our Georgia Preschool Association sponsored web site, Sight-Words.com. Giveaways, coupons, and door prizes made our Directors feel celebrated. We hope all of you enjoyed the extra special treatment courtesy of The School Box, ProSolutions and Georgia Preschool Association!

We are already working on the 2017 Conference and are looking forward to another great time of recharging, reflecting, sharing and learning once again. This conference is run by all volunteers who have a heart for providing quality training that will help our teachers be better so that the

[770-517-4301](tel:770-517-4301). We appreciate your feedback, as it helps us to provide topics and speakers you look forward to seeing. We thank everyone who made this year's conference such a huge success. Let's each make an effort to finish out the 2015-16 school year "With a Song in My Heart!"

Georgia Preschool
Association
Annual Conference
March 3 and 4, 2017
Cobb Galleria Centre

children we teach will have a positive early learning experience. Help us keep that mission going by spreading the word about Georgia Preschool Association!

If you have suggestions for next year, please contact Diane Snyder at dianemsnyder@comcast.net or



Hostesses Make A Difference!

Janis Smith

One of Georgia Preschool's strongest characteristics is the quality of the consultants we are able to provide at our annual conference. One of the reasons consultants are happy to return to work with us because of the warm hospitality we provide and our hostesses are responsible for that hospitality.

Thank you to all who served as hostesses at the 2016 Annual Conference. Not only did you provide a warm and friendly contact with the consultants, you gave us important insight as to the quality of the workshop through your

evaluations.

We are always in need of hostesses, if you would like to be one, please contact Janis Smith through the GPA website.



GPA Silent Auction

Baskets of Fun!

Baskets of Learning!

Our auction this year was filled with colorful baskets. We had donations representing a variety of classroom themes created by our GPA board members. Several vendors gave us *pamper yourself* baskets as well as many other items. The Kaplan Company donated 2 baskets filled with teacher supplies and resource books. A very special thanks to the Archdiocese of Atlanta whose 30 preschools each donated a basket in honor of Margaret Sheffield, whose life was tragically taken last September. Ms. Sheffield was the mother the Assistant Director at St Catherine of Siena Preschool in Kennesaw.

We hope that teachers went back to their classrooms on Monday with some great new classroom tools and ideas to share with children. We

know one director purchased 8 baskets to give to her teachers! Learning is the greatest gift!

GPA thanks you for supporting the auction so that we can continue to

provide this great event at an affordable price.

Thank you from the GPA Silent Auction Team!



GPA Conference Exhibit Hall

Karen Coffeen

Thank you to everyone who attended the conference and came in to shop and gather information in the exhibit hall. The exhibitors were happy to see you and appreciated the time you took to look at and purchase their products as well as listen to the descriptions of their services. I hope that you enjoyed the Exhibit Hall Bingo. We did! We gave away 40 prizes!

I would also like to thank all 33 of the exhibitors who had a booth in the exhibit hall. We appreciate their support of the GA Preschool Association. The companies that were represented included: A Butterfly Tale, Abrams Learning Trends, Adaptive Learning Center, Becker's School Supplies, Busy Kids Activities, Chattahoochee Nature Center, ChildCare Careers, Child Care Education Institute, Discovery Toys, Dr. Jean, Dr. Thomas Moore, Feingold Association of the U.S., Frog Street Press, Fundanoodle, Fun Science, GA Student Finance

Com./Path2College, GAYC, The Graduation Place, Kodo Kids, Lakeshore Learning Store, NJS Fashion Handbags, Origami Owl, ProSolutions Training, Pudala Uniforms, Respectful Signage, The School Box, Star Bright Books, SunPlus Data Group, Training on Demand, Walden University, Zoo Atlanta, and Zoo-phonics.

If you would like more information on any of these companies please check out the website: www.georgiapreschool.org or contact me at the contact information below. Also, if you have any companies that you would like to see in the exhibit hall next year, please send me their name and contact information if you have it. We want next year's exhibit hall to be better than ever!

kcoffeen@georgiapreschool.org or 770-590-0982



Call For Proposals

Would You Like To Be A Presenter at the Georgia Preschool Association Annual Conference?

Georgia Preschool Association Annual Conference - March 3 & 4, 2017
Call for Proposals

Deadline for Proposals: June 1, 2016

Proposals should include the following:

Completed application including Title of Presentation, Target Audience, a brief outline, Presentation Methods to be used, a brief description of the workshop, and a brief statement of the presenter(s) qualifications, a Social Security number or Employee Federal Identification Number for taxes.
Name, title, place of employment, address, work and home/cell phone numbers, and e-mail address for each presenter
Resume for each presenter
Outline of Presentation including measurable objectives
BFTS approval letter if your presentation has previously received BFTS approval
Three copies of the entire proposal (including resumes/letters)

Proposals will be evaluated by the conference committee and selections made based on the evaluations from prior conferences and the needs of the membership as well as the submissions received.

Contracts will be issued in June or July for the following year's conference.

All Sessions will be 1 ½ hours in length.

All presenters will be offered the following from Georgia Preschool Association:

An honorarium in the amount of \$125 per session presented unless another amount is approved by the conference committee. This means that each SESSION will be paid this amount, not each PERSON.

Lunch on presentation day(s)

Up to \$50 in consumable supplies (with receipts)

Hotel Room(s) as needed for presentation days.

Up to \$100 in travel expenses unless another amount is approved by the conference committee.

Audio/Visuals within reasonable limits. LCD Projectors and/or Lap Top Computers **will NOT** be provided due to the enormous cost incurred to rent these pieces of equipment

Negotiations will be made to offer Exhibit Space to presenters who need it.

All other expenses will be the responsibility of the presenter.

Proposals should be submitted to:

Georgia Preschool Association
c/o Diane Snyder, Training Chair
645 Feverfew Court
Acworth, GA 30102

OR May be e-mailed to:

dianemsnyder@comcast.net

Questions may be directed to:

dianemsnyder@comcast.net

770-517-4301 home or 770-499-1580 work

Call for Proposals Application

Name _____ Title _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Please check here if you would like your e-mail address to NOT be listed in the booklet.

Employer _____ Title _____

Title of Workshop _____

Brief Description of Workshop to be included in the Conference Brochure _____

* Please enclose an outline of your workshop and a current Resume.

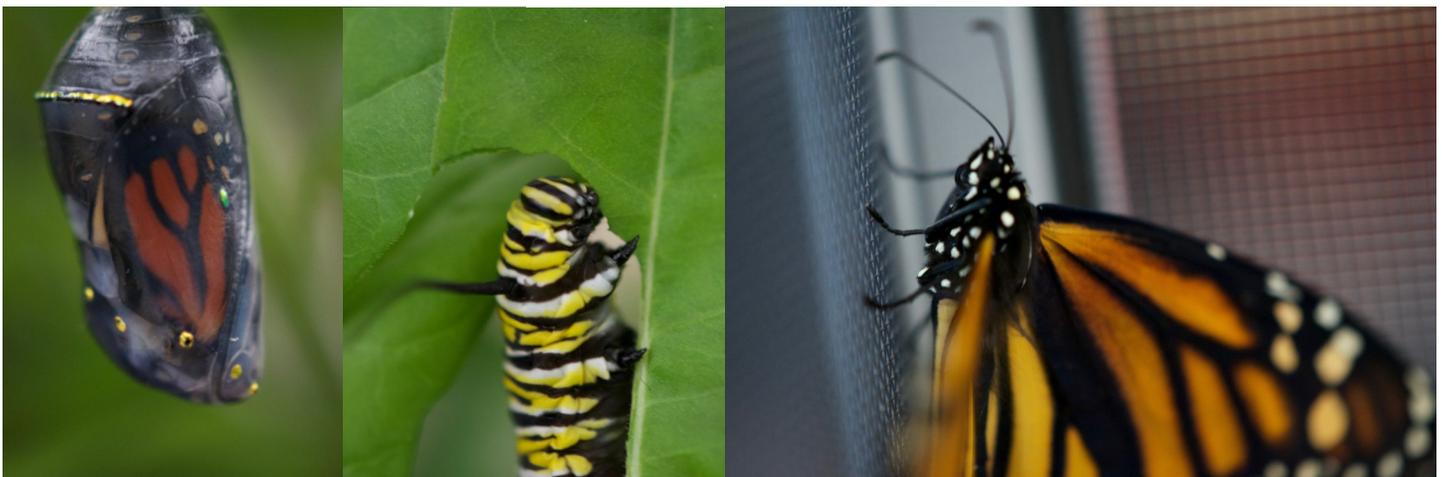
Please select a topic that most describes your workshop:

- Administration/Management
- Assessments/Portfolios/Observation
- Child Development/Developmentally Appropriate Practice
- Culture/Diversity Spanish/Sign Language
- Art Math
- Music
- Literacy Movement Discipline/Class Management
- Health & Safety Infants Toddlers
- Professionalism Faith Based Special Needs

Appropriate Age Group: (please check all that apply)

- All Ages Infants Toddlers Two's
- Three's Four's Five's First Grade
- Grades 2-3

Would you like Exhibit Hall Information?



GPA Sponsored On-line Phonemic Awareness Curriculum

GPA-Sponsored, On-line Phonemic Awareness Curriculum Featured at Directors Only Special Conference Workshop

One of the greatest predictors of a preschool child's later success in learning to read is the child's phonemic awareness ability. It is the gateway skill that sets the stage for mastery of phonics. A major session at this year's GPA Conference was the Directors Only workshop. It featured an overview and Internet sampling of the completed lessons of the phonemic awareness curriculum available at www.sightwords.com. The Georgia Preschool Association sponsors this FREE curriculum. The curriculum consists of over 100 lessons that

are short, user-friendly, research based, evidence informed, and fun for children between the ages of three and five. The Website lessons each include a "how-to" video are written for parents as well as teachers to be able to use with children.

All the materials needed to use for each lesson are available to download from the Website without charge. However, the full set of 500 color cardstock printables are also available for purchase by members of the Georgia Preschool Association for \$99.00 should a school or individual opt to do so. Contact margo@sightwords.com to obtain printables.

As the school year draws to a close, encourage your students' parents to visit the Website and practice some of the lessons from the modules that are appropriate for the age of their children. The Pacing Guide on the Website will indicate what skills are appropriate for children of different ages. It's a fun and very helpful way for parents to engage their children over the summer!

SIGHTWORDS.com

Next GPA Annual Conference: March 3 & 4, 2017

Upcoming Training Opportunities

District 6: July 20, 2016

4 hours BFTS credit

First Baptist Weekday of Griffin

(Check the website georgiapreschool.org for registration information and description)

District 7: August 9, 2016

4 hours BFTS credit

St. Andrew UMC Preschool, Marietta

(Check the website georgiapreschool.org for registration information and description)

For more information or to contact your District Representative about these training opportunities please go to the GPA website at georgiapreschool.org. To find out which district you are located, please go to the website *membership tab* for a district chart.