

**Early Childhood Conference 2013 - June 12, 2013**  
**Concordia University, Nebraska**

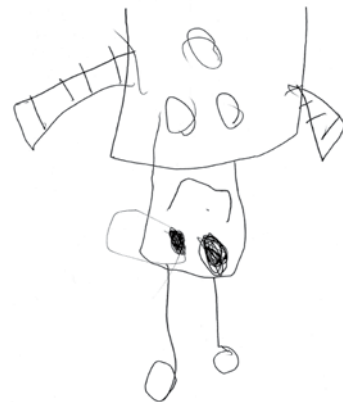
# Step Into My World



## **Cindy Middendorf**

Cindy has been teaching and learning for 30 years. As a former kindergarten teacher she knows that early childhood teachers know in their hearts that children love learning. As trainer and consultant she is dedicated to making sure that children also love school! She is the author of *Differentiating Instruction in Kindergarten* (2007), *Building Oral Language PreK-K* (2009), *The Scholastic Differentiated Instruction Plan Book* (2009), and *Early Reading Instruction and Intervention: A Source Book for PreK-2* (2013), all published by Scholastic.

**Step Into My World**



**2013 Early Childhood Conference**

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CONCORDIA  
UNIVERSITY  
NEBRASKA  
800 North Columbia Avenue  
Seward, Nebraska 68434



# Conference Schedule

June 12, 2013

- 8 a.m. Registration,  
Thom Leadership Education Center (TLEC) lobby
- 8:30 a.m. Welcome and Introduction of keynote speakers,  
Weller Hall auditorium
- 8:45 a.m. Opening Keynote speaker,  
Cindy Middendorf
- 10 a.m. Break
- 10:15 a.m. Sectional I
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch,  
Janzow Campus Center  
Luncheon speaker,  
Andrew Ratcliffe
- 1:15 p.m. Sectional II
- 2:15 p.m. Break
- 2:30 p.m. Closing Keynote speaker, Cindy Middendorf
- 3:30 p.m. Evaluation collection



## OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER 8:45–10:00 am



### **CINDY MIDDENDORF**

*Educator, Author, Veteran Kindergarten Teacher*

#### **The Primary Brain: A Work in Progress**

This fast-paced, popular keynote clarifies the very predictable developmental stages that little brains must go through. Why are our youngest learners so chatty? Must they always be fidgeting? What's the brain-body connection all about? What exactly does "brain-friendly" mean in an early childhood classroom? Grounded in reality and fun, Cindy translates valid brain research into practical strategies that teachers can use immediately in their classrooms.

## LUNCHEON PRESENTATION 11:45 am



### **REV. ANDREW RATCLIFFE**

*Associate Pastor for Christian Nurture, St. John Lutheran Church, Seward, Neb.*

#### **Late Nights, Loud Music, Lattes, and Laughable? Sign Me Up!**

How do adults/leaders relate to children? How do we convey the information they need to know and attract their attention to such information? While being an adult and a leader, we must also be a child. We must care about them, pay attention to them, get to know them, and let them know you care. It's not just about acting silly. Don't be afraid to be with them and to be one of them while at the same time leading and teaching them.

## CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEAKER 2:30–3:30 pm

### **CINDY MIDDENDORF**

*Educator, Author, Veteran Kindergarten Teacher*

#### **Somewhere Over the Rainbow... In the Land of Ahhhs**

As everyday wizards in the Land of "Ahhhs," we often have to rely on our own able brains, our own unflinching courage, and our own kind hearts. Cindy knows this well from over two decades in an early childhood classroom. You'll relate to her entertaining, inspiring, warm keynote about the joys and frustrations of working with wee ones. Reaffirm your belief that all children can learn, and reconnect with the real truth of teaching ... truth that has survived for generations!

## Sectional I 10:15–11:30 a.m.

### A. iPad Use in Preschool

*Lauren Sommerer, Pre-K Teacher, Assistant Director, St. John Child Development Center, Seward, Neb.*

Discover how the iPad can be used as a teaching tool in the classroom without the children actually touching it. Use this amazing piece of technology to document children's work, enhance exploration, and share your classroom experiences with parents. This session will not be about 'great apps for children'.

Target audience: Pre-primary teachers

### B. Step to the Tune of Activity and Nutrition

*Gail Brand, University of Nebraska, Extension Educator and Chris Blanke, PHN and Community Education, Four Corners Health Department*

SPONSORED BY FOUR CORNERS HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Two dynamic programs have joined together: I Am Moving I Am Learning, and Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment in Child Care. Learn how these programs can benefit your early childhood environment. Gather nutrition and physical activity ideas that you can implement right away.

Target audience: Infant and Toddler teachers, Pre-primary teachers, Primary teachers, Administrators

### C. Planning Activities for Toddlers in Nature Explore Classrooms

*Heather Fox, Education Specialist, Dimensions Education Research Foundation/ Nature Explore*

Look at the natural world through an infant or toddler's eyes and discover whole-child learning at its best. Through hands-on experiences and real life examples, participants will discover the great learning that can occur for their youngest children when they spend time in nature with their teachers and families.

Target audience: Infant and Toddler teachers

### D. Nano Science!

*Tyler Swain, Educational Lead, Omaha Children's Museum*

Nano Science! is a hands-on experience which engages students in several first-hand explorations. Learn all about this exciting, new interdisciplinary field of research and development.

Target audience: Primary teachers

### E. Every Child Ready to Read

*Dr. Julie Jones-Branch*

Learn five simple early literacy practices and instructions on how to use basic design principles to create an environment that supports early literacy skills. Discover how the library and partners can promote early literacy in the community.

Target audience: Infant and Toddler teachers, Pre-primary teachers

## Sectional II 1:15–2:15 p.m.

### A. Sticky Faith

*Rev. Andrew Ratcliffe, Associate Pastor for Christian Nurture, St. John Lutheran Church, Seward, Neb.*

Intentional discussion on including children in your church family by cultivating relationships with parents and church leaders.

Target audience: Infant and Toddler teachers, Pre-primary teachers, Primary teachers, Administrators

### B. Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale

*Jennifer Haggart, Early Learning Connection Coordinator – Omaha Area*

Gain a basic understanding of the Environment Rating Scales (ECERS-R, ITES-R and FCCERS-R). Participants will learn how and when to use each tool, the scoring process, and practice scoring items using video/DVD clips.

Target audience: Infant and Toddler teachers, Pre-primary teachers, Early Childhood Administrators

### C. Getting Ready for Kindergarten

*Eileen Vautravers, M.D., President, Nebraska Dyslexia Association and retired pediatrician; Shelli Cook, M.S., CCC-SLP, Speech/Language therapist for public and private schools with emphasis on reading instruction; Gwelda Carlson, M.A., tutor and retired LPS special education teacher; Carolyn Brandle, M. Ed., tutor and retired LPS special education teacher. All are board members of the Nebraska Dyslexia Association.*

Understand the definition, signs and neurobiology of dyslexia in preschool children, along with the improved brain pathways for reading that result from research-based early interventions. Speech pattern development, milestones and auditory processing will be presented. Information and activities to increase print awareness, knowledge of the alphabet, phonological awareness and handwriting skills will be shared.

Target audience: Pre-primary teachers

### D. Sifting Through Science

*Tyler Swain, Educational Lead, Omaha Children's Museum*

Sifting Through Science is a hands-on experience for Kindergarten and Pre-K aged children. Students chart objects that sink or float, sift through sand using various sifters for found objects and use magnets to identify objects that are magnetic or non-magnetic.

Target audience: Pre-primary teachers

### E. Sensory Strategies for Behavior Success

*Carrie Gottschalk, LMHP, Therapist and Behavior Consultant*

Sometimes managing a child's squirms and wiggles, physically aggressive play, or emotional meltdowns requires more than redirection or consequences. This sectional provides information and discussion on sensory processing challenges, as well as a host of "over-the-counter" strategies and tools that can be easily utilized in any environment.

Target audience: Infant and Toddler teachers, Pre-primary teachers, Primary teachers, Administrators

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Be sure to visit the **Scholastic Book Fair** in TLEC Room 106! For books by our seminar speakers visit the campus bookstore.

For more information, contact:

Prof. Annette Oliver, Conference Chair

800 535 5494, ext. 7474

E-mail: [Annette.Oliver@cune.edu](mailto:Annette.Oliver@cune.edu)

Please complete the registration form below and return to:

Dr. Leah Serck, Conference Registrar

Concordia University

800 North Columbia Avenue

Seward, NE 68434

#### On-campus dorm housing:

\$43 single occupancy

or \$59 double occupancy

#### Off-campus housing options:

East Hill Motel in Seward 402 643 3679

Cobblestone Hotel & Suites in Seward 402-646-1004

Many in Lincoln and York

 **clip & send in today to register!**

## Early Childhood Conference 2013 registration

One entry per form. Please copy for additional registrations.  
Please print. No phone registrations will be accepted.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Personal ☐ Business

School \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation (If teacher, grade level) \_\_\_\_\_

Costs per person for the conference:

☐ Conference: \$45; after June 1: \$55

☐ Luncheon: \$13

☐ On-campus dorm housing: \$43 single occupancy  
or \$59 double occupancy

For our planning purposes, please indicate by letter  
your first seminar choice for each sectional:

Sectional I \_\_\_\_\_

Sectional II \_\_\_\_\_

(You are not required to attend indicated sectionals.)

Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Concordia University.

Payment must accompany registration.

Participants will earn: 8 contact hours

(For an additional \$5.8 CEUs will be  
granted for the conference.)

**early registration deadline June 1, 2013**