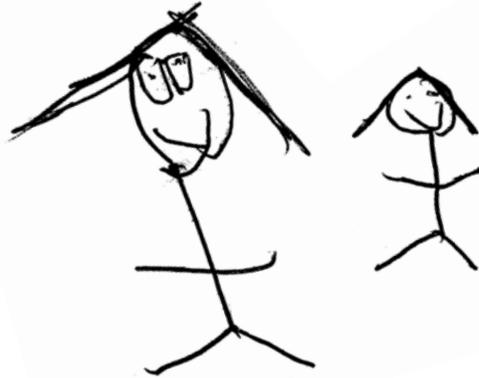


LEARNING THAT LINGERS... MILES OF SMILES



Jeff A. Johnson

Jeff and his wife operate a home-based childcare program focusing on emergent and play-based learning. He has presented to thousands of providers in the U.S. and Ireland. He is the author of seven books which focus on child-centered early learning and caregiver self-care.

LEARNING THAT LINGERS...
MILES OF SMILES



2012 EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE



Conference Schedule June 13, 2012

- 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, Jeff A. Johnson
- 10 a.m. Break
- 10:15 a.m. Sectional I
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch, Janzow Campus Center
Luncheon speaker, Drew D. Gerdes
- 1:15 p.m. Sectional II
- 2:15 p.m. Break
- 2:30 p.m. Closing Keynote speaker, Jeff A. Johnson
- 3:30 p.m. Evaluation collection

OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER 8:45–10 am

JEFF A. JOHNSON

Family Child Care Provider, Speaker, Author, Toy Maker



Do It Yourself Learning

Learn dozens of ideas for using materials from the local home center to promote child directed play, exploration, discovery and learning. This session is based on activities from Jeff's Redleaf Press Book, *Do-It-Yourself Early Learning*.

Sectional I 10:15–11:30 a.m.

A. Play & Learn: Facilitating Preschool Friendships through Movement and Meaningful Play

Mary J. Sullivan Coleman, OTR, MA and Laura J. Krueger, PT, MA

Join Mary and Laura and learn many new ideas for including all preschool children through movement and meaningful play activities. Through a dynamic PowerPoint filled with children "in action" you will see a wide range of activities based on their newly revised Play & Learn curriculum and their second book entitled, *Let's Play with the ElastaBlast: Facilitating Preschool Friendships for Children of All Abilities*.

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

B. Exploring Fruits and Vegetables with a Smile

Sandra Burwell, Registered Dietitian

SPONSORED BY FOUR CORNERS HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Understand the developmental stages of eating behavior in infant through preschool aged children. Using this knowledge, you can then help your students explore and accept a wider variety of fruits and vegetables. Ideas for activities and recipes that can be used in the home or school setting will be included.

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

C. Engaging Children in Nature

Lindsay Rogers, Wildlife Education Specialist, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission

Engaging young children in nature is a fun and easy way to develop children's social skills, natural sense of wonder, inquiry skills and encourage healthy behaviors. This session will help educators learn why children need time outside, the benefits of getting outside and lots of simple activities for connecting early childhood students with nature.

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

D. Assistive Technology in the Primary Classroom

Lenette Sprunk, Regional Assistive Technology Specialist (ESU's 5, 6, and 7)

Discover the tools that are available for the struggling learners in the primary classrooms. We will focus on technology appropriate for first to third graders. Participants will learn about tools they can find anywhere and implement immediately.

Target audience: Primary teachers

E. Book Nook: Using Books to Support Young Children's Social and Emotional Development

Mary Beth Pistillo, Training Coordinator at the Nebraska Early Childhood Training Center

Focus on the social and emotional development in young children, and how we can support it through literature and literacy activities.

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



Luncheon Presentation



SMILES & TRIALS: ACCOMPLISHING GOD'S WORK

Drew D. Gerdes, Early Childhood Educator & Director

Teaching may not always be the easiest of professions, but it can certainly be one of the most rewarding. Educators touch lives each day. Whether it be reading a book or holding a hand, teachers make a big difference! Sit back, relax, and reflect on how God uses difficult times in our lives for a greater purpose—His purpose—to minister to others!

Sectional II 1:15–2:15 p.m.

A. Jesus Is Alive!

Drew D. Gerdes, Early Childhood Educator & Director

Educators in Christian schools have the awesome honor of daily sharing the Gospel Message. Not all children in our classrooms know about Jesus, nor do their families. Take a look at how we can build a strong faith foundation in young children that will flow to their families, too. Specific strategies and ideas will be shared that can be used in your classroom right away.

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

B. I Am Learning, I Am Moving—Take It Outside!

Gail Brand, University of Nebraska Extension Educator

SPONSORED BY FOUR CORNERS HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Many of us remember the phrase, "Go outside and play!" from childhood, but children today spend less time playing outdoors. Free play and discretionary time has declined more than 9 hours a week over the last 25 years. Kids who play outside are happier, healthier, and stronger. This program encourages children to get outside, get moving, and connect with the natural world. "Take It Outside!" program talks about the roles of adults for successful play, survey to assess your outdoor space, and sportscasting to help develop movement literacy.

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

C. Caring Connections: A Research-based System for Creating the Relationships Children Need to Support Optimal Development

Kelly Vanness, Early Childhood Professional Development Coordinator

A wealth of tools are available for you to use immediately in your setting to improve not only relationships between the adults and children, but also the peer relationships among the children. Based on the latest brain research and attachment theory, the Caring Connections approach is powerful and highly effective. Often, nothing more is needed to eliminate challenging behavior than to adopt this approach in your classroom.

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

D. Emergent Literacy Assessment: Alternatives to DIBELS

Janell Uffelman, Ph.D., Professor of Education, Director of the Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival

As an early childhood educator, are you confused by current trends in assessment? Are you searching for tools that measure both process and product? Do you desire assessment tools that are child-friendly? The process of assessment should be sensitive to the developmental level of the child and value the professional judgment of the early childhood educator. The product of assessment should provide accurate data on which to base diagnostic teaching. This interactive sectional will explore the controversy surrounding the use of DIBELS and equip teachers to be advocates for authentic assessments that inform instruction and intervention.

Target audience: Primary teachers, Administrators

E. School Readiness: Partnering with Families, Schools and Communities to Improve Outcomes

Amy Bornemeier, School Readiness Coordinator

Learn the latest recommendations and resources for families, schools, and communities to support children's preparation to be successful in school and life. Opportunity will be provided for input on Nebraska's School Readiness Project, and for development of strategies which support school readiness within individual communities.

Target audience: Pre-primary teachers, Primary teachers, Administrators

CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEAKER 2:30–3:30 pm

JEFF A. JOHNSON

Family Child Care Provider, Speaker, Author, Toy Maker

Do It Yourself Learning

Too many providers spend so much time focusing on the needs of others that they fail to take care of themselves, which often leads to stress and burnout. This session will look at how burnout impacts providers and ways to deal with that impact. The session is based on Jeff's book, *Finding Your Smile Again: A Child Care Professional's Guide to Reducing Stress and Avoiding Burnout* (Redleaf Press).

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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

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:

\$40 single occupancy
 or \$55 double occupancy

Off-campus housing options:

East Hill Motel in Seward 402 643 3679
 Many in Lincoln and York

✂ CLIP & SEND IN TODAY TO REGISTER!

EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE 2012 REGISTRATION

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

Name _____

Home Address _____

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School _____

School Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

School Phone _____

Occupation (If teacher, grade level) _____

Costs per person for the conference:

- Conference: \$43; after June 1: \$53
- Luncheon: \$12
- On-campus dorm housing: \$40 single occupancy or \$55 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, 2012