Preparing children to become successful 21st century learners can be a daunting challenge. Early childhood educators, administrators, and parents must collaborate to provide a flexible framework that allows children to understand and adapt to a rapidly changing and increasingly interconnected world. Literacy skills, socio-emotional competence, self-regulation, and creative thinking are all important components, but we must continually reexamine the framework with an eye towards what constitutes best practice for our youngest learners. Join Rice University’s School Literacy and Culture Project for our 14th annual early literacy conference as we devote a full day to examining the crucial question: “Are we doing what’s right for kids?”

Dr. Patsy Cooper (SLC’s Founding Director), Associate Professor of Education at Queens College, City University of New York, will deliver the opening address, The Baby and the Bathwater: A Critical Look at Early Childhood Education in the 21st Century. Patsy will also present an afternoon breakout session during which she will challenge participants to more deeply examine the difficult stories that some children may choose to tell.

Breakout sessions for teachers of toddlers through second grade, led by School Literacy and Culture Project staff and guests, will include several on SLC’s renowned language/literacy based storytelling curriculum for first time attendees and a variety of other sessions addressing special interests such as toddler literacy, bilingual concerns, integrated curriculum, and creative writing for the school-age child.

Registration Information
- Links to online and mail-in registration options are available at literacy.rice.edu
- The basic conference fee includes all sessions, a box lunch, and a parking voucher.
- CEU purchasers must sign in at the CEU table upon arrival and sign out when they leave.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Participant</th>
<th>Early Bird fee (through December 10, 2012)</th>
<th>Regular fee (December 11, 2012 through January 7, 2013)</th>
<th>Late fee (after January 7, 2013 space permitting)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>$85</td>
<td>$110</td>
<td>$150</td>
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<tr>
<td>One of a group of 6 or more teachers from the same school (Forms must be submitted together.)</td>
<td>$75</td>
<td>$85</td>
<td>$85</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.6 hours of CEU credit</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrator</td>
<td>Call Karen Capo for details: 713-348-5333</td>
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Links to conference updates will be posted at literacy.rice.edu

Parking will be available in the Central Garage, a short walk from Duncan Hall. (Use entrance #20 and turn right at the second stop sign.) Detailed parking maps are available at www.rice.edu

For additional information, please e-mail slc@rice.edu

Conference Schedule
8:00 – 8:30  Check-in, light breakfast, vendors
8:30 – 9:30  Opening General Session – Welcome from Rice University
            Keynote Address - Patsy Cooper, Associate Professor of Education, Queens College, CUNY
9:45 – 10:45 Breakout Session I
11:00 – 12:00 Breakout Session II
12:00 – 12:45 Lunch and on-your-own activities
1:00 – 2:00  Breakout Session III
2:15 – 2:45  Closing General Session