Keynote Session: “What is Creativity and Why Does it Matter” (Karen Capo) and “The Very Practical Role of Imagination in Early Literacy” (Patsy Cooper)

Featured Sessions

Why Young Minds Need Art
(intended audience: pre-K and above)
Join Dr. Anthony Brandt, associate professor of music at Rice University, as he shares brain-based information supporting a generalized view of creativity and its importance to young minds.

Let’s Try It Again: A Positive Approach to Helping Young Children Recover from Their Missteps and Misbehavior
(intended audience: all)
Back by popular demand: Dr. Patsy Cooper will reprise her popular 2011 keynote address for those who missed it last year.

Introduction to Story Dictation and Dramatization
(intended audience: all, especially first-time attendees)
Learn about the School Literacy and Culture Project’s signature storytelling curriculum through discussion with SLC mentor teachers and examples of story dramatization and children’s dictated stories.

From a Whisper to a Roar: Honoring Children’s Voices at the Rice Lab
(intended audience: administrators and teachers of threes and pre-K, including ELL and bilingual classrooms)
Find out what’s happening at the new Rice Oral Language and Literacy Lab at Mistral, an environment designed to promote speaking, listening, and writing skills in English. Leave with ideas to use in your own classroom.

Teacher-Made books for Infants and Toddlers: A Make-and-Take
(intended audience: teachers of infants and toddlers)
Create wonderful personalized books for your infant or toddler classroom and discover why they are so important.

Un buen comienzo: Cultural Considerations in Supporting Spanish-Speaking Children and their Families
(intended audience: all bilingual and ESL teachers)
Learn specific ways to support Spanish-speaking students and their families, including handouts (in both English and Spanish) that offer simple ways for parents to help their children at home.

The Tried and True and the Brand New
(intended audience: teachers of twos and threes)
Think creatively about ways to incorporate books into classrooms of twos and threes. New titles and old favorites will be shared.

Poetry Pictures
(intended audience: teachers of kindergarten through early elementary)
Explore how art can inspire the reading and writing of poetry for kindergarten and first graders.

Under Construction
(intended audience: teachers of pre-K, kindergarten, and first grade)
Learn how to encourage creativity using the Ramps and Pathways approach to the teaching of physical science.

Supporting Literacy Learning and Creative Thinking in the Dramatic Play and Block Centers
(intended audience: teachers of threes, pre-K, and kindergarten)
Discover practical ways to support literacy learning and innovative thinking in the dramatic play and block centers.

Dance a Story
(intended audience: teachers of pre-K and above)
Experience the ways that dance and movement can enhance children’s story dramatization and non-verbal communication skills.

From Experience to Expression: Book Extensions for the Kindergarten and First Grade Classrooms
(intended audience: teachers of kindergarten and first grade)
Extend children’s understanding of quality children’s literature, and make the reading process a fun and engaging one.

Mirrors and Windows
(intended audience: all)
Promote understanding of all families through books that allow children to recognize themselves while learning to respect others.

A Conversation for Administrators: How Do You Support Creativity in a Data-Driven Environment?
(intended audience: administrators and literacy leaders)
Join the conversation and share ideas for supporting creativity in the early childhood classrooms. Participants will receive the most recent draft of our correlation of pre-K standards to SLC activities.