

Saturday, May 4 AM Breakout Session Descriptions

Saturday Breakout Session 1: 9:45-11:15

Reggio Emilia Inspiration: Thoughts on the Language of Drawing

Margie Cooper, Inspired Practices in Early Education.

Children and adults explore, experiment, and enlarge competences through a constellation of human endowments for imagining, learning, expressing, and communicating. Coined “the hundred languages” by Loris Malaguzzi, pedagogical originator of Reggio Emilia’s municipal system of early childhood care and education, this interactive session will explore drawing as one of the human languages.

Embracing Fire as a Loose Parts: Safely Exploring Fire Play with Children

Carla Gull, Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College Explore the potential of fire as a loose part, as well as needed safety parameters needed for fire play. In this practical, exploratory session, lean into fire as part of risky play, skill building, and safety awareness!

Feeling Safe in Nature: Facilitating a child’s emotional resilience through the cultivation of curiosity and wonder within nature

Rebecca Molitor, Compassionate Growth Counseling & Early Intervention/Child & Family Connections #2.

The intersection of nature and healing is well documented. Can you imagine being a facilitator of this healing experience for young children? In this presentation you will immerse yourself in nurturing the brain through wandering into curiosity of the world around.

Nature as the Third Teacher: Mud Kitchens, Tinker Tables, and More!

Megan Gessler, Blair Rodgers, & Lisa Gaynor, The Morton Arboretum.

From mud painting to cloud watching, incorporating simple, yet unforgettable, experiences with the natural world is easier than you think. Come play as we explore natural hands-on prompts that can be implemented at any preschool, with any budget, for every child.

Play, Prepare, & Share: Connecting Families with Nature Play

Alysia Marshall-Seslar, Well Beings with Alysia, LLC.

Explore hands-on nature play activities and gain practical strategies to make nature play accessible for families in your program.

Pursuing the Action: Supporting Schema Learning with Loose Parts

Lisa Daly, Transforming Early Learning.

Learn how to identify what is significant in children’s play and then how to support learning with intriguing loose parts. Be prepared to transform your thinking and teaching.

Starting Small: How to begin to bring experiences in and with nature for young children in ways that feel comfortable and culturally affirming for the adults and children

Sheila Williams Ridge, Inspired Practices in Early Education

***Session description to be added soon.