

BUILDING BLOCKS XIII

'Join the Conversation'

-an early learning conference-

Friday, March 14, 2014

Saturday, March 15, 2014

**Ramada Greensburg Hotel and
Conference Center
Greensburg, PA**

*easy access from Pittsburgh and surrounding areas



'Building Home, School, & Community Partnerships'

Who Should Attend

Parents and Professionals working in early intervention including:

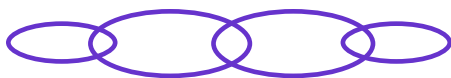
- ◆ Speech - Language Pathologists
- ◆ Physical Therapists and Assistants
- ◆ Early Childhood Staff
- ◆ Early Childhood Special Education Teachers
- ◆ Occupational Therapists and Assistants
- ◆ Hearing and Vision Therapists
- ◆ Pediatric Nurses
- ◆ Social Service and Health Care Professionals

Act 48 & DPW Hours 6 hrs./Friday

Act 48 & DPW Hours 4 hrs./Saturday

REGISTRATION INCLUDES

**DR. JAMES MACDONALD'S "PLAY TO TALK" AND OTHER RESOURCES
- A \$40 VALUE -**



Local Interagency Coordinating Council of Westmoreland County

sponsored by:

Westmoreland IU #7

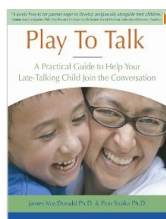
**PAEYC-Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children
WCSI-Westmoreland Casemanagement & Supports, Inc.**

The 13th annual Building Blocks Conference will allow attendees to discover areas that are important in assisting them to define and implement best practices that help to support children with special learning needs. This year's presenters will be sharing innovative approaches to early language and communication. The conference promotes communication among professionals and family members while encouraging sharing of resources and supports.

Friday - March 14, 2014

Registration/Continental Breakfast	7:30 am - 8:30 am	Keystone Ballroom
Vendor Fair		Keystone I and II
Becoming Communicating Partners <i>James MacDonald, Ph.D.</i>	8:30 am - 11:30 am	Keystone Ballroom
Lunch and Book Signing	11:30 am - 1:00 pm	Keystone Ballroom
Communicating Through Conflict <i>Dan Richason</i>	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Keystone Ballroom

Morning Keynote



Dr. James MacDonald has spent 40 years focusing on how parent child relationships can help children become interactive, communicative, socially linguistic, conversational and learn to behave civilly. As professor at the Ohio State University he taught students of several disciplines, conducted 18 years of federal research grants, and personally provided clinical services to over 1000 late talking children. He taught academic and clinical courses to over 3000 students, professionals and parents. His focus has been on preverbal, early verbal children and children with signs of autism, developmental delay and behavior issues. In that time he developed a responsive teaching model now called Communicating Partners. For an overview, see the website at www.communicatingpartners.com.

Since his early retirement from OSU in 1996, he has developed the Communicating Partners center for parent child coaching. He also has written three books, Communicating Partners, a developmental text; Play to Talk, a home program; and Autism and Developmental Disabilities, an early intervention curriculum. He and several parents manage a Yahoo internet group called Communicating where they interact with parents and professionals almost every day at no cost about communicating disorders. His major finding has been that children learn best in matched and responsive relationships with their life partners.

BECOMING COMMUNICATING PARTNERS WITH CHILDREN

Dr. James MacDonald

This Keynote will begin with a number of contrasting relationships with late-talking children. They illustrate social responsive approaches compared to a directive academic one. The overall theme of the session will be that the most effective approach to social and communicative development is ensuring the child has highly frequent interactions with possible and playful persons.

This session will focus on how you can help children socialize and communicate in everyday relationships. Dr. MacDonald will discuss his clinical, research and internet experience with families and professionals. Children include infants at risk, as well as children with diagnoses or suspicions of Autistic Spectrum Disorders, developmental delays, behavior problems, late-talking children, and typical development. Many common myths that interfere with development will be presented with a range of common problems in children, their life partners and their environments.

The ARM (Adult-child Relationship Map) assessment and program planning for five developmental stages- Interactions, Communication, Language, Conversation and Civil Behavior will be presented .

You will learn five lifelong strategies to build your child's social and communicative life. Case stories of parents' experiences will demonstrate successes. Video examples will illustrate the program with a range of children.

Afternoon Keynote

Dan Richason has been working with families, educators, service providers and children for 24 years. He earned a Masters Degree in Education and is the co-founder of System 1-2-3, a regional leader in the design and execution of teacher and system development solutions for early childhood education. He is also the principle author of System 1-2-3's Pyramid Building Project, a comprehensive approach to building and sustaining the capacity of early childhood programs to develop the social and emotional competencies of children.



COMMUNICATING THROUGH CONFLICT

Dan Richason

This keynote will focus on effective communication skills to address the inevitable conflicts of early childhood education. Potential conflicts explored will include role definition, routine activities, and responding to challenging behavior.

Communication skills highlighted will include listening for understanding, professional sharing and collaborative processes.

Saturday, March 15, 2014

Registration/Continental Breakfast/Vendor Fair

8:00 am - 8:30 am

Keystone I & II - Main Lobby

Session 1

8:30 am - 10:30 am

Light Refreshments/Vendor Fair

10:30 am - 11:00 am

Keystone I & II - Main Lobby

Session 2

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

1A Building Communicative Relationships with Nonverbal Children

Dr. James MacDonald

Children need to do many things before they develop talk-skills that are often omitted in therapy and education. additionally, their parents and professionals will succeed to the degree that they enter the child's world with several proven strategies, rather than focusing on goals before their time. The session will summarize over 40 years of helping nonverbal children become first, interactive, then communicative and only then verbal. Too many children are being rushed to language only to fail when they are not helped to be interactive and communicative first.

You will identify the developmental goals children must reach before they develop socially effective language. You will also learn five lifelong strategies that prepare children or social language. Common problems will be presented with ways to address them. Among the goals needed before language are social play, imitation and modeling, and reciprocal turn-taking as nonverbal communication with actions and sounds. You will learn to use the ARM (Adult-child Relationship Map that shows how to use the program.

1B Helping Tools to Improve Participation for Young Children (Their Families and Teachers)

Carrie Leonhart, M.S., CCC-SCP - Augmentative Communication Services Coordinator, Institute on Disabilities -Temple University

Learn how "assistive technology" (AT) and Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) can support young children's learning and development. Explore devices hands-on, including helping tools for playing, learning, using hands, and communicating. Review resources for accessing free or low cost materials and for learning more.

Saturday sessions continued on page 4

1C Range of Responses to Children: Awareness and Action

Dan Richason

This presentation will engage participants in reflection about how they respond to children. The facilitator will use System 1-2-3's Range of Responses continuum, which includes Anger, Frustration, Disappointment, Neutrality, Satisfaction, Pleasure, and Enjoyment to help audience members be aware of their potential and normal ranges as well as to take action to develop a new normal.

10:30 am - 11:00 am

Vendors/Reception/ iPad Raffle

Keystone I & II - Main Lobby

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Session 2

2A Building Social Language, Conversation and Civil Behavior in Verbal Children

Dr. James MacDonald

Language is not enough. Too many children have language but little genuine communication and conversation. They often do not have some of the civil habits that society requires. It is a myth that all a child needs for a conversational life is a large vocabulary. This session will make a vital distinction between academic or needs-based language and a socially effective conversational language. It will focus on many social goals a child needs for communicative relationships.

It will also show you how to use everyday strategies to help children become conversational and socially appropriate. The importance of civil behavior will be stressed since it is often a child's lack of civil behavior, such as cooperation, empathy, and self-regulation, that excludes him from society. You will learn to use the ARM (Adult-child Relationship Map) to identify appropriate goals and strategies and how to measure progress.

2B Effective Communication: Parent Perspectives

Parent Panel

Would you like to hear first hand how parents like to communicate with teachers/therapists and how they wish teachers/therapists would communicate with them? Listen as a parent panel share their experiences of effective communication between themselves and therapists/teachers.

2C Difficult Conversations

Clara Hinton -- Motivational Speaker, Certified Bereavement Facilitator, Author

We have all been faced with having "Difficult Conversations", whether it be a special needs diagnosis, a recent divorce/separation, jail sentence, miscarriage or other loss. Clara speaks openly about "Difficult Conversations" with honesty, sincerity, and will leave you wanting to hear more. This session will help to prepare you for uncomfortable conversations with families.

Policies...

Cancellations

Due to the nominal registration fee, no cancellation refunds will be available. Please note that if you register and do not attend, you are still liable for full payment. Substitutions may be made at any time. The expense of continuing education, when taken to maintain and improve professional skills, may be tax deductible. Please contact your accountant for complete details.

Continuing Education Credit

All professionals: In order to process continuing education, please bring the appropriate license/certification number to the seminar. Friday and Saturday courses do qualify for act 48 and DPW hours.

Professionals: This educational offering may qualify for continuing education hours for Friday and Saturday courses as required by many national, state and local licensing boards and professional organizations. Save your course outline and certificate of completions, and contact your own board or organization for specific filing requirements.

ADA: If you require ADA accommodations, please contact LICC at least two weeks before the seminar date.

Conference Objectives

Participation will allow learner to:

- Identify and share early intervention knowledge, resources, education and supports.
- Define and implement best practices and techniques that help to support children with special health care and learning needs.
- Assist in building positive environments for children with special health care and learning needs.
- Gain the ability to promote inclusion, self-awareness and independence for children with disabilities.
- Acquire the knowledge of researched based methods that have been proven to enhance the quality of life for children with disabilities.

2014 LICC meetings

2nd Thursday of every month at the
Westmoreland IU #7 Donohoe Road, Greensburg

February 13 - 9:30 am	March 13 - 9:30 am
April 17 - 9:30 am	May 8 - 9:30 am

BUILDING BLOCKS XIII - early LEARNING CONFERENCE

Registration Form

Early Registration Postmarked by: February 25, 2014 ~ Registration Due: March 7, 2014

Registration Fee per Person: includes continental breakfast-Fri. and Sat., lunch-Fri. only. Sat. light refreshments.

Early Registration: __Friday-\$65 __Saturday-\$65 __Fri & Sat-\$110

Registration: __Friday-\$80 __Saturday-\$80 __Fri & Sat-\$140

Student*: __Friday-\$25 __Saturday-\$25 __Fri & Sat-\$50

(*Students-Please send copy of student ID with Registration.)



I will be attending Friday evening clinic _____ (no charge)



If attending Saturday,
please remember to
check sessions below.

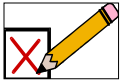
Please mail to:

LICC

PO Box 214

Bovard PA 15619-0214

Make check payable to: **ACHIEVA**



Please check **one** 8:30 am Saturday session and **one** 11:00 am Saturday sessions you wish to attend.

Saturday - Session 1 @ 8:30 am

1A Building Relationships

1B Helping Tools

1C Range of Responses

Saturday - Session 2 @ 11:00 am

2A Building Social Language

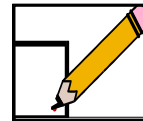
2B Parent Perspectives

2C Difficult Conversation

Early Registration Postmarked by:

February 25, 2014

Registration Due: March 7, 2014



No charge for parents of children
currently in Early Intervention in
Westmoreland County.
Please check here.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



724-837-8159 x132

Contact info: Debi McKeever

Fax 724-837-7453 buildingblocks@achieva.info

Educators: This educational offering will qualify toward ACT 48 professional development requirements. Friday's course offers 6 continuing educational hours and Saturday's courses offers 4 continuing educational hours. Please bring your professional ID number. Paperwork will be available at the conference and will be processed by LICC.

Childcare Professionals: This educational offering will qualify toward DPW professional development requirements. Friday's course offers 6 continuing educational hours and Saturday's courses offers 4 continuing educational hours. Paperwork will be available at the conference and will be processed by LICC.



Tuition remains at 2013 rates!

Mini iPad Give-Away!

*Each registrant will receive 1
complimentary ticket to win a
mini iPad, complete with case
and iTunes gift card!*

A value of \$500!

*One iPad will be given
away each day.*

Parent Clinic

Dr. MacDonald will be hosting a clinic, Friday evening from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, where parents **and** professionals can attend a question and answer session. This is a golden opportunity to ask specific questions about your child's or student's communication concerns. You must register to attend as space is limited. Children are welcome.