KEYNOTE

Attachment and Learning Through the Earliest Years – Lou Cozolino, PhD

This keynote will address “the stuff of interpersonal neurobiology: how we attach, grow and interconnect throughout life. When the neural infrastructure of the brain is forming...social interactions are a primary source of brain regulation, growth and health. Optimal sculpting of the pre-frontal cortex through healthy early relationships allows us to think well of ourselves, trust others, regulate emotions, maintain positive expectations and utilize our intellectual and emotional intelligence in moment-to-moment problem solving.”

WORKSHOPS

A Journey of Discovery Utilizing Principles Based on a Philosophy of Respect, as the Basis for our Curriculum with Infants and Toddlers
Sharon Smith (Workshop Session 2)

This workshop shares professional development undertaken with an early childhood centre in Auckland, NZ. The aim was to promote shared understanding around concepts of respect and care with children, whilst taking into account a diverse group of teachers’ experiences and values. It will explore specific discussions, reflections, and questions posed to broaden and deepen pedagogy around Magda Gerber’s Educaring® Approach

An Introduction to Magda Gerber’s Educaring® Approach
Jill Getto Lee (Workshop Session 1)

This workshop is recommended for those who are new to RIE®, covering the basic principles of Magda Gerber's Educaring® Approach. Please bring your questions and together, parents and professionals, we will discuss putting the Educaring® Approach into action. Specific examples will demonstrate how to put theory into practice so you can foster respectful, authentic relationships with each of the young children in your care.

Embrace the Day: Caring and Nurturing in a Home-Based Childcare Environment
Valorie Cole and Franny Higgins (Workshop Session 2)

Come explore how carers can embrace nurturing children throughout the day, everyday, in a very responsive, homelike environment, rich in respectful and reciprocal relationships. The responsibilities and requirements of caregivers who dedicate themselves to this work often can feel overwhelming and repetitive. What are the challenges, and how do you resolve them? Let’s explore ways to keep believing!

Facing the Challenges and Realizing the Benefits of Primary Care and Continuity in Group Settings
Melissa Coyné and Kimberly Ryan (Workshop Sessions 1 and 2)

Relationships are the core of providing quality care for families and children. Group care that supports primary care and continuity of care, two aspects of high quality care introduced in the United States by Magda Gerber, values the importance of the attachment between the caregiver and the child over time as vital to their growth and development. Explore the importance of these systems and how to make them happen in group care during this workshop.

Making the Mind-Body Connection in Infant-Toddler Group Care: As Seen Through the Eyes of Magda Gerber
Elsa Chahin and Janet Gonzalez-Mena (Workshop Session 1)

This workshop puts the focus on the “whole child” and the making of relationships between caregiver and infant. We will explore how to respect and integrate mind-body connections so that motor development and social-emotional development together enhance and balance the cognitive aspects of development. Many of these concepts will be explored with a variety of experiential activities.
WORKSHOPS - CONTINUED

Principles that Inform, Practices that Work: Using the Educaring® Approach to Support Infants and Toddlers in Full Day Group Care
Gail Nadal and Patty Ryan (Workshop Sessions 1 and 2)

This workshop will examine specific practices used in infant and toddler group care inspired and informed by RIE® Educaring® Principles:
• The correlations between freedom of movement, physical and social/emotional security;
• Building a trusting, attached, privileged relationship with each child through caregiving;
• Play as an essential element of self-regulation;
• The Educaring® Approach with at-risk children in group care.

Respectful Intervention: Spotting Special Needs
Karla Kuester (Workshop Session 2)

In this workshop we will review windows of typical development through the atypical lens. In spotting special needs, including sensory issues, we will consider how/what to observe, when to call an Interventionist and respectful ways to approach parents to suggest further diagnostic assessment. We will revisit the importance of educating practitioners and caregivers about narration (‘sportscasting’) providing support for RIE® parenting preferences.

Seeing Differently Supports Lifelong Learning: How Our Vision of the Child Shapes Infants' Daily Care and Curriculum
Polly Elam and Paty Tejada (Workshop Session 1)

The way we see the child is how the child will become. The presenters will share their journey in implementing elements of the Educaring® Approach in a culturally sensitive manner at the King City Migrant Child Development Center, including our work with parents. This project is a key part of the First5 Monterey Technical Assistance Initiative.

Social Stories: How Our Reflective and Active Listening Support Secure Attachment
Kira Solomatova (Workshop Session 1)

Social stories help children process difficult situations, such as a death in the family, a car accident or day-to-day challenges. These creations can also be used to prepare children for new experiences, such as transition to preschool, doctor’s appointments and traveling. During the workshop, there will be guidance and practice in writing social stories for toddlers and older children.

Surviving the Early Months of Parenting: Establishing Respectful and Healthy Habits that Benefit both Parent and Child
Alexandra Curtis Boyer and Elizabeth Blue Currier (Workshop Session 2)

Join mother and daughter team, Alexandra Curtis Boyer and Elizabeth Currier, in discussing ways that parents (and infant care providers) can establish respectful habits that help create a strong foundation for whole family health and happiness. Main topics will include sleep habits and fostering independence and stability, both for the child and the parent.

Writing Learning Stories to Infants and Toddlers
Anita Cooper Ebright (Workshop Session 2)

Come to this workshop to find out about a way of enhancing your respect for and participation with an older infant or toddler as you preserve memories for the child and yourself. Along with writing your own, you will hear and relate to delightful stories from many RIE parents writing “Learning Stories”, an observational method supporting the authentic expressions of the child.