



Spring Gathering of Early Childhood Educators

**SPRING
IT ON!**

For all Archdiocese of Chicago early childhood teachers and assistants

Saturday, April 28, 2018

at

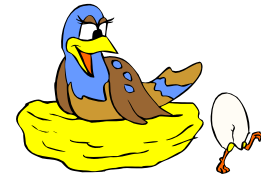
Cardinal Joseph Bernardin Elementary School

(Directions attached)

Networking: 8:30am - B.Y.O.B.

(Bring your own breakfast!)

CPDU's will be given



**Register by:
April 25**

There is no cost to attend!

Session I 9:00 am-10:15 am (Choose ONE)

EPIC Hour - /kinder-garten/: What was once intended as a children's garden is increasingly starting to look like the new first grade. Have you struggled to incorporate developmentally appropriate choice and play time amidst the growing academic demands of the Early Childhood classroom? Grab your paint brushes, sand and water tables, and construction blocks as we explore the elements of EPIC (Explore, Play, Imagine, Create) Hour — a potential solution for justifying the importance of play in school!

Presenter: Gabrielle Rounbehler, Kindergarten Teacher, Academy of St. Benedict the African

Serious Play: What Is It? Why Is It Essential? - "Play is often talked about as if it were a serious relief from learning. But for children, play is serious learning." - Fred Rodgers
What is play? Can play be "serious" and still be play? What is the teacher's role in a play-based curriculum? How do we communicate what children learn through play to parents? This workshop is filled with real-life of examples of ways young children can develop not only academic skills, but also essential life skills such as collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking through intentional, purposeful play. Please join us and bring your ideas, your questions, and a playful spirit!

Presenter: Mary Bell, Preschool Teacher, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Academy

Break 10:15-10:45 am



Raffle! @ 10:30 am

Session II 10:45 am-12:00 pm (Choose ONE)

Sensory Bins - Sensory bins provide young children with fun, tactile experiences and activities that stimulate the senses. Sensory bins facilitate exploration and naturally encourage children to use scientific processes while they play, create, investigate, and explore. This fun workshop will explore a variety of ways to include sensory bins in your classroom. Participants will learn how to make the best sensory bins for hands-on discovery! Be sure to bring your favorite ideas to share with others. A make-and-take activity will be included.

Presenter: Bridget LaPietra, Preschool Teacher, St. Giles School

Addressing Challenging Behaviors – Challenging behavior is one of the biggest issues early childhood educators face every day. Sometimes these behaviors can be improved by changing the social or physical environment, yet often the approach is to "fix" the child, rather than "fix" the factors that contribute to the behavior. Let's investigate practical strategies and resources that teachers can use to minimize challenging behavior in the classroom.

Presenter: Julie Ramski, Director of Early Childhood Education, Office of Catholic Schools

Two Ways to Register!

1. Online <https://goo.gl/BaV51w>

2. By FAX-Check your choices and fax this form (no cover sheet needed) to 312-534-5392, Attn: Julie Ramski

Name _____ Teacher _____ Assistant _____ Admn. _____
School _____ PreK _____ Kdg _____ Primary _____
E-mail _____

Please print NEATLY! No pencil or marker, only blue or black ink.