

TACEI, RAEYC, & MTSUnity welcome you to the ...



Play Symposium 2015

Uniting Curriculum through Play

April 18, 2015

8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Middle Tennessee State University



PLAY SYMPOSIUM 2015

April 18, 2015

College of Education – Room 160

8:00 AM – 8:30 AM: Registration

Registration & Introducing PLAY TALK

8:30 AM – 10:30 AM: Keynote Address

The Dynamic Power of Play: Nurturing Learning, Language, and Thinking

Dr. Rebecca Isbell

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM: Break

10:45 AM – 11:45 AM: Exhibits & Professional Poster Session

Improving Children's Literacy through Guided Play – Ms Hongxia Zhao & Dr. Kathryn Sharp

Play and Literacy: Bringing the Connection Home – Ms April Graham

What are the Differences in Language Use Between Mothers and Fathers During Child Interaction?

- Mr. Adam Rollins

Traveling a Thousand Miles: The Role of Education Diplomacy through Study Abroad – Ms Sheila Watkins

McCallie Dining Hall

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM: Lunch

College of Education (Concurrent Sessions)

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM: Concurrent Session A

Set the Scene!, Ms. Sarah Svarda & Ms. Chandra Verbic – COE 141

Exploring Literature with Young Children, Mrs. Allison Brown & Mrs. Jenny Copeland – COE 145

Move Your Brain, Dr. Kathy Burriss, Ms. Holly Ford, and Ms. Meghan Hayes – COE 149

Hard at Work...or Just Playing?, Ms. Debbie Seigfried & Ms. Melissa Flowers – COE 164

Incorporating Writing into Everyday Play, Ms. Jamie Hubbard – COE 160

Let's Play with Science!, Ms. Sarah Jessie – COE 153

Scaffolding Emergent Literacy Skills with Pre-K through Writing Instruction, Dr. Penny Thompson & Ms. Cassie Urban – COE 146

Learning and Playing with Robots, Dr. Stacey Burt & Dr. Holly Ray – COE 150

2:15 PM – 3:15 PM: Concurrent Session B

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Exploring Literature with Young Children, Mrs. Allison Brown & Mrs. Jenny Copeland – COE 145

Move Your Brain, Dr. Kathy Burriss, Ms. Holly Ford, and Ms. Meghan Hayes – COE 149

Hard at Work...or Just Playing?, Ms. Debbie Seigfried & Ms. Melissa Flowers – COE 164

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Learning and Playing with Robots, Dr. Stacey Burt & Dr. Holly Ray – COE 150

College of Education – COE 160

3:15 PM – 3:30 PM: Certificates & Evaluation

The Keynote Speaker

The Dynamic Power of Play: Nurturing Learning, Language, and Thinking – COE 160

Dr. Rebecca Isbell

Dr. Rebecca Isbell is a motivational speaker, and consultant in early childhood education. She was the Director of the Center of Excellence in Early Childhood Learning and Development and Professor of Early Childhood Education at East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN where she was honored as a "Distinguished Teacher". She is the author of twelve books and numerous articles related to environments, play, literacy, creativity, music, and child development. She is the author of *Creativity and the Arts with Young Children 3rd edition* that is widely used in early childhood classes. Other bestselling books include: *The Complete Book of Learning Centers, revised*, and *Early Learning Environments that Work*. Isbell has provided Keynotes and featured sessions throughout the United States and internationally including Denmark, Singapore, China, and Canada. These range from parent meetings to state, regional, national, and international conferences.



For more information on Dr. Isbell, go to <http://drisbell.com/>

Young children are active learners who need meaningful experiences to gain understanding of their world and clarify their thinking. Why do today's children need play opportunities more than ever? They need to explore concrete materials, try out behaviors, and learn to empathize with others. They must be participants who can make choices, have interactive conversations, and adjust to the changes. Investigate how learning, language, collaboration, and persistence are encouraged with engaging play opportunities. Discover new ways of playing with ideas to nurture creative thinkers and problem solvers. Explore classroom environments that provide intriguing possibilities that will both support and challenge young children's growing capabilities. Help prepare young children for their world today and in the future.

Concurrent Sessions

Set the Scene! – COE 141

Ms Sarah Svarda and Ms Chandra Verbic

Want to expose your children to quality literature while creating a fun, unique learning experience? Then, set the crime scene! Take part in the actual experience and go back to school ready to set the scene for your kids! This session is appropriate for teachers of kindergarten through high school!

Sarah Svarda is the media specialist at the Discovery School at Bellwood and has been teaching in Murfreesboro City for fifteen years. You can visit her blog at:

<http://libraryeverything.blogspot.com/>

Chandra Verbic is an adjunct professor at Lipscomb University and former first grade teacher at the Discovery School. You can visit her blog at: <http://cjayneteach.com/>

Exploring Literature with Young Children – COE 145

Mrs. Allison Brown and Mrs. Jenny Copeland

Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Copeland will share class and teacher created books they have used with young children. Mrs. Brown will share how she uses her books to build community with children and families in addition to meeting Tennessee Early Learning Developmental Standards with children in the infant/ toddler program at the MTSU Child Development Center. As a kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Copeland will demonstrate with many examples how she meets language arts standards, assesses children's school readiness, and creates a classroom community with her class created books.

Mrs. Brown has worked in the Early Childhood field for 13 years. She has teaching experience with children birth through elementary school. She serves as a model/mentor to MTSU students enrolled in ECE 4380 and as lead teacher in the Infant/Toddler Program. She counsels MTSU students throughout their semester on developmentally appropriate practices and professional teaching methods. Mrs. Brown holds a license to teach from the Tennessee Department of Education, a B.S degree in Elementary Education from MTSU, and is currently completing her Master's Degree. She enjoys spending time with the children and witnessing the amazing development that occurs.

Mrs. Copeland was born and raised in Murfreesboro, TN. As a child, she attended Murfreesboro City and Rutherford County Schools. She graduated from MTSU with a degree in Early Childhood Education and a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction. She has 19 years teaching experience in Pre-K and Kindergarten. She previously taught within the Rutherford County School system as well as within the Murfreesboro City Schools and at First Methodist Preschool. She has been married to her husband Chris for 19 years, and they have two children, Sydney (12) and Callie (9) and Maggie their 4-year-old yellow lab. She enjoys spending time with her family, working outside, and listening to music.

Move Your Brain – COE 149

Dr. Kathleen Burriss, Ms. Holly Ford, and Ms. Meghan Hayes

Brain breaks are important for children's learning. Not only will you learn about why movement is important during this session, but you will also participate in movement activities and break breaks, as well as walk away with many new strategies.

Dr. Kathleen Burriss began her career with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from the State University of New York College at Fredonia in 1972. Following graduation, she taught kindergarten for fifteen years. Continuing her education, Dr. Burriss was awarded a Master's of Science degree in Elementary Education from State University of New York College at Buffalo, and later went on to receive her Doctor of Education degree from Arizona State University. Dr. Burriss started her career at MTSU in 1992 where she taught both undergraduate and graduate courses. Working with a grant from the Center for Physical Activity and Health in Youth, Kathleen Burriss organized the first Play Symposium in 2008 at MTSU.

Ms. Holly Ford is currently in the Initial Licensure Program at MTSU, as well as working as a graduate assistant for Dr. Kathleen Burriss. Before attending MTSU, she graduated from The University of Tennessee Knoxville with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a minor in Elementary Education. She appreciates the idea of keeping play and movement alive in the classroom, and plans on incorporating these ideals in her future elementary classroom. In her free time, Holly enjoys being outside, cooking, and spending time with friends and family.

Ms. Meghan Hayes is married to her wonderful husband and they have a beautiful two and half year old daughter. She is currently a Graduate Student in the Initial Licensure Program at MTSU for K-6 Certification. She is also a Graduate Teaching Assistant for the Department of Elementary and Special Education. She has lived in the Rutherford county area most of her life and loves being a part of the Murfreesboro community.

Hard at Work....or Just Playing? – COE 164

Ms. Debbie Seigfried and Ms. Melissa Flowers

In this session, participants will engage in a hands on approach for teachers K-2 on how to incorporate play with current Tennessee curriculum.

Ms. Debbie Seigfried has been teaching 33 years in Kindergarten, First, Third, Fifth and Sixth grades. Before her degrees she taught pre-school and directed day care centers. She has 3 children and 5 grandchildren. She has been teaching at Campus School for 23 years.

Ms. Melissa Flowers is an Early Childhood Education graduate of MTSU and holds a Masters degree in Administration/Supervision. Throughout her teaching career she has taught preschool through 1st grade. In 2003 she was awarded Teacher of the year by her co-workers. Melissa spent 11 years teaching in Rutherford County Schools before becoming a stay at home mom. After 5 years at home she returned to RCS in 2012 and transferred to Homer Pittard Campus School in 2014. Melissa is married and is the mother to 5 children.

Incorporating Writing into Everyday Play – COE 160

Ms. Jamie Hubbard

Enjoy this session full of ideas to bring real writing opportunities into center time and large/small group play in your programs! Refresh your knowledge on the stages of writing and learn developmentally appropriate practices to make sure your students are given ample opportunity to write EVERYDAY!

Ms. Jamie Hubbard is a Pre K teacher at Rock Springs Elementary in the Rutherford County school system, and was the Rock Springs Elementary Teacher of the Year for the school year 2013-14. She is in her 13th year of teaching, 8th of teaching Pre K. She received her bachelors and masters from MTSU and is contemplating starting the Doctorate program. Jamie has 4 children of her own and has wanted to be a mother and teacher for as long as she can remember. Presenting is her new passion. She hopes to do this full time within the next 10-15 years. This is her second year to present at the Play Symposium

Let's Play with Science! – COE 153

Ms. Sarah Jessie

Children are born with a natural curiosity. They love to explore and discover...and ask questions! Join Ms. Jessie today for science play and learn strategies that you can immediately use to engage and excite your students in play. This session is filled with a little mess, a little music, a little science magic, and, of course, a lot of curious fun!

As a teacher, parents ask me to suggest flashcards and commercial programs that they should be using to prepare their children for success in school. My answer is and always has been, the same – read to your children, talk to your children, and let them play – with parents, other children, and by themselves. Let them create and explore! Let them experience a broad vocabulary of words as they are spoken in play and exploration. Make every day an adventure. Going to the grocery can become a hunt for specific items or guessing which color will be found on most of the items in the cart. Have fun with your children!

Now I have a grandson, James (almost 4). We play several times a week. He knows colors, numbers, most of the letters. He can count and do some simple addition and subtraction. He helps in the kitchen, LOVES science and nature, and is, of course, the smartest child ever (from the expert opinion of a grandmother). All of this occurred naturally during exploration and play with his parents, grandparents, friends, and at an amazing preschool!

Currently, besides being a grandmother, I am the Instructional Specialist for Elementary Science for Rutherford County Schools. I have also been a Kindergarten and multi-age teacher, and the Reading Specialist for RCS.

Scaffolding Emergent Literacy Skills with Pre-Kindergarten through Writing Instruction
– COE 146

Dr. Penny Thompson and Ms. Cassie Urban

This session details research of an interactive reading and writing intervention implemented with pre-kindergarten students in the classroom setting. Through interactive reading and writing lessons, students increased in pre-reading skills of phonemic awareness and print knowledge through adult scaffolded writing opportunities. Participants will learn about the interactive reading and writing lessons, scaffolding writing activities, and other play activities for teaching young learners. Handouts will be provided.

Dr. Penny Thompson has her Ph.D. in literacy studies and is currently an Instructional Coordinator and Pre-K Director in the Lebanon Special School District. Educational positions held include teacher, principal, supervisor, and adjunct professor at Cumberland University.

Ms. Cassie Urban is a Pre-K teacher at Coles Ferry Elementary School in the Lebanon Special School District.

Learning and Playing with Robots – COE 150

Dr. Stacey Burt and Dr. Holly Ray

In this session, participants will experience resources for introducing children to beginning programming and robotics via Sphero robotic balls. Designing and setting up enrichment through a free Sphero MACROLab app, will enable educators to provide children with the opportunity to program and test variables while engaged in play. Sample lessons will be examined and discussed as well.

Dr. Stacey Burt received her B.S., with a major in Elementary Education, from the University of South Alabama; her M.Ed. in Gifted Education from the University of South Alabama; and Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Professional Practice from Trevecca Nazarene University. Currently, Dr. Burt is a teacher at the Discovery Academic Magnet School in Murfreesboro. Previously, she taught in the Rutherford County and Santa Rosa County, Florida School Districts. Dr. Burt has presented at state and national gifted conferences as well as written for *Scholastic*, and conducted professional development about effective strategies with gifted students for various school districts throughout the Southeast; has been a State Finalist for Tennessee Teacher of the Year and has judged applicants for that title; and has served on the *Scholastic* National Teacher Advisory Board, been a member of the *Scholastic* Top Teaching Team, a *Scholastic* Teacher Advisor for Grades 6-8, the Air Force Association Elementary Science Teacher of the Year, National Teacher Training Institute Master Teacher, etc.

Dr. Holly Ray is a twenty-year veteran in the education profession with the majority of her career focusing on upper elementary and middle school students. She currently teaches eighth grade language arts to regular education and ELL students. In addition to middle school, Dr. Ray teaches in the reading specialist graduate program at Carson Newman University and advises doctoral students in the educational doctorate program at Trevecca Nazarene University. In addition to teaching, she also contracts with schools, faculties, and school systems as an educational consultant to train their educators in various areas.

Poster Presentation

COE 160 – 10.45 am - 11.45 am

Improving Children's Literacy through Guided Play

Ms. Hongxia Zhao & Dr. Kathryn Sharp

This poster presents the concept of guided play as an effective strategy in enhancing children's literacy development with implications for teachers in providing a structure for the play.

Play and Literacy: Bringing the Connection Home

Ms. April Graham

This poster provides both creative and useful research-based strategies to families with children in grades 3 and under to actively promote academic literacy development inside the home.

What are the Differences in Language Use Between Mothers and Fathers During Child Interaction?

Mr. Adam Rollins

The poster presents a statistical analysis of 62 language characteristics and identifies 8 key differences between the language use of mothers and fathers during a picture book reading activity.

Traveling a Thousand Miles: The Role of Education Diplomacy through Study Abroad

Ms. Sheila Watkins

The emerging concept of education diplomacy is examined through the analysis of the experience held by four college students in a study abroad program.

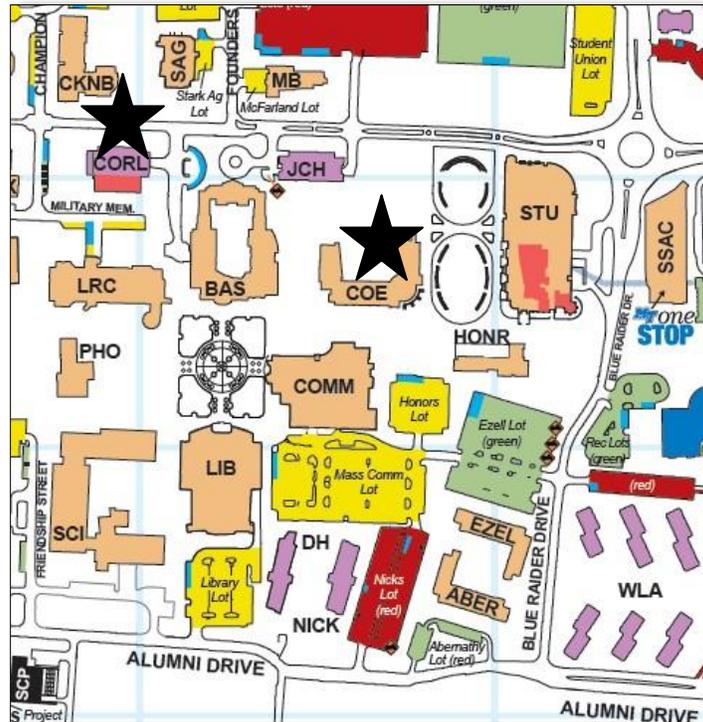
Notes



Notes



Campus Map



COE: College of Education

CORL: McCallie Dining Hall

Play Symposium 2015 Training Hours

Keynote (2 hrs.)	Poster Presentation (1 hr.)
Concurrent Session A (1 hr.)	Concurrent Session B (1 hr.)