

Potomac Association of Cooperative Teachers Inc.



September 2019

Fall Newsletter

www.PACTteachers.org

Letter from the Co-Presidents

Dear PACT Members,

We hope that everyone had a relaxing and refreshing summer. As we all head into the new school year, we want to wish you all a happy and successful year.

As we prepare for our “Fall Professional Development Day” we would like to remind all participants that there will be two sessions, each two hours long to meet the Core of Knowledge requirements set by MSDE. This Fall we have eight great presenters with expertise and experience.

At our Fall PACT meeting, the Board needs to hear from you: How can PACT best serve you as an early childhood professional now and in the future? Brainstorm with us this Fall! Teacher support groups? Increased use of social media? Dessert at every training? How can PACT inspire you further? How can we address your greatest challenges as an Early Childhood Professional in a cooperative school? Share your ideas to benefit us all. We will have places to post your thoughts and suggestions at the PACT Fall Professional Development Day.

We look forward to hearing your thoughts about how to make PACT better than ever!

We hope to see many of you on October 23.

Warmly,
Bernadine Occhiuzzo and Ellie Griffin
PACT Co-Presidents

Join the PACT Board!

The PACT Board is run by dedicated volunteer early childhood educators. A number of positions are currently open, and we need members to step forward! If you are interested in being involved, please check the list below for open positions and contact us at info@PACTteachers.org

2019-20 PACT Board Members

Co-Presidents - [Bernadine Occhiuzzo](#) Cedar Lane Nursery School, MD
- [Ellen Griffin](#) Cedar Lane Nursery School, MD

V.P. Program Co-Chairs - [Scott Mitchell](#) Silver Spring Nursery School, MD
- [Doreen Bunten](#) Cedar Lane Nursery School, MD

V.P. Membership – [Christine Waltz](#) Silver Oaks Cooperative School, MD

Secretary - [Melissa Jordan](#) Rockville Presbyterian Cooperative Nursery School, MD

Treasurer - [Janise Allyn-Smith](#) Silver Spring Nursery School, MD

Logistics & Hospitality - VA **OPEN**

- MD - [Rana Oriolo](#) Learning Center for Young Children, MD

Professional Development Day Administration - [Jessie Auten](#) Providence Nursery School (VA)

Exhibits/Resource Table – **OPEN**

Assessments and Evaluations - **OPEN**

Legislative Contact - MD - [Bernadine Occhiuzzo](#)

- DC - **OPEN**

- VA - [Nancy Renner](#) Fort Hunt Preschool, VA

DVD Collection - [Nancy Renner](#) Fort Hunt Preschool (VA)

LCD Projector Loan - VA: [Nancy Renner](#) Fort Hunt Preschool, VA

- MD: [Scott Mitchell](#) MD

Listserv - [Jennifer DeBernardis](#) MD

Web Master - [Annette Fitzpatrick](#) MD

Newsletter editor - [Annette Fitzpatrick](#) MD

Past Co-Presidents - [Nancy Renner](#) Fort Hunt Preschool, VA

- [Jennifer DeBernardis](#) MD

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Membership Renewal

PACT membership for the 2019-20 school year entitles members to participate in PACT's two Professional Development Days – to be held on Wednesday, October 23, 2019 and Thursday, March 26, 2020. Membership renewal and professional development day registration is available online at <https://www.pacteachers.org/forms.html> . Returning members should note the increase in fees this year - \$60 this Fall, and \$40 (no change) after the PDD October 23.

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Listserv

PACT members' listserv: Take a moment to join the PACT members' listserv to stay up-to date on PACT information. The listserv is open to current PACT members. To join, send an e-mail to PACT-Info-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Directors' listserv: Share resources, ideas and training opportunities by joining the PACT Directors listserv. PACT membership is not required. To join, send a message to pact-directorssubscribe@yahoogroups.com

Award for Devoted Service in Early Childhood Education

The *PACT Award for Devoted Service in Early Childhood Education* was re-instated in 2016. Angie Zeidenberg, Teacher at Bannockburn Nursery School, was presented with the 2019-20 award at PACT's March Professional Development Day.

Members are encouraged to consider nominating one of their mentors or co-workers for the 2019-20 school year. It's never too early to begin the process, so please take a look at the nomination form on our website <https://www.pacteachers.org/welcome.html> today! Nominations are due March 1st, 2020 and the award will be presented at the Spring Professional Development Day.

Hall of Fame

The PACT Board established a *PACT Hall of Fame* in the Spring of 2018 to recognize members who have given exemplary service in the field of Early Childhood Education.

At the March 2019 Professional Development Day, Edie Mossberg was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation, and inducted into the PACT Hall of Fame. Edie has served as Co-President of PACT, Director of Glenbrook Nursery School in Bethesda, and ECE consultant. She currently serves on the PACT Service Award Committee.

PACT Professional Development Day, Wednesday October 23

Venue: [First Christian Church of Falls Church](#) 6165 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22044

Schedule:

8:45 - 9:05 Registration, refreshments, displays and exhibits

9:05 - 9:15 Business Meeting

9:15 - 11:15 First workshop session

11:15 - 11:45 Break - light lunch is provided

11:45 - 1:45 Second workshop session

1:45 - 2:00 Certificates issued, departure

Credit: Attendees will earn 4 Core of Knowledge training hours in ECE. Certificates will be issued to participants at the conclusion of the Professional Development Day, and after their evaluation and assessment forms have been completed and handed in.

MSDE Training approval number: CWO-157784

Vendors: Make sure you allow time to check out the vendors' tables! There will be several displays, with a wide selection of goods.

Resource Table: Want to share information about an upcoming event, training, or ECE organization? Bring 25 copies for the resource table, located in the vendors' area.

Further details: <https://www.pacteachers.org/professional-development.html>

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Workshop Content Description and Core of Knowledge Areas

Each workshop will be two hours in length and will be offered twice (first and second session). Participants will choose two workshops for a total of four hours of training.

1. It's the Questions, Not the Answers

Description: Participants will learn how to encourage STEM learning and foster children's innate curiosity by using the *Inquiry Teaching Model*. Participants will reflect on what they are already doing and how they can increase their language and ability to support children with STEM learning.

Core of Knowledge Area: 2 hrs Curriculum

Presenter: Etrulia Lee.

Etrulia is a lifelong educator. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Elementary/Special Education from Cabrini University in Radnor, Pa., and a Master's in Special Education from University of Maryland, College Park, MD. Her career path includes special education classroom teacher, child care director for special needs preschool school children ages 6 weeks to five, education consultant, school principal, education director for a private school serving infants through middle school, speaker, and trainer. She has been an approved trainer with MSDE since 2011.

2. Connecting Assessment to Curriculum and Instruction

Description: Explains the assessment-instructional cycle. Participants will leave with an understanding of how to assess children, analyze the data and make modifications to the curriculum to meet the learning needs of all children.

Core of Knowledge Area: 2 hrs Child Development

Presenter: Jill Lyons.

Jill is the Infant/Toddler and Inclusion Specialist with MCCCRRRC. In her over 20 years of early childhood experience, Jill has been a classroom teacher as well as a center director. In her role with MCCCRRRC she provides technical assistance to child care providers in topic areas such as: business development, program improvements, and professional development. She provides TA through site visits, phone calls, group sessions, and one on one meetings. Jill also develops and facilitates MSDE approved trainings on a variety of topics, including infant/toddler development. In her spare time, Jill can often be seen at a baseball game with her family or out enjoying a run.

3. SEFEL Pyramid Approach

Description: The focus is to support young children's social and emotional development through a culturally sensitive approach that is responsive to the unique needs of programs, families, professionals and communities. Special attention will be paid to engaging families in this approach as well as consideration for trauma on a child's behavior

Core of Knowledge Area: 2 hrs Child Development

Presenter: Kate Wasserman.

At the Institute for Innovation & Implementation within University of Maryland's School of Social Work, Ms. Wasserman oversees program and policy work for all Parent, Infant and Early Childhood (PIEC) activities. In this role she leads program development, workforce training and policy work related to IECMH efforts including: Pyramid Model training & coaching. She serves as the Program Director for a SAMHSA Funded System of Care grant focused on supporting evidence based mental health work for young children and families in the southern Maryland region. She is also the Coordinator for the TA Network's Early Childhood Systems Learning Community; and a statewide consultant and trainer for MSDE funded IECMHC program. Ms. Wasserman is a licensed clinical social worker with extensive IECMH experience, former mental health consultant in Early Head Start and pediatric primary care settings, implemented intimate partner violence protocol within pediatrics, faculty and curriculum contributor to the UMB SOM IECMH certificate, and has designed and is currently teaching a PIEC SSW course for our school's MSW program, funded through SAMHSA's Behavioral Health Curriculum Development Initiative. She is a National Trainer of the Fussy Baby Network and served as lead trainer for Maryland's Race to the Top and Project LAUNCH workforce developmental grants, training primary care providers, mental health consultants, and home visitors on trauma-informed, family-focused infant mental health competencies.

4. Math Comes Alive When it's Brain Driven

Description: Discover the hidden mathematician in you to further encourage the mathematician in young children. Participants will examine their own experience with math to gain insight how they view this area in their program. This training provides participants with strategies and tools to incorporate math in the early learning environment through discovery, problem solving, hands-on activities and language.

Core of Knowledge Area: 2 hrs Child Development

Presenter: Petrea Hicks

Petrea Hicks is an internationally recognized Master Leader through Child Care Exchange's Leadership Initiative. She has presented training/workshops for National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) annual conference, local and state early education conferences. Ms. Hicks recently published an article for Child Care Exchange magazine (May/June 2018) concerning diverse literature for young African American males and will be presenting this same topic during NAEYC's 2018 conference. She has extensive experience working with various children care programs, including Family Child Care professionals, Head Start/Early Head Start, Department of Defense child development centers and supporting agencies.

5. Considering Reflective Discipline: Ideas that Work for ALL Children

Description: This interactive workshop looks at how reflective discipline focuses on positive strategies that create connected community in early childhood classrooms. This session is based on current research, understanding ourselves and what we bring to social/emotional development, and practices that connect children as individuals as well as in a group. Discussing ideas and experiences, participants will leave with a strong foundation in which to build appropriate strategies that promote children's social/emotional development.

Core of Knowledge Area: 1hr Child Development, ½hr Curriculum, ½hr Community (total 2)

Presenter: Jacky Howell

Jacky Howell, MA has been working in the field of early childhood education over 40 years. She received her Masters in Human Development from Pacific Oaks College. She has been an early childhood teacher, assistant director, keynote presenter, workshop presenter as well as an on-site consultant and mentor to early childhood programs throughout the DC-Metropolitan area and beyond. She presented this same workshop at the NAEYC conference in Atlanta, Georgia in November 2017. In addition, she presented this topic as a webinar

through Early Investigation Webinars. She is an author and has written a column for *Teaching Young Children*, articles for *Young Children* and co-authored a book published by NAEYC, *Rituals and Traditions: Fostering a Sense of Community in Preschool*.

6. It Takes Two: Partner Activity for Preschoolers

Description: Partner activities are great ways to build friendships and teach social skills for young children. They can be used as a strategy when a child is being left out or has a hard time entering play. Partner activities can also provide support for children with disabilities or children who are learning English. In this workshop, participants will experience a variety of songs, games and activities which are designed to be done with a partner. They'll identify the social skills needed for each activity and learn ways to teach and scaffold those skills.

Core of Knowledge Area: 1hr Child Development, 1hr Special Needs (total 2 hrs)

Presenter: Emily Ederer

Eight years ago, Emily Ederer founded the Silver Spring Day School Training Institute to provide Maryland approved, Core of Knowledge training for childcare professionals. A veteran PreK teacher, she offers active, innovative training that gives providers new ways of looking at their work and practical techniques they can use in their workplaces immediately. In her role as Director of Training at Silver Spring Day School, Emily also coordinates staff development, mentors teachers and supervises activities that enrich the experience of students, families and staff.

7. Partnering with Parents

Description: This session will present an approach to building strong, positive relationships with parents that enables providers and parents to work effectively together to nurture children's overall development, especially when challenges arise.

Core of Knowledge Area: 1 hr Child Development, 1hr Professionalism ((total 2 hrs)

Presenter: Claire Lerner

Claire Lerner, LCSW-C, is a licensed clinical social worker with over 30 years of experience working with children and families. She is the author of hundreds of resources for parents that translate the science of early childhood into practical tools. She has also provided training to hundreds of early childhood professionals in best practices for supporting families with young children.

8. Loving and Learning , Science with young children.

Description: Science exploration and engineering design work by young children are fun and can engage in children “finding our” while solving problems of interest to them. Without adult support, experiences can be “one-off” activities that don’t lead children to think progressively deeper about the concepts to continue an investigation. This session provides examples of how teachers can strengthen their grasp of science concepts and engineering design while supporting children’s interest. Through examples of strategies for learning science content and first hand exploration of natural phenomenon, educator gain confidence in their ability to explore with young children and understand the nature of science.

Core of Knowledge Area: 2 hrs Curriculum

Presenter: Peggy Ashbrook

Peggy Ashbrook is an early childhood science teacher, mentor and writer—the National Science Teachers Association’s (NSTA) Early Years column in *Science and Children* and companion blog (www.nsta.org/earlyyears), and author of "*Science Learning in the Early Years*" (2016 NSTA Press) and "*Science Is Simple*" (2003, Gryphon House). She began teaching science to young children in her home as a family child care provider in 1988. Peggy is a cofounder of the NAEYC Early Childhood Science Interest Forum (ECSIF). Currently, Peggy teaches children ages 2-5 in a variety of programs, mentors teachers in schools, is a Technical Assistance Specialist for Virginia Quality, and provides professional development on early childhood science inquiry and engineering design. Her favorite place is where the worlds of early childhood and science learning overlap.

Pick your workshops and sign up now!

Each workshop will be capped at 35 participants. Alternate choices will be assigned after a workshop is full, or if there is insufficient enrollment. Note that priority in workshop choices will be given to members whose membership fees have been received, so sign up early to ensure you can attend your first choice! Complete and submit the form online at <https://www.pacteachers.org/forms.html>

Fees may be paid by:

- a) Personal check payable to PACT. Complete and submit form online, then print and mail form with check for \$60 to Jessie Auten, 8804 Trafalgar Court, Springfield, VA 22151.
- b) School Check payable to PACT. Complete and submit form online, indicating that payment will be made by your school.

c) PayPal. Complete and submit form online. Note that this option includes a service fee levied by PayPal, which is 2.9% of the amount paid plus a 30 cent transaction fee. Refer to the fees chart (see link on the website *Forms* page).

Questions? - please e-mail VPMembership@gmail.com

The membership/registration form and \$60.00 membership fee (payable to PACT) is due **Wednesday, October 9.**

Members who prefer not to submit their form online may complete and mail the form below:

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name _____ Phone Number (home/cell) _____

Home Address _____ Zip _____

E-mail address (for PACT communication only) _____

School name _____

School website _____

Are you interested in serving on the PACT Board? Yes__ Maybe, need more info! __ No __

Workshop Choices: Indicate the NUMBER of the workshop below*:

1. # _____ 2. # _____ Alternate(s) # _____

*Each workshop will be capped at 35 participants. Alternate choices will be assigned after a workshop is full. Note that priority in workshop choices will be given to members whose fees have been received. Sign up early to ensure you can attend your first choice!

Lunchbox Choice:

- Ham sandwich with chips and whole fruit
- Turkey sandwich with chips and whole fruit
- Vegetarian sandwich with chips and whole fruit
- Salad with grilled chicken and gluten free dressing
