

EXPLORING SOCIAL EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: PRACTICES TO MEET THE DIVERSE NEEDS OF ALL YOUNG CHILDREN

How do we build emotionally healthy kids?

DATE: April 5, 2016

LOCATION: The Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center, Roanoke, Virginia

TIME: 8:00am–5:00pm

INFORMATION: The Training and Technical Assistance Center at Virginia Tech cordially invites you to come and participate in our upcoming Spring conference. This one-day conference will gather educators, administrators, and related service providers to hear from national and international speakers and other guests about the importance of supporting and promoting social/emotional growth in early childhood.

Conference topics include:

- building social emotional skills through literacy;
- mindfulness in young children;
- supporting the building of social skills with visuals;
- embedding skill-building opportunities throughout the natural activities of the day;
- using a defined process to support more challenging behavior;
- facilitating friendships in early childhood;
- using data to enhance routines, behaviors, and monitor progress;
- and much more.

We are proud to present both local and national speakers at our conference this year, including:

KEYNOTE:

Tweety Yates is a staff member for the National Center on Quality Teaching and Learning (NCQTL) and a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Special Education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is also currently involved in the Illinois Early Intervention Training Program, which is developing a professional development system for early intervention providers. The focus of her work has primarily been centered on parent-child interactions, social emotional development, early literacy and professional development.

Kat King has over 25 years of experience working with youth in a variety of inclusive settings, including day and resident camps, after-school, sports, and teen leadership programs. For the past ten years her focus has been providing inclusion coaching, training, and technical assistance to out-of-school-time professionals. Kathryn has a Master of Science degree in Recreation Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has published articles in several publications, including *Camping Magazine*, *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*, and *Discovery*. Kathryn is an education and training specialist with Kids Included Together, an organization which provides professional development opportunities to out-of-school-time professionals to ensure that children with and without disabilities are fully and meaningfully included in programs.

Sharon Palsha has 38 years experience in the field of special education. She currently is on faculty in UNC-CH's School of Education (SOE), where she has worked for the past 12 years as a clinical associate professor in the Child Development and Family Studies Program preparing inclusive early childhood educators. Sharon worked as a researcher at Frank Porter Graham (FPG) for 15 years prior to moving to the SOE. She remains active as a FPG Fellow working closely with Project CONNECT to help develop and implement the Dialogic Reading Module.

Aron Hall, Director of Programs, coordinates the National Inclusion Project's Let's ALL Play partnership programs and trainings, as well as ongoing program development. A graduate of N.C. State University, Aron has had multiple experiences in education and recreational programs.

Karen Bluth has been practicing mindfulness for over 35 years with weekly mindfulness meditation groups and has attended numerous mindfulness retreats during that time. She co-founded the Knoxville Interfaith Meditation Group in 1994, and practiced regularly with this meditation group for 18 years. Dr. Bluth received her Mindfulness Instructor Training at the Center for Mindfulness at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, along with her Mindful Self-Compassion training and Mindful Self-Compassion Teacher Training. Dr. Bluth's research focuses on improving well-being through mindfulness and self-compassion interventions. With colleagues at the University of California at San Diego and the University of Texas, Austin, Dr. Bluth is currently adapting and pilot-testing the adult Mindful Self-Compassion program for an adolescent population. In addition to her mindfulness training, Dr. Bluth is a former teacher with 18 years classroom teaching experience.