

The Infant Toddler Children's Center  
149 Central St.  
Acton, MA 01720

## The Infant Toddler Children's Center

### Annual Teachers' Conference



## Shared Power: Building a Learning Community with Children and Adults

**Saturday, March 1, 2014**

**9:00 AM to 12 Noon**

**The Infant Toddler Children's Center**

**149 Central St., Acton, MA 01720**

**978-263-2064**

## Program Offerings

### A) The Fence that Preschool C Built: Sharing planning and decision

**making with children** This fall we had an opportunity to put into practice our belief that children are capable and competent. The rubber hit the proverbial road when a group of preschool children took on a task they'd probably never even thought they could do- building a very long, picket fence. Come on a journey with a teacher who put his faith in a group of inexperienced four and five-year-old "construction workers" and learned just as much - if not more- than they did in the process. What can we learn about how adults and children can truly partner in an experience, drawing on children's creative ideas and adults' skills and perspective? What do children learn when they are given the time and support to work through problems? **Presenters: Moe Desrosiers, Preschool Teacher and Susan Twombly, ITC Director**

### B) The Parent-Teacher Partnership: Developing cohesive relationships between teachers and families that support children's optimal

**care** - Partnering with parents isn't always easy, but it is critical in providing high-quality, family-centered care for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. In this interactive workshop, we will explore ways of building community, establishing trust, and sharing power with parents as we negotiate the myriad challenges that confront teachers and families every day. The child is at the center of everything we do, but the child doesn't exist in isolation. What kind of relationship do you want to have with the parents of children in your care? How do you welcome parents into partnership from the very beginning? How do you sustain open communication and truly share responsibility with families? What happens when something goes awry? We will look at many techniques involved in shared power, exploring concrete examples and tried and true "tools" for building relationships with families that give everyone a voice and everyone a role. **Presenters: Cindy Heaney, Program Coordinator, Ida Daley, Infant Teacher, Dustin DelleChiaie, Preschool Teacher**

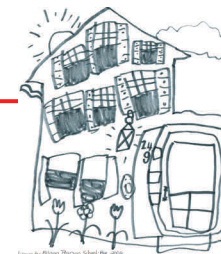
### c) Teaching teams: Developing mutual respect, commitment and shared power

A teaching team is a group of people with a full set of complementary skills. This team can successfully complete a task, a job or a project while always keeping the child 'in the room'. On an early childhood team it is important to share planning, authority and responsibility; to be interdependent, able to rely on each other. Are you able to meet as a team; how do you get to know each other? How do you share information and communications during meetings and/or 'on the fly'? How do you share power as a team leader or team member? How do you bring your individual skills and goals to create a shared team vision? Are you part of the accountability of your team's collective experience? Come share and hear techniques teachers use to collaborate and develop a strong sense of mutual respect, commitment and power with teammates. **Presenters: Kathy Linnane, Assistant Director and Cathy Mariani, Preschool Lead Teacher.**

**d) Sharing Power with Toddlers** Being a toddler isn't easy, and power struggles can be a daily challenge in the first few years of life. What does it feel like to be an infant waiting to be fed? How does a toddler feel when he gets pulled from his block tower for a diaper change? In this workshop, we will discuss how responsive relationships, child-centered routines, and an environment of "yes" give a measure of control to even the youngest children, allowing them to be our partners in their care. Through stories, videos, and open dialogue, we will consider what it looks and feels like to truly collaborate *with* children, while still maintaining appropriate limits and boundaries. We will look at small ways we can shift our approach so that we can navigate through challenging moments in a way that feels authentic, respectful and shared. **Presenters: Karen Paskewicz, Toddler Lead Teacher and Emily Waters, Toddler Teacher**

## Who We Are

The Infant Toddler Children's Center (ITC) was founded in 1981 as one of the first programs in the area designed specifically for infant and toddler child care. Since then, this nonprofit organization has expanded to include programs for preschool and school-age children. At ITC, we respect children as unique individuals who are curious and competent learners. Our approach to curriculum is influenced by Jean Piaget, Lev Vygotsky, Howard Garner, Magda Gerber, Frances and David Hawkins, and the Reggio Emilia Schools in Italy.



### Agenda

Saturday, March 1, 2014

9:00—9:30 Informal tours of ITC and Light Breakfast available

9:30—10:00 Welcome and Opening Remarks

10:00-12:00 Workshops

3 PDP's given for participation in full conference

### Registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Choose one Workshop—Please use corresponding letter

1st choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd choice \_\_\_\_\_

**Cost:** \$40.00 per person or \$35 per person for 4 or more from the same center.

**To Register:** Mail this form by February 14, 2014 and make checks payable to:

**The Infant Toddler Children's Ctr., 149 Central St., Acton, MA 01720**

**978-263-2064, [www.itcacton.org](http://www.itcacton.org)**

*You are registered unless you hear from us!*

*Register early, space is limited. Please photocopy*