



Kansas District Early Childhood Educators
Conference
July 28, 2018

Clowns in the Kingdom!

We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honored, we are dishonored!
1 Cor. 4:10

Faith Lutheran Church
1348 Trailridge Rd., Emporia, KS

Keynote Presenter:

Melissa Reed, PhD. is an associate professor in the Department of Elementary/Early Childhood Special Education in the Teachers College at Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas. She has 20 years of teaching experience in K-9 classrooms. The past 13 years have been spent teaching literacy courses at Emporia State University to prepare teacher candidates to enter the teaching field and graduate course work. Her research interests focus on literacy learning environments, learning styles, technology integration, brain-based learning, mindfulness of the whole child and multicultural education.

Keynote I: 9:30-11:30 Melissa Reed: *Teaching Empathy . . . One Book at a Time*

When educators incorporate empathy into instruction, it can have positive results. Empathy can build a positive culture that strengthens the heart of a diverse classroom. Through empathy, students understand each other and begin to build friendships based on positive relationships of trust. By understanding another's feelings, children learn empathy skills to communicate cross-culturally. Empathy and compassion are meaningful when children know, understand and trust themselves as well as when they know who they are, what they have in common with others and what sets them apart. We need to teach children to be aware and in control of their impulses and emotions so that they are able to focus on how others feel without dismissing their own feelings or letting them get in the way. Children's books will be used in the session to allow teachers to interact with the topic and provide children a "safe" environment to interact and learn empathy skills. Ideas for using art, music, games and role-play along with the books will be explored.

Keynote II: 12:30 – 2:30 Melissa Reed: *Tinkerlabs - Using Picture Books to Support Learning in Stem*

The research is clear that the best practice in early childhood education is to break away from passive instruction and worksheets and to encourage more play and investigation. This kind of learning in life builds skills and interests that serve children throughout their school years and later in life. Encouraging children to tinker gives them the skills to be creative problem solvers out in the world. Children who are encouraged from an early age to tinker and solve their own problems develop a different way of thinking about the world. They understand experimentation, testing and failing. This session will explore the use of children's books to guide various tinkering lab environments.

Breakout Sessions

Breakout A: 2:45 – 3:45 Andrea Karcher: *Kids A Cookin' - Let's Have Fun with Food!*

Preschoolers love food and books. What better way to introduce basic cooking, literature and fun! This session will focus on how to incorporate easy recipes with fun preschool books. Get ideas and resources to take home and incorporate into your own classrooms.

Breakout B: 2:45 – 3:45 Melissa Reed: *Squishy Circuits – Exploring Conductors and Resistors*

Any electronic devices you use, like smartphones, game consoles, and even refrigerators, rely on circuits to work. A circuit is a path through which electricity flows. Materials that allow electricity to flow through them are called conductors; materials that electricity can't flow through are called insulators. Squishy Circuits uses conductive insulating play dough to teach the basics of electrical circuits in a fun, hands-on way. Today you will build your own flexible circuit out of conductive play dough!

Breakout C: 2:45 – 3:45 Stephanie Bosiyevac: *How Can Teachers Pay Teachers Help You?*

This breakout session will help teachers in using Teachers Pay Teachers in their classrooms to make their lives easier. As the presentation progresses, I will model how to make lessons that could be put on Teachers Pay Teachers. (If you would like to bring your laptop or keypad to this session that would be helpful).

Registration

Registration opens to the public on May 15. We will fill on a first-come, first-served basis. The fee for the conference is non-refundable, but an alternate person may attend in your place.

Cost

\$40 before June 30, 2018 Up to 5.0 in-service hours!

Checks should be payable to: **Kansas District LCMS** with ECE Conference in the memo line. Please return forms to:

LCMS Kansas District
Attn: ECE Conference
1000 SW 10th Ave.
Topeka, KS 66604

Conference Schedule

- 8:30-9:00** **Registration / Continental Breakfast**
- 9:00-9:30** **Announcements / Devotions**
- 9:30-11:30** **Keynote I**
- 11:30-12:30** **Lunch (included in registration fee)**
- 12:30-2:30** **Keynote II**
- 2:30–2:45** **Break**
- 2:45-3:45** **Breakout Sessions**
- 3:45-4:15** **Closing and Door Prizes**

Registration Form

Name as you want it to appear on your name tag _____

Work/Position _____ Name of Employer _____

Work Street Address _____ City, State and Zip _____

Work Phone _____ Email Address _____

Do you require any special assistance/diet? _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Hotel:

We have reserved a block of 6 rooms at Hampton Inn, 2900 Eaglecrest Dr., Emporia

Phone: 620.412.9040

Room Block: **KS District LCMS Early Childhood Workshop**
Cost: \$99

Cut Off Date to reserve a room is JUNE 27!
Reservations confirmed after 6/27 are subject to current availability.

Vendor: *Thrivent*

Thank you!

Special thanks to Faith Lutheran Church, Lord's Lambs Preschool and Thrivent for their support, which enables us to present this conference for you.

Any questions? Contact Donna Bottemuller at 913-236-6228 ext. 115 or 816-868-4772.