

PARENTS PLACE ON THE PENINSULA PRESENTS

Teacher Professional Development Workshops

Preschool
2010 – 2011




parentsplace

Parents Place

Community Education Offers Teacher Professional Development

Since its founding over 25 years ago in San Francisco, Jewish Family and Children's Services' Parents Place has taken a leadership role nationally in developing policies and programs to support families. Parents Place provides a wide array of services to families with children from birth to 18. Parents Place Community Education Center brings educational workshops to your school site at a convenient time for your parents and teachers. We offer Teacher Professional Development workshops on relevant topics from pre-school through high school that have benefited teachers and school staff throughout the Bay Area.

Our presenters and consultants are all professional parenting educators and child development experts who have extensive experience working with parents, children, teachers, and school administrators.

This booklet describes our Teacher Professional Development services. We would like to explore with you how we can be of assistance to your school community. Please contact Gloria Moskowitz-Sweet at 650-688-3037 or GloriaMS@jfcs.org to get further information. To schedule a Teacher Professional Development workshop, contact Diane Wasson at 650-688-3021 or DianeW@jfcs.org.

We look forward to working with you!



Understanding Children's Behavior

- **Separation Anxiety and the Transition to Preschool**

Learn how to ease the transition from home to school, including nurturing a child's emotional independence and dealing with separation anxiety. Learn transition coping strategies and develop transition tools for teachers, parents, and children.

- **Understanding Child Temperament**

Temperament is inborn, not something we can teach or instill. Discussion will include information to help teachers gain a better understanding about the children in their classroom, as well as ways to help parents understand and appreciate their child's temperament. We will discuss effective strategies for dealing with a variety of temperaments.

- **Guiding Children in Problem-Solving Skills**

Very young children can benefit from learning problem-solving skills. Learn to facilitate peaceful negotiations between and among children by teaching children the steps of problem-solving so that they feel more competent in solving their own problems and expressing their feelings and desires appropriately.

- **Turning No into Yes: Encouraging Cooperative Behavior in Preschool Children**

A young child's world rapidly expands from the security of home to the unpredictability of the outside world. As children explore their budding independence, they experiment with power and control by testing limits and gaining confidence in their own abilities. Using "no" is a way to test individualized power, as well as power in adult and peer relationships. Turning "no" into "yes" is a complex skill that requires patience, consistency, and creativity. When children feel respected and their age-appropriate behaviors and inborn temperaments are understood, the need for "no" decreases. Guiding children toward healthy expressions of their needs and emotions is key to finding "yes."



Working with Children in the Classroom

- **Understanding and Managing Children's Behavior**

This workshop provides a framework for working with children who have difficult, confusing, and/or challenging behavior. We will explore the factors that contribute to these behaviors and work together to understand what these behaviors are trying to communicate. Discussion will also include aspects of early brain development and the development of strategies for use in the classroom/family daycare setting.

- **Introduction to Inclusion (Preschool – Kindergarten)**

In this workshop, teachers will understand the philosophy and legal framework for the inclusion of children with special needs in school. Teachers will examine the definition of inclusion and will gain knowledge about benefits and basic principles of an inclusive program. You will learn the principles of using adaptations and modifications for daily classroom activities and curriculum. Participants will also engage in hands-on activities, designing adaptations for specific needs of children in their classroom.

- **Working with Highly Sensitive Children**

Sensitivity is not a discipline issue or a special need. It is actually a valuable temperament trait that needs to be better understood. This workshop offers insights into the behaviors of children who become easily overwhelmed by certain situations or sensations. Discussion will include strategies for helping teachers and parents gain skills needed to deal with the challenges of working with a sensitive child.



- **Promoting Healthful Eating Habits for Children**

This workshop helps classroom teachers both understand healthful eating habits and support the adoption of healthful eating by children in their classroom. Using the philosophy of highly regarded nutrition expert Ellyn Satter, RD (author of *Child of Mine*), we will discuss numerous approaches for encouraging healthful eating in children without “bribing” and ways to avoid the early onset of emotional eating.

- **Educating Children in a 24/7 Digital Media World**

America’s children are growing up in the center of a technological revolution. Even young children are spending significant time watching TV and movies, using computers, and playing video games—profoundly affecting how they grow and learn. This workshop, in collaboration with Common Sense Media, is designed to address this phenomenon and give teachers strategies to use in the classroom and share with parents. The workshop defines a healthful balance between safe and smart digital media practices.



Partnering with Parents

- **Building Positive Relationships with Parents**

Interactions with parents can be challenging and stressful, especially when discussing a concern you have about their child. This workshop will focus on how to develop and strengthen your relationships with the parents in your program and includes tips for successful parent-teacher conferences. We will explore the factors that contribute to challenging parental behaviors and work together to understand what these behaviors are trying to communicate. Specific strategies for use in the classroom/family daycare setting will be discussed.

- **Parent/Teacher Communication – Working with Parents When Concerns Arise (Preschool – Elementary)**

This workshop will introduce a model for healthy and open communication between teachers and families. Participants will learn how to prepare for a parent-teacher conference when concerns arise and how to conduct the conference using active listening and other supportive strategies. We will explore ways to work with parents when there are disagreements with teachers' concerns, the manner in which to make referrals, and possible next steps to take. Participants will be invited to share actual case examples (without breaching confidentiality) and practice suggested strategies.

- **Recognizing and Identifying Children with Special Needs**

As a preschool teacher, you are often the first person to recognize the possibility of a child with a special need. Learn about the signs and symptoms of children with special needs, your role in the life of a child with special needs, and the ways to refer parents to external resources. Discussion will include information on different types of developmental delays and disorders, including autism, and strategies to support parents and children.



To Learn More or Schedule a Workshop

Contact: Gloria Moskowitz-Sweet, Parents Place Community Education Coordinator, at 650-688-3037 or GloriaMS@jfcs.org

To schedule a workshop:

Contact Diane Wasson at 650-688-3021 or DianeW@jfcs.org

Our fee structure:

Two-hour workshop **\$600.00**

Half-day workshop **\$850.00**

All materials are included. Subsidies are available for schools without specific funding for teacher professional development.

About Parents Place

Parents Place is a program of Jewish Family and Children's Services of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties. We help parents of children of all ages and incomes through workshops, support groups, and individual and family counseling and consultation. Founded in 1981, the program's mission is to strengthen families so that children become healthy adults and to solve problems before they become crises. Parents Place has been the model for more than 200 parenting programs around the country, and has been featured in such national publications as *Parents Magazine*, *Family Fun*, *Working Woman*, *Christian Science Monitor*, and *Young Children*, as well as on the Today Show nationally and on local television and radio.



Parents Place offers two family resource centers on the Peninsula:
one in Palo Alto and one in San Mateo.

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