

Outreach for Practicing Educators

Professional development is a high priority at the Children's School because it supports our continuous quality improvement. For our experienced educators, much of our professional growth comes from preparing professional development experiences for other educators, as well as from mentoring practicing and pre-service educators on their career paths in early childhood. On October 17th and 18th, our staff attended the bi-annual conference of the Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children (PAEYC), which was co-sponsored by the Allegheny County Family Support Centers and held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center downtown. All of our educators, two of our substitute teachers, and both of our student teachers attended part or all of the conference, and 10 of our educators collaborated on four presentations.

- [Strategies for Helping Parents Meaningfully Engage in Their Children's Early Education](#) (Holly Blizman, Violet McGillen, and Maggie Rosenblum)
- [Innovative Explorations to Enrich Thematic Units and Inspire Deep Learning](#) (Linda Hancock, Krissy Opferman, and Tim Salinetto)
- [Too Much Too Soon, Too Little Too Late](#) (Sharon Carver and Charline Tomer)
- [Adventures in Outdoor Education: Rethinking Summer Camp for Young Children](#) (Jean Bird and Jillian Wendolowski)



This year, our staff is also partnering with PAEYC's Homewood HUB and the Homewood Child Care Alliance to provide professional development opportunities for home-based educators in the Homewood neighborhood. Once a month, two of our teaching staff, together with a home-based educator, are demonstrating and discussing different types of activities that are designed to be engaging while addressing the six domains of development. In September, Ms. McMichael and Mrs. McGillen cooked pancakes with 20 children and their educators and, in October, Ms. Stevens and Mrs. Blizman demonstrated how to do art with shaving cream. Mrs. Solomon and Mrs. Loomis will be sharing sensory experiences in November. Next spring, Miss Hancock and Mrs. Opferman will be exploring the science behind building, Mrs. Bird and Mrs. Armbruster will be doing music and movement activities, and Mrs. Wendolowski and Mrs. Tomer will demonstrate science experiments for young children. In addition, four of our educators, Mrs. Bird, Mrs. McGillen, Ms. Stevens and Mrs. Rosenblum, will be staffing an art activity booth on November 15th for the "Coats 4 Kids" kickoff event run by the Homewood Children's Village.



Right after the PAEYC conference, Dr. Carver and Mrs. Perovich spent a morning with the preschool and preK educators at the First Presbyterian Church of Bakerstown, PA to discuss strategies for aligning goals and assessment in early childhood education. In all of these ways, we support the professional development of fellow educators while stretching ourselves to grow as well.