

## SOME OF OUR PRESENTERS:

**Karen Hewitt**- BA, Oberlin College; M.Ed, Bank St. College of Education; Founder and President of Learning Materials Workshop; educational toy designer; former early childhood teacher and continuing education faculty at University of Vermont

**Jeanne Goldhaber**- BA, Ohio State; Ed D, University of Massachusetts, Amherst; Professor of Early Childhood Education, University of Vermont; former classroom teacher and curriculum director.

**Rebecca Santner**- BA, Vassar College; M. Ed, Bank St. College; K-1 teacher Poughkeepsie Day School.

**Keisha P. Williamson-Champion**- BA, California State University, Long Beach; MS, University of La Verne; Professor, Education Faculty, Mt. San Antonio College, Walnut, California.



## LEARNING MATERIALS WORKSHOP

**Burlington, VT / 1-800-693-7164**  
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Constructing Knowledge

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Science
- Creative Arts

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Learning Materials Workshop's professional development workshops and courses are designed for Head Start and Early Head Start programs, early childhood/primary grade teachers, curriculum coordinators, special education teachers, ESL teachers, and teachers of the gifted and talented to help develop and support enriched environments in which children and adults are actively engaged in the learning process. The workshops focus on the rationale of using blocks as an ideal learning tool in the early childhood and elementary curriculum. Participants experience the joy and intensity of learning as they work with a variety of blocks and expand and refine their own curriculum ideas.

Workshops are available in half-day and full-day sessions, short courses, or our five-day Summer Institute. We believe that the most effective training includes the revisiting of ideas and theories over a period of time, and we encourage programs to have follow-up workshops. Please call for fees and schedules.

*Learning Materials Workshop offers CEU credits from the University of Vermont.*



# WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

## **Blocks in the Early Childhood Curriculum: An Overview**

This introductory workshop looks at the development of block play in young children from infancy, through toddlerhood and into the early childhood years. Participants will explore the use of blocks as a primary learning tool across the early childhood curriculum. The design of the block environment, types of blocks, storage ideas, use of props, the role of the teacher, and ways to encourage and enrich block play for all children are considered.

## **Blocks Tell a Story: Enriching Literacy Through Block Play**

Blocks are a powerful tool for representing objects and stories already known, for creating imaginary narratives and recreating real events, for communicating and negotiating ideas, and for inspiring writing. This workshop explores the integral relationship between children's language development and construction from early childhood through elementary school. Observation and documentation of children's block play for authentic assessment of literacy standards and frameworks are explored.

## **Mathematical Thinking; Blocks as a Math Tool**

The modular feature of blocks makes them a natural material for exploring mathematical ideas. This workshop considers how children's spontaneous block play is clearly linked to the Head Start Child Outcome Framework and to specific National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) process and content standards Pre-K through 2nd grade (problem solving, communication, reasoning, connections, estimations, geometric and spatial sense, measurement, and patterns and relationships) and how documentation of children's block play can be used as an alternative assessment model.

## **Children as Scientists: Physical Knowledge and Block Play**

As children construct with blocks, they are naturally experimenting with the properties of materials and physical phenomena, observing, comparing, interpreting, classifying, theorizing, predicting, and solving problems. This workshop looks at how children are "being scientific" as they construct with blocks and examines ways in

## **Exploring Forms and Patterns in Space: The Art of Block Play**

Art, architecture, and mathematics are closely connected as children build with blocks. Participants build with a variety of three-dimensional modular material (blocks and recycled material) as they explore the beauty of geometric forms, symmetry, patterns, spirals, size and color series, textures, and free-form designs. Ways to connect block structures to the real world of art and architecture from a variety of cultures and time periods will be examined through the use of photographs, books, and neighborhood trips.

## **Customized Multi-Day Block Play Workshops**

Designed to fit the needs of individual programs, these workshops include one full day divided into a morning hands-on session using building blocks and covering one or more of the curriculum areas requested. The afternoon session will be spent in the classrooms with the LMW Educator observing and documenting, through video and photography, specific learning outcomes as the children build with blocks.

For the next few weeks the teachers will work on their own, observing and documenting their children's block play. They will send their observations to the LMW Educator who will combine them with her own analysis and documentation into a Power Point presentation and spiral bound booklet.

At the final on-site Half Day Workshop the LMW Educator will share the Power Point presentation and stimulate further discussion with the teachers for continuing work throughout the year. Ongoing support through email and phone is included in the fee plus one CD and a spiral bound booklet of the Power Point presentation and analysis.

### **FEES:**

Half Day- \$750.00\*

Full Day- \$1000.00\*

Multi Day-\$2500.00\*

*\*(Plus transportation/lodging)*