



catalyst

Welcome To Our Special Conference Edition Newsletter!

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Our Staff

[Valora Washington](#)
Ph.D.

PRESIDENT

[Maurice Davis](#)
SENIOR DIRECTOR OF
PROGRAMS AND
OPERATIONS

[Liana Mitman](#)
OPERATIONS MANAGER

[Hope Dixon](#)
ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT

[Kari Sack](#)
INTERN

Contributing Consultants

[Brenda Gadson](#)
CONSULTING
CONFERENCE
COORDINATOR

Acknowledgments

A Letter from the CAYL Institute President

Dear Colleague:

As we begin a new school year, we are immersed in warm memories of our Third Annual National Conference for Elementary School Principals and Childcare Directors. We were particularly pleased with the strong level of participation, active engagement and educator-to-educator connections. For those of you unable to attend we hope that this newsletter offers a clear glimpse into the experiences of the National Conference. For those of you in attendance we hope it renews your memories of our time together.



We have prepared a place on our web site through which materials from the conference are available as well as information about our new toolkit. To connect with our web materials, [please click here](#).

We send our best wishes to you and applaud your support of young learners through your vision, knowledge, leadership and action.

Sincerely,

The CAYL Institute would like to thank the following organizations for their contributions to the Principals Conference:

[The Raymond John Wean Foundation](#)

[The Harris Rosen Foundation](#)

Thank you to all of our note takers at the conference!

Kathryn Kaiser
Nicole Mack
Corinna Horton
Vidya Deonarine Birgitta Jorgenson
Shanique Bryant
Mary Fran Jones
Mary Bristol
Amy Mabbott
Christine Gibowicz
Laura Parise

Exhibitors

Becker's School Supplies

[Branach Information Group](#)

Cookie Lee and Isagenix

Discovery Toys

[Hand Print](#)

[Kaplan Early Learning Company](#)

[National Association of Child Care Professionals Teaching Strategies](#)

Contact Us

The CAYL Institute



Valora Washington, Ph.D.

The CAYL Institute's 3rd Annual Conference for Elementary School Principals and Childcare Directors

What is your vision for the children and families we serve?

What do you need to know to strengthen your partnerships with families, schools, and communities?

What tools and strategies would support your leadership?

What action will you take to become architects of change in the next school year?

These questions and more were among the topics of discussion at the 2011 CAYL Institute National Conference for Principals and Childcare Directors.

From July 10-13, 2011, over 70 Principals and early education administrators from 7 states attended the CAYL Institute's National Conference, titled *Strengthening Communities through Developmentally Appropriate Practices for Young Learners*.

60 Gore Street
Cambridge MA, 02141

Phone: 617-354-3820

Fax: 617-354-3823

info@cayl.org

NEWS

[Head Start and Public Schools: Community Meetings Strengthening Birth to PK-3 Partnerships](#)

[A Guide to Effective Consultation with Settings Serving Infants, Toddlers, and their Families](#)

[Why giving standardized tests to young children is 'really dumb'](#)

[Talk to the Governor About Early Education](#)

[Can a Playground be too safe?](#)

[CAYL is mentioned in article from Haverhill Public Schools regarding their great partnerships!](#)

Friend Us!

[LinkedIn](#)

Join our group on LinkedIn, a professional networking site

[Facebook](#)

Join our group on Facebook, a social networking site

[Twitter](#)

Follow our Twitter "Tweets" for up-to-date information as it happens!

**CAYL Toolkits
Available for**



The Heavenly Voices Gospel Children's Choir entertaining participants at the opening dinner

The welcoming dinner on July 10 set the tone for what would prove to be an exciting, informative, and interactive conference. Starting on Sunday, each of the four days focused on one of the following themes: **Vision, Leadership, Knowledge, and Action**. At the beginning of each day, a graffiti board posted a question relating to the daily theme. In addition to listening to exciting speakers and panelists, participants were able to visit a nearby elementary school for a true experiential education. Participants left the conference informed and ready to spring into action.

Purchase Online!

The Principals Toolkit: What's in Your Toolkit?

This Toolkit includes five promising practices that every Principal can use to support developmentally appropriate learning for young children. The five content areas of the CAYL Principals Toolkit are:

1. Vision
2. Practice and Pedagogy
3. Supervision
4. Family and Community
5. Policy Perspectives

The toolkit includes an interactive DVD, a workbook and six rubrics. The Principals Toolkit cost is \$75 per Toolkit.

The Educators Toolkit: A Partnership Toolkit for Early Education

The CAYL Institute encourages educators to build strong partnerships with other community programs and resources. This video and workbook explain why, examines the challenges of developing partnerships, and offers strategies to accomplish this goal.

Reference and resource materials are provided to extend learning and implementation. Practical examples and the voice of educators' colleagues are evident throughout this toolkit.

The Educators Toolkit cost is \$20 per toolkit.

For orders of 5 or more, you will receive a 20% discount. Click

Sunday July 10, 2011: Vision

The conference began with an opening dinner and a warm welcome from CAYL President Valora Washington. A very diverse group of Principals were represented from Ohio, Massachusetts, Delaware, Virginia, Florida, South Carolina, and Georgia.

Valora welcomed the group by focusing on the importance of developmentally appropriate practices, building community amongst peers, and using information wisely. She stated the goal of the conference as being how to offer a very strong academically rigorous program to young children, how to strengthen participants' knowledge base, and how to make choices in schools to align with vision.



Opening keynote speaker Ellen Galinsky, President and Co-Founder of the Families and Work Institute, gave her presentation, titled "**If I Had Known Then What I Know Now.**" Ellen focused her talk on ideas from her book *Mind in the Making: The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs*.

Ellen discussed how brains are wired for different kinds of learning; she shared information related to executive functions of the brain, perspective taking, communication skills, critical thinking, and self control. Ellen showed various video clips demonstrating research studies done on children's brain development. To learn more about Mind in The Making, please click [here](#).

Monday: July 11, 2011: Knowledge

Monday started with Valora opening up the morning with reflections on vision, as it pertains to leading schools. She asked participants to ponder the question, *What do you need to know to strengthen your partnerships with families, schools, and communities?*

The morning began with a keynote address by David Lawrence Junior. David serves as co-chair of The Children's Movement of Florida, a citizen-led, non-partisan movement to educate political, business and civic leaders - and all parents of the state - about the urgent need to make the well-being and education of our infants, toddlers and all other children Florida's highest priority. David stressed the importance of school readiness and that investments in early education are essential for all children, no matter what their socioeconomic standing is. He closed his talk by mentioning that "each child needs to reach his expectation to dream." To view the "I am Florida" video as part of the Children's Movement "Milk Campaign" please click [here](#).

[here to visit our online store.](#)

Following David's presentation, a panel consisting of four experts in the topics of community partnerships, parent engagement, data and accountability, and diverse learners responded to David. Valerie Gumes, speaking on diverse learners, mentioned that the passion for diversity and embracing all children must be clear to families and teachers. "We must ignite and inspire the potential and love of learning in every child," she stated.



Participants then chose from four different workshops: The Importance of Community Partnerships, Parent Engagement, Data and Accountability, and Supporting Diverse Learners.



Brenda Gadson, educational consultant, led the workshop on the topic of **community partnerships**. Brenda discussed how partnerships are about relationships, and they should be purposeful with a clear message; partnerships should always be in the best interest of the children. Rarely does a child only interact with

one person or group in his or her early life. Therefore, partnerships amongst the important people in a child's life are necessary in order to support a child holistically. Brenda had participants reflect on the benefit of partnerships for bettering children and the school. Participants agreed that there must be collaboration in partnership and there must be a clear goal in mind, in order to achieve something for children. To see the power point from this workshop, please click [here](#).

Christine Pruitt, Principal of the Jefferson Elementary School in Rockland, MA and a CAYL Principal Fellow Alum led a workshop on **parent engagement**. Christine discussed the differences between involvement and engagement, what type of engagement is important to the child, and what prevents engagement. Participants developed an action plan to assist in the improvement of parent engagement. To see the power point and resources from this workshop, please click [here](#).



Ben Russell, Assistant Director of Early Childhood in Boston Public

Schools led a workshop on **data and accountability**. Ben stressed the importance of choosing assessments that are the best fits for your school, having a clear understanding of what is being measured, ensuring proper interpretation of assessment data, and creating a process that ensures ongoing analysis. One participant from Ohio was very impressed with the level of data presented. Her district has a lot of data that overlaps; being a CAYL Fellow for the first time this year has been a great help with trying to streamline their assessments being used. Her system is working on what to cut and what to keep. As she put it, "Our school district is data rich but meaning poor!"

CAYL Boston Public School Principal Fellowship Alumni Nora Toney and Valerie Gumes led the workshop on the topic of **supporting diverse learners**. Nora and Valerie emphasized that children come to school from many diverse backgrounds and that schools need to give attention to the differences in each child. It was evident that school leaders should build relationships with staff, students, and parents. It is vital that Principals and directors help students navigate through their social and emotional development using play and other appropriate practices. Educators need to have high expectations and a passion for inspiring young children. One participant stated, "As a Principal I have a vision: to love you, support you and challenge you to meet your dreams." Please click [here](#) to view resources from this workshop.

To conclude the day on Monday, conference participants enjoyed a networking reception, including a delicious buffet!



Wean Scholars 2010-2011, and 2011-2012



Valora Washington, Shanique Bryant, and Birgitta Jorgenson
(volunteers from Florida AEYC)



Boston Public Schools Principal Fellows

Tuesday July 12, 2011: Leadership

Valora opened Tuesday's session with reflections on knowledge. She posed the question, *What tools and strategies would support your leadership?*

Valora went on to moderate a panel consisting of national experts Linda Hassan Anderson, Thelma Harmes, and Pam Perrino. They discussed the tools and strategies that would assist in increasing educators' leadership capacity. Each presenter gave snippets regarding their relative presentations.



Pam Perrino, Thelma Harmes, Linda Hassan Anderson, and Valora Washington

Linda Hassan Anderson, the Senior Director for the National Association for the Education of Young Children led a workshop regarding **NAEYC accreditation and developmentally appropriate practice**. Linda discussed 10 distinct standards and 417 criteria that represent best practices. Linda provided many tools to assess the quality of birth to kindergarten programs in the areas of family and staff surveys, programs and staff portfolios and classroom observation. All of these tools are aimed at leading to accreditation and program improvement. To view Linda's power point presentation, please click [here](#).

Thelma Harmes, Scientist Emeritus at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute and lead author of four widely used program evaluation instruments led a workshop on **environmental rating scales**. She focused on the tools of ITERS, ECERS, and SACERS. Thelma began with an overview of the ECERS Scoring System which included an explanation of where scoring can be tricky for the assessor. She explained in depth the 7 subscales of ECERS while she highlighted some of the 43 items. While watching a video of a classroom, participants practiced using ECERS. To view Thelma's presentation and resources, please click [here](#).

Pam Perrino, early childhood advocate for the Raymond John Wean Foundation, led a workshop on the **Classroom Assessment Scoring System**. Pam discussed how the relationships that educators have with children can enable learning. She explained the CLASS system, and highlighted that input is more important than output in this tool. Pam spoke about the various domains of the CLASS tool and talked in depth about the importance of the social-emotional support of students. To view Pam's power point presentation, please click [here](#).

During the afternoon, participants had the unique opportunity to do a site visit to the Tangelo Park Elementary School. [The Tangelo Park Program, Inc.](#) (TPP) is a community-based initiative that promotes civic commitment by private, public, and community organizations. The project is associated with the [Rosen Plaza Hotel](#), where the conference was held!

Mr. Harris Rosen, of Rosen Hotels and Resorts, provided the financial

backing for the pilot project and collaborated with community leaders to establish an advisory board with the continued support of the Tangelo Park Elementary School, the Tangelo Park YMCA, Tangelo Baptist Church, and the Tangelo Park Civic Association. With financial support guaranteed by Mr. Rosen, the Tangelo Park Program oversees the fundraising, educational needs, and scholarship distributions for its citizens--ages 2 to 22.

At no cost to its citizens, the Tangelo Park Program offers:

- pre-school opportunities for every Tangelo Park two, three, and four-year old
- parenting classes and vocational or technical opportunities for parents with children in school;
- **full college tuition, room, board, and living expenses** for every Tangelo Park high school graduate who is accepted by a vocational school, community college, or public university in the state of Florida.



The Tangelo Park Elementary School Principal Tashanda Brown-Cannon welcomed the conference attendees to her school along with several of her students. The summer school students delighted the visitors with a song.



Students from Tangelo Park Elementary School

Visitors were given a tour of the elementary school, followed by a panel



Brenda Gadson (CAYL consultant), Valora Washington, and Tashanda Brown-Cannon (Principal of Tangelo Park Elementary School)

Wednesday July 13, 2011: Action

Wednesday morning began with reflections on the previous day. Valora opened her address with a question: *What action will you take to become architects of change in the next school year?*



Maurice Sykes, Executive Director of the Early Childhood Leadership Institute closed out the conference with his keynote address entitled, "**And Now What- Working Within Communities.**" Maurice Sykes' inspiring words resounded clearly with the leaders in the room. He mentioned that "all I know, I've learned in the company of

children." Maurice brought to light seven truths of a great leader. He spoke about teaching the whole child and treating them appropriately. His final words described Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP), which is referred to as differentiated instruction. Maurice told the audience to "never let anyone tell you what you can't do." Standing ovations resounded upon his final words.

Below are some remarks from participants regarding the National Conference for Elementary School Principals and Childcare Directors:

"It was once again a great PD for myself. The speakers, the inspirational site visit, and the ability to network and share were once

again a wonderful opportunity."

I appreciated the small group intimacy and the ability to network with other colleagues.

I appreciate the opportunity to attend the conference. It was so well planned...I am excited about discussing with the staff and sharing many ideas from the conference.

It was a learning experience that reminded me of how important my job is and the ongoing learning that is important to help continue develop teachers.