

Potomac Association of Cooperative Teachers Inc.



September 2022

Fall Newsletter

www.PACTteachers.org

Letter from the President

Dear PACT Members,

While I prepared my classroom for the coming 2022-23 school year, for the first time since March of 2020, I felt like the ground underneath my feet was mostly solid. I know we are not entirely clear of the effects of the COVID pandemic and I know that it's likely that we will be affected in many ways for years to come. That said, it was nice for me to spend more focusing on what I can do to make my classroom the best place for the students, rather than spending most of my time worrying about and looking for ways to prevent groups of kids from getting too close to each other and getting sick.

I'm also feeling the joy and excitement of knowing that this will be the first year since the beginning of the COVID pandemic that PACT will be offering both virtual (Fall) and in-person (Spring) Professional Development Days. We invite you to scroll down from here and find the information you'll need to join PACT and register for the Fall Professional Development Days. We have some great presenters lined up and we look forward to the sharing of their knowledge.

Cheers,
James Scott Mitchell
PACT President
Presidentpact4@gmail.com

Professional Developmental Days: Thursday, October 20 & Wednesday, October 26

PACT is pleased to offer two virtual workshops this Fall 2022: "*Resolving Conflicts-Helping Little Children Find Their BIG Voices*" by Jane Plum and "*Big Anxiety, Small Children*" by Leslie Sinclair. We have scheduling options for your convenience; sessions will be held **Thursday, October 20 from 3-5 PM and 7-9 PM, and Wednesday, October 26 from 3-5 PM and 7-9 PM**. You may choose to attend both of the 3-5 PM sessions, both of the 7-9 PM sessions, or both sessions on a single date! See below for more details about the workshops content and presenters.

Workshops Content Descriptions:

"Resolving Conflicts-Helping Little Children Find Their BIG Voices"

by Jane Plum

Thursday, October 20-7pm to 9pm OR Wednesday, October 26-3pm to 5pm

Description: Pre-K children calling names? Toddlers pushing? Fighting over toys? Turn classroom conflicts into shared cooperation by using conflict as an opportunity to teach missing social-emotional skills. Conscious Discipline will empower you to reframe negative perceptions about peer-to-peer struggles and classroom disruptions. Equip yourself to focus on assertive solutions by teaching the victim to use a self-

assured voice and the child who has used aggression to use effective verbal communication strategies instead.

1 COK/Curriculum, 1 COK/Child Development

"Big Anxiety, Small Children"

by Leslie Sinclair

Thursday, October 20-**3pm to 5pm** OR Wednesday, October 26-**7pm to 9pm**

Description: This training will introduce participants to anxiety and how this disorder impacts young children. Participants will learn what normal behavior is and what warrants a referral. Through cooperative learning experiences, a video clip and brainstorming activities participants will become knowledgeable on what are normal worries for young children and what is atypical. Classroom strategies and resources will be shared to ensure educators leave with a toolkit of ideas and strategies to assist preschool children who may have anxiety. 2 COK/Special Needs

Presenters' Biography

Jane Plum shares her passion for creating a Conscious Discipline School Family (TM) where all children and adults feel safe and connected. She has been a Conscious Discipline Certified Instructor since 2015. In her career in education, she has taught high school, adults and preschool. Jane recently retired from her position of 15 years as Director of a NAEYC accredited preschool. She holds a B.S. and M.S. from Virginia Tech. She and her husband love to travel and spend time with their 4 children and 6 grandchildren, some of whom provide anecdotes for her workshops.

Experience:/Credentials:

Conscious Discipline Certified Instructor

(see <https://consciousdiscipline.com/professional-development/instructors/jane-plum/>)

B.S. Virginia Tech in Management, Housing & Family Development 1973

M.S. Virginia Tech in Human Nutrition, Foods & Exercise 1998

Commonwealth of Virginia Collegiate Professional License (now expired)

Director, United Christian Parish Preschool, Reston, VA 2003-2018

Employed by Fairfax County Public Schools, various positions, some part-time, secondary, adult, and early childhood education, 1973-2003

Leslie Sinclair is the Director of the Eastern Shore Child Care Resource Center, a local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency, at Salisbury University. She holds a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education from the College of Charleston, SC. She spent her early years of teaching in public school systems in South Carolina, Texas and Louisiana; then transitioned to a position in the community college system of Louisiana. Leslie is passionate about creating high-quality environments for young children. She supports practitioners in the early childhood community, and maintains a rewarding partnership with early childhood stakeholders.

Credit Hours and Core of Knowledge Area

Members who attend the full two-hour session of either workshop this Fall 2022 will receive 2 Core of Knowledge credit hours in either Child Development and Curriculum or Special Needs.

Registration

Registration and payment can be completed [HERE](#). Please sign up individually to ensure your email is recorded. Registration should be submitted by Friday, October 14. By completing the Fall PDD registration, you are also receiving a membership to PACT for the 2022-2023 school year and will have access to our Spring Professional Developmental Days.

Access to the Zoom Link for Fall Professional Development Days

A Zoom link will be e-mailed to registered members 24 hours prior to each session. Please click the link to your session at least 15 minutes early to check audio/video, sign in, and hear announcements from PACT.

Assessments and Evaluations

Members will be asked to complete a content assessment and presenter evaluation of the virtual course via a Google form. The link will be e-mailed to participants following the PDD and should be completed within 24 hours. ****Requirements by MSDE also stipulate members from MD must pass the assessment with a score of 70% or higher.**

Certificates

In accordance with MSDE regulations, participants MUST attend the full two-hour virtual presentation and complete a content assessment along with a presenter evaluation before receiving their certificate. Further details about completing the assessment will be covered at the pre-PDD business meeting. Personalized certificates will be emailed within 2 weeks of each Professional Development Day.

Membership (New or Renewing)

Join PACT (or renew your membership!) by completing the online form [HERE](#). Current members are eligible to attend one or both of the virtual Professional Development Days in the Fall of 2022 and the Spring of 2023. The membership fee for the 2022-2023 school year is \$60.

Award for Devoted Service in Early Childhood Education

We are pleased to announce the return of the annual PACT award for Devoted Service in Early Childhood Education! Is there a staff member at your school who stands out for their dedication to the preschool, its families, and the cooperative model? Please fill out this Google Form to nominate your staff member for recognition! (The two reference letters may be emailed to the address provided in this form.) Please submit a [Service Award Nomination](#) by Friday, March 17, 2023.

Hall of Fame

The PACT Board established a PACT Hall of Fame in 2016 to recognize members who have given exemplary service in the field of Early Childhood Education. The following are the members who have been inducted to date:

- Janise Allyn-Smith - *Teacher/Director, Silver Spring N.S., PACT Board member (2017)*
- Jennifer DeBernardis - *Teacher, Silver Spring N.S., PACT Board member (2018)*
- Annette Fitzpatrick - *Director (retired), CCUMC Preschool, PACT Board member (2018)*
- Edie Mossberg - *Director, Glenbrook N.S., Board member, ECE Consultant (2019)*
- Bernadine Occhiuzzo - *Director/Teacher, Cedar Lane N.S. (2019)*
- Nancy Renner - *Director, Fort Hunt Preschool (2020)*
- Helene Segal-Turner - *Director, Kensington N.S., PACT Board member (2018)*
- Cindy Walsh - *Director (retired) CCPC Weekday N.S., PACT Board member (2018)*
- Fran Warthen - *Director, Suburban N.S. (2018)*
- Angie Zeidenberg - *Teacher, Bannockburn N.S. (2019)*

Join the PACT Board!

The PACT Board is run by dedicated volunteer early childhood educators. There are still some open positions, so we need members to step forward! Please check the list below and contact Scott Mitchell if you are interested in joining our team. Information about Board positions can be found in PACT's By-Laws on the website www.PACTteachers.org.

The 2022-23 Board Members

President

[James Scott Mitchell](#) Silver Spring Nursery School, MD

V.P. Programming

[Bernadine Occhiuzzo](#) Cedar Lane Nursery School, MD

[Doreen Buntun](#) Cedar Lane Nursery School, MD

V.P. Membership

[Ellen Griffin](#) Cedar Lane Nursery School, MD

Secretary

[Melissa Jordan](#) Rockville Presbyterian Cooperative Nursery School, MD

Treasurer

[Janise Allyn-Smith](#) Silver Spring Nursery School, MD

Logistics & Hospitality

VA - **OPEN**

MD - [Rana Oriolo](#) Learning Center for Young Children, MD

Professional Development Day Administration

[Jessie Auten](#) Providence Nursery School, VA

Exhibits/Resource Table - **OPEN**

Assessments and Evaluations

[Emily Ederer](#) Silver Spring Day School, MD

Legislative Contact

MD - [Bernadine Occhiuzzo](#)

DC - **OPEN**

VA - [Nancy Renner](#) Fort Hunt Preschool, VA

Listserv

[Rana Oriolo](#) Learning Center for Young Children, MD

Web Master & Newsletter Editor

[Meredith Savage-Myers](#) Ashton Christian Preschool, MD

Past Co-Presidents

[Bernadine Occhiuzzo](#) Cedar Lane N.S., MD

[Ellen Griffin](#) Cedar Lane N.S., MD

DVD Collection

PACT maintains a collection of educational DVDs that current PACT members may borrow free of charge. Schools that have at least one PACT member on staff may borrow DVDs for training purposes. The borrower must pay postage costs both ways or pick up and return in person. See loan form and instructions on the PACT [website](#).

Job Postings

Looking for a new teaching position in the Washington, DC area? PACT posts job openings on the website. Check the postings out [HERE](#). Directors wishing to post job openings should e-mail details to [Meredith Savage-Myers](#).

Google Groups

PACT members' Google group: To stay up-to date on PACT information, the google group is open to current PACT members. To join this Google group, send an e-mail to yppmembershappact@gmail.com.
Directors' Google group: Share resources, ideas, and training opportunities by joining the PACT Directors listserv. PACT membership is not required. To join the Directors' Google group, send an e-mail to [Janise Allyn-Smith](#).

We hope you are having a great start to your school year!

