

# Potomac Association of Cooperative Teachers Inc.



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February 2022

Spring Newsletter

[www.PACTteachers.org](http://www.PACTteachers.org)

## Letter from the President

PACT Members,

It was nearly two years ago that the COVID pandemic hit our world in full force and the early childhood education community was backed against the wall. We were required to pivot in ways that were previously unimaginable. We adjusted the logistics of our programs from top to bottom. We applied for grants, PPP loans, and got even more creative than usual with fundraisers. We did our best to find ways of building community while maintaining separate cohorts and limited gatherings. And of course, through it all, directors and teachers have done their best to connect with their students and reflect on their professional craft with the goal of continual improvement. We seem to have reached a point where teaching in a pandemic has become almost normal.

Given all that we have collectively experienced, PACT is honored and happy to continue our partnership with you as we continue our journey of professional development. Please read below for directions on how you can register for PACT's spring professional development days. Our presenters are excited and ready to share their wisdom, expertise and experience with you!

(James) Scott Mitchell  
President PACT Board

## [Professional Developmental Days: Thursday, March 24 & Wednesday, March 30](#)

PACT is pleased to offer two virtual workshops this Spring 2022: *"The Intersection of Art and Science: Creating opportunities for Exploration"* by Peggy Ashbrook and *"Reflective Guidance: Creating Prosocial Experiences that Foster Social-Emotional Skills"* by Jacky Howell. We have scheduling options for your convenience; sessions will be held **Thursday, March 24 from 3-5 PM and 7-9 PM, and Wednesday, March 30 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:

### *\*The Intersection of Art and Science: Creating opportunities for Exploration\**

by Peggy Ashbrook

Thursday, March 24-**3pm to 5pm** OR Wednesday, March 30-**7pm to 9pm**

**Description:** In early childhood the domains of learning mix and blend together, like colors in a child's painting on an easel. Art experiences involve scientific explorations and observations of natural phenomena can be documented using art media—and how you feel about the experience can be expressed artistically.

In this session:

1. We will gather common early childhood materials and use art to report scientific observations.
2. Become familiar with the properties of matter (art media).
3. Expand our idea of what can be art by using natural materials in a creation that is expected to change. 2 COK/Curriculum

### *" Reflective Guidance: Creating Prosocial Experiences that Foster Social-Emotional Skills"*

by Jacky Howell

Thursday, March 24-**7pm to 9pm** OR Wednesday, March 30-**3pm to 5pm**

**Description:** In the field of early childhood education, a primary goal in working with children has been to foster growth socially and emotionally. We have learned so much in the last years about ways to move from traditional punishment/time outs to fostering appropriate, real experiences around social-emotional learning. In this workshop session, we will consider ways to shift our view to best practices in social-emotional learning as well as look at creating experiences that foster connections and skills. Come join this interaction session with Jacky Howell and leave with inspiration, information, and resources! 2 COK/Child Development

## Presenters' Biography

**Peggy Ashbrook** is an early childhood science teacher and writer—the National Science Teachers Association's Early Years column in *Science; Children* (2005-2021) and companion blog, <https://www.nsta.org/blog/all?keywords=Early+Childhood>, and author of *Science Learning in the Early Years* (2016 NSTA Press) and *Science Is Simple* (2003, Gryphon House). She began teaching science to young children in her home as a childcare provider in 1988. Peggy is active in professional associations—National Science Teaching Association (NSTA), and National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), presenting at local, area, and national conferences. She is a co-facilitator for the NAEYC Early Childhood Science Interest Forum (ECSIF). Currently, Peggy teaches children, mentors teachers in schools, and provides professional development on early childhood science exploration into inquiry. Her favorite place is where the worlds of early childhood and science learning intersect.

**Jacky Howell, MA** has almost 50 years of experience as an early childhood teacher, consultant, coach, and administrator. In addition, she has over 30 years' experience as a course instructor and presenter on topics related to early childhood development and curriculum. She is a published author with her book, *Rituals and Traditions: Fostering a Sense of Community in Preschool*. She has published many articles in early education journals and is at work on her second book. She received her Master's degree in Human Development from Pacific Oaks College. Currently she is a consultant, coach, mentor, and presenter with her own business, Azspire LLC and works with a variety of programs in the DC Metro Area as well as across the country. She has done webinars, and workshops and presentations locally and nationally. Jacky believes strongly that all children deserve the highest quality early childhood experience and strives to work with others in creating places worthy of young children, families, and staff. Her website is <https://www.azspire.com>.

## Credit Hours and Core of Knowledge Area

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

## Registration

Registration and payment can be completed [HERE](#). Please sign up individually to ensure your email is recorded. Registration should be submitted by Thursday, March 17. By completing the Spring PDD registration, you are also receiving a membership to PACT for the remainder of this school year.

## 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. To earn a certificate for attendance, you must join the session by the start time, sign your name in the chat box, and follow the links to the assessment and feedback forms provided at the end of the presentation. Once signed in, participants' names will appear in the chat box. Registrants may be required to sign-in periodically to demonstrate their continuous participation. If a member leaves the session for a brief break, they will need to sign in again.

## Assessments and Evaluations

Members will be asked to complete a content assessment and presenter evaluation of the virtual course via a Google form. A link to the survey will be provided in the Zoom chat room at the conclusion of the course. The link will also 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 available at the conclusion of each Professional Development Day.

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## 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 2021 and the Spring of 2022. To join PACT now, the membership fee for the remainder of 2021-2022 school year is prorated at \$30.

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## 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 Thursday, March 17, 2022.

## 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. 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)*

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## 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](http://www.PACTteachers.org).

### The 2021-22 Board Members

#### President

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

#### V.P. Programming

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

[Doreen Bunten](#) 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

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**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](#).

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**Job Postings**

Looking for a new teaching position in the Washington, DC area? PACT posts job openings on the website - so check it out [HERE](#). Directors wishing to post job openings should e-mail details to [VPMembershipPACT@gmail.com](mailto:VPMembershipPACT@gmail.com).

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**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 [vpmembershispact@gmail.com](mailto:vpmembershispact@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 school year!

