

Workshop Objectives

Participants will be introduced to Normandy Park Education Center which programs for nearly 1000 children from birth to 5 years, 100 with special needs. Mary and Laura will explain best practice for inclusion of young children with special needs and share their curriculum Play and Learn: A Motor Based Curriculum for Children of ALL Abilities. Participants will understand the framework of Play and Learn which supports the development of the whole child in the natural context of the preschool classroom. A wide variety of preschool activities, with assistive technology options, will be demonstrated.

Workshop Objectives:

Participants will:

1. Understand the importance of a transdisciplinary approach to enhance student's learning
2. Be able to replicate several of the play areas within their own classroom and adapt the learning environment using several pieces of simple assistive technology.
3. Incorporate the four key elements of a learning environment into their pre-school curriculum: routines and music, repetition, play activities combining gross and fine motor skills, and opportunities for social interactions.
4. Recognize the importance of early literacy and promote awareness of diversity of abilities.
5. Appreciate the sensory systems in the young child and their impact on learning and behavior in the classroom.
6. Understand the motor milestones of the hand and the importance of toys and materials that specifically work on the development of fine motor skills.

Target Audiences: Preschool regular and special education teachers, physical and occupational therapists and assistants, speech and language pathologists, psychologists, adaptive physical education teachers, paraprofessionals and parents.