

## Professional Development

These programs are designed for teachers, caregivers, parents, and other adults who interact with children ages birth through 8. They are offered either at the Museum or at your location. Each in-service topic is aligned with Common Core Standards, Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards, and NAEYC Early Learning Standards. All involve hands-on exploration and small and whole group discussion. **CPDUs and Gateways hours are available.**

**Algebraic Thinking with Sets and Patterns:** Develop a foundational understanding of what it means to join, separate, compare, and equalize sets to ensure that young children acquire a basic understanding of sets, a key early math concept.

**Art and Nature with Young Children:** Experience art as a process firsthand in this interactive workshop where science and art are melded through natural exploration and creation.

**Curious Questions, Expanding Children's Learning:** Learn to facilitate open-ended questions that encourage critical thinking and deepen young children's thoughts.

**Deepening Young Children's Experience with Artistic Language:** What's the role of the educator in children's encounters with visual arts? What does brain science reveal about the value of these experiences? Leave with new skills to bring back to your classroom.

**Empowering Creativity through Loose Parts:** Explore how loose part materials can be moved and combined in different ways to create a more stimulating and intrinsically motivating learning experience.

**Foundations of Early Mathematics:** Re-imagine what it means to include math in your classroom! We'll investigate five of Erikson Institute's Big Ideas of Early Mathematics and provide approachable and invigorating ways you can redefine math teaching.

**Geometric Foundations of Block Play:** Uncover the foundations of early mathematic concepts through exploring attributes, 2D and 3D shapes, and spatial relationships.

**Introduction to the Project Approach:** Learn about the structure of the Project Approach, choosing the best topic, involving parents in site visits and use of experts during project work.

**Sensational Senses and STEAM:** Discover ways we can support our students as they use *eight* of their senses, and how those senses can be incorporated into STEAM instruction.

**Sparking Curiosity Through Scientific Play:** Explore investigative questions, observational drawings, and other methods of implementing science as a playful time in your classroom. The value and stages of play and executive functioning are also topics of focus.

**Techy Teaching:** As we prepare our young learners for a more tech-forward world, how can we incorporate high- and low-tech in our classrooms, and why is this important? Ideas of coding can be introduced to our children in their early years - and we'll explore how!

**Tools We Use:** Discover ways to create a strong framework for science learning by using everyday items as tools for scientific and mathematic exploration.

**Toying with Tinkering:** Encourage children to do what they do best - let their curiosity take over! Explore the world of engineering by building machines and creating processes, and explore what happens when you make changes or do things differently.

**The Value of Play in Children's Learning:** Learn how to create a playful environment that encourages discovery and exploration for young children, and develop deeper understanding of play's importance in the young child's mind.

Additional training topics can be customized to meet your program's needs.



For more information and for pricing, please contact our Education Team at **(847) 832-6874** or [educationteam@kcmgc.org](mailto:educationteam@kcmgc.org)