

*A Seminar at the U.S. Department of Education
In Partnership With
The Alliance for Childhood and the Gesell Institute*

**Giving Young Children the Right Start:
Effective Practices for Experiential Learning**

May 8, 2012

**Barnard Auditorium, Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, DC.**

- 9:15 – 10:00** Registration and coffee
- 10:00 – 10:15** **Welcome:**
Jacqueline Jones, Senior Advisor on Early Learning to the Secretary of Education, U.S. Department of Education
Linda K. Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- 10:15 – 11:00** **Keynote Address: *The Power of Play-Based Education for Young Children: The link between self-regulation and learning***
Deborah Leong, Senior Research Fellow NIEER; Professor of Psychology, Metropolitan State College at Denver; Co-author, *Tools of the Mind*
- 11:00 - 11:15** Break
- 11:15 – 12:45** **Panel One: *Playful and Experiential Learning: The Foundations of Success***
Moderator: *Joan Almon*, Director, Alliance for Childhood
Dorothy Strickland, Professor of Education Emerita; Distinguished Research Fellow NIEER, Rutgers University
Juanita Copley, Professor Emerita, College of Education, University of Houston
- 12:45 – 1:45** **Lunch Break**
- 1:45 – 3:-00** **Panel Two: *What Effective Teachers of Young Children Need to Know***
Moderator: *Sherry Cleary*, Executive Director, NY Early Childhood Professional Development Institute
Marcy Guddemi, Executive Director, Gesell Institute of Child Development
Linda Espinosa, Professor of Early Childhood Education (ret.), University of Missouri
Shakera Walker, Washington Teaching Ambassador Fellow (Kindergarten Teacher), U.S. Department of Education
- 3:00 – 3:15** **Break**
- 3:15 – 4:30** **Panel Three: *Preparing Early Educators and School Leaders: Policy Implications***
Moderator: *Joan Almon*, Alliance for Childhood
Maurice Sykes, Executive Director, Early Childhood Leadership Institute, University of D.C.
Sherry Cleary, Co-chair, NY State Early Childhood Advisory Council
Kelly Pollitt, Director of Advocacy, Policy and Special Projects, National Association of Elementary School Principals
- 4:30 – 5:00** **Conversation, reflection, and conclusions**
Closing remarks: *Jacqueline Jones*

Complimentary registration at www.gesellinstitute.org. Advance registration is required and picture ID needs to be presented as you enter the Department of Education. Come early to clear security.