

# EARLY CHILDHOOD DAY AT INTERACTIVITY 2010

FRIDAY, MAY 7, 2010 • ST. PAUL, MN

Minnesota Children's Museum invites you to Early Childhood Day at InterActivity, the international conference of the Association of Children's Museums. Early Childhood Day includes: speakers, sessions, and events that will support your work with the early childhood community and broaden your resources.

## HIGHLIGHTED SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

### 7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. ACM MarketPlace Breakfast

Start your morning off right in the ACM MarketPlace. Meet and network with colleagues and visit more than 70 exhibitors, many who design hands-on learning environments for children's museums.

### 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Plenary Session / Keynote

Dan Pallotta, author of *Uncharitable: How Restraints on Nonprofits Undermine Their Potential*, is a leading expert on innovation in the nonprofit sector and a pioneering social entrepreneur. As the founder of Pallotta TeamWorks, he invented the multi-day AIDS Rides and Breast Cancer 3-Days and changed the fundamental paradigm for civic engagement in and fundraising for important social causes.

### 10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Keynote Book Signing

### 10:45 a.m. – 12 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

#### Let's Get Hands-On with Science!

This session will introduce participants to science programming that will pair children's natural curiosity and desire to experiment with programming that is developmentally appropriate for audiences of varied ages (from 2 - 12 years old). Through a combination of presentation and hands-on activities, see how you can enhance your science program in this discussion/open house session.

#### Children's Museums: Personal Resource for Professional Development

All adults in a child's life deeply impact their learning, development and foundation for school readiness and success. Educators and caregivers already look to museums as educational resources for children, but children's museums can also be valuable resources for adult learning and professional development. Various initiatives at Minnesota Children's Museum and Please Touch Museum® in Philadelphia have focused on helping all caregivers and educators to recognize, strengthen and use best practices in early childhood education, by using the museum as an enrichment tool. This informative session will provide an overview of these initiatives, including program components, target audiences, vital partnerships, impact and strategies for developing adult education programs.

### 10:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Museum Study Tour:

#### Museum Study Tour: The Early Literacy Thread at Minnesota Children's Museum

*Pre-registration is required; cost for each tour is \$25. Minnesota Children's Museum study tour participants will meet in the lobby level of the Crowne Plaza Saint Paul-Riverfront Hotel at 10:45 a.m. to walk four short blocks to the museum.*

A love of reading is one of five focus areas at Minnesota Children's Museum. Tour with staff members of the Museum's Learning Experiences department to learn first-hand about the Museum's philosophy, staff training and initiatives around early literacy. Observe how early literacy is infused in environments, public spaces and programs and hear about models that the museum and early childhood organizations use for community partnerships around early literacy. Hear about the models the museum and early childhood organizations use for community partnerships around early literacy and visit an early literacy space in a local library collaboratively developed by the museum and library.

### 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. ACM MarketPlace Lunch

Enjoy a light lunch buffet and have a blast seeing the latest and greatest products and services that exhibitors have to offer.

### 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Salon: Nature, Nurture & Play

Biology and environment influence each other, especially during childhood. Research shows that humans are wired for math, reading, language and even music. From an evolutionary point of view, research suggests that play is a biological necessity. Through play experiences, children can develop their innate abilities. However, many educators and caregivers may choose to organize play for children in some way and not leave it to nature. In this salon, speakers will discuss the benefits of self-directed and structured play, the importance of wild play and the impact that play has on the emotional and social development in children.

### 3:30 p.m. – 4 p.m. ACM MarketPlace Break

Refuel with light refreshments in the ACM MarketPlace between professional development sessions.

#### 4:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

##### **Play and Taking Risks: Kids' Perspectives**

All play involves some level of risk. Without challenge, play is simply marking time. What qualifies as acceptable risks for a five-year old when swimming in a pool, selecting a book to read, exploring a creek in the woods, or even visiting a children's museum? For good reason, adults usually determine for children which risks are acceptable or not. Join panelists for an exploration of defining risk from a child's perspective.

##### **Strategies for Nature-Based Early Childhood Experiences**

Did you know that the average child in the U.S. spends an average of 30 minutes per week outdoors in an unstructured activity? While many adults assume outdoor time is just for physical fitness, there are many valuable benefits to being outside. This session will introduce strategies for taking your programs outdoors, provide suggestions for bringing the outdoors in, and let you sample some nature-based activity stations sure to please young children and their parents.

##### **Expanding Community Engagement by Growing Collaborations**

In 2002 and 2004, Twin Cities community members, educators, children's museum professionals and parents, motivated by children at the heart of a vibrant community, initiated projects that engaged the community and inspired citywide collaboration. Inspired by the schools of Reggio (Italy), and a vision of learning as active and

The registration fee for the Early Childhood Day is \$100. Continuing Education Credit is available to registrants. Breakfast and lunch are included in your registration. If you choose to attend a Museum Study Tour and/or evening event there is an additional cost. Parking is not included.

authentic, the collaborative has continued to grow, sharing practices, projects and documentation of children's work and moving towards fuller civic engagement around children. Representatives from Minnesota Children's Museum and the Twin Cities provide information and highlight this successful collaborative.

##### **6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Evening Event: City Sights, Northern Lights and "Big Fun!" at Minnesota Children's Museum**

*Pre-registration required; cost is \$45. This offsite event will be held at Minnesota Children's Museum, a walkable four blocks from the Crowne Plaza Saint Paul-Riverfront Hotel. Beginning at 6:15 p.m., ACM staff and InterActivity volunteers will be stationed in the hotel lobby to direct event guests to the Museum.*

Take part in a fun-filled evening and experience the best of Minnesota's two diverse settings - the vibrant Twin Cities and the relaxing North Woods. Enjoy a booming welcome from nationally recognized Taiko drummers, Mu Daiko, while exploring four floors of interactive galleries. Soak up the city sights while touring the *Our World* community modeled after the diverse Westside Saint Paul neighborhood then hit the dance floor in *World Works!* Venture to the "North Woods" located on fourth floor to experience natural Minnesota habitats in *Earth World* and enjoy s'mores on the *Rooftop ArtPark*. Before leaving, meet some of Minnesota's earliest residents in the Museum's new exhibit, *Dinosaurs: Land of Fire and Ice*.

Additional sessions will be offered. Those described above are identified as sessions of interest to early childhood professionals.

Registration and payment deadline is April 4, 2010. To register, please call 651-225-6035.



Hosted by  
**Minnesota  
Children's  
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