

Carol Fike
IAEYC Conference
April 13, 2007
Written Review

To be honest going into the convention I really did not know what to expect. I knew that I was not thrilled about getting up at the crack of dawn, but I am happy to say that it was completely worth it. I feel like I really learned a lot through out all of the day and I feel like it will all help me with my future career. Through out this day I attended three workshops and the main session. The sessions that I attended included: “What will we do all day? Moving to full day Kindergarten”, “The Building Blocks for Obesity Prevention”, and “Oodles of Art.”

I would like to discuss the day in the order that I attended the workshop which is pretty much the way that they are listed above. The first workshop that I attended was on Full Day Kindergarten. I found it very interesting to learn about the differences between half day and full day kindergarten. I also found it very beneficial that there were several faculty members that had taught kindergarten in both situations. Patricia Clark was the presenter, she represented Ball State University and she basically told us what she thinks about Kindergarten. I also appreciated how she proved her point with written articles, and told about her first hand experiences within classrooms that she has visited. The other thing that I thought made her classy was the fact that she showed both sides and also had the audience who were currently in the classroom talk about how they feel about Full Day verses Half Day kindergarten. Another thing that Patty talked about was the perceptions of Kindergarten and how they really are not true. I am not sure how long I

think that the Kindergarten school day should be but I feel like I learned more about what is going on and how both schedules could be beneficial for different students.

Following the first workshop I attended the full group session and listened to two very interesting speakers: Jim Gill and Dr. Lilian Katz. Jim Gill was a guy with a lot of energy and he brought that enthusiasm back to the classroom through song. I found it very interesting how he showed that music can help you focus and gather people's attention through music. I feel as though he also brought excitement for learning back into the classroom. And to be honest I never realized how music can be used as such a great tool for learning in addition to keeping the students active while learning. He also made learning a "two way street." Meaning that after a student reads a book, which he should use his book, have the students write down what they learn or make the words of the book relate to their life.

Following Jim Gill we went into Dr. Katz. It was great to hear from a lady who has made her career making Early Childhood Education what it is today. She told of her first hand experiences as she traveled around the world to help children. Her topic for this session was "Building a Good Foundation for the future." To sum it all up I feel like she basically talked about how crucial learning is at the early level so that they will be helped in the future and more prepared.

Following the full group session I attended another workshop, this one was on Obesity and what a teacher can do to help their students. This was taught by Amy Cory a teacher, nurse, and a member of the Indiana Child Care Health Consultant Program. I found this session very interesting as well, looking at the graphs and the information that she presented. She helped us to look at both the exercises needed in addition to eating

healthy. She taught us things like how to encourage children to eat new foods and she also taught us the fact that gym is not always as good as we think it is. Yes it is good to have the students run around and is active but if you think about it games like kick ball only the person that is up to bat actually gets the exercise and we should have the whole team run that way the all are getting the exercise.

The last workshop that I attended had to have been my favorite of the day. I am a very arts and crafts person and that is what this workshop was about. It helped me to think of possible links between art and reading (and other subjects). This allows students to make the things that they are talking about; this could be anything from fish to caterpillars to moons. She also showed me new painting techniques, painting surfaces, and most important to use things that you already have. This is also the workshop that I will be presenting on so you hopefully will learn some of the skills that I learned through that.

Overall I thoroughly enjoyed my day in Indianapolis I found this Conference very helpful to my future career. I feel like I can convert these things to the older students that I hope to teach. And I would definitely recommend this conference to anyone who is considering it, they give you some great tips and it is great event in which you feel like you are part of the teaching community and you have a feeling of connection.