



# Early Learning Through the Arts Training Workshops

Gateway to the Arts and its Western Pennsylvania Wolf Trap program offer a variety of hands-on, participatory professional development workshops throughout the year, specially designed for early childhood practitioners. Sessions in dance and movement, music, dramatic play, and visual arts are taught by professional teaching artists. Emphasis is on developmentally appropriate practice for children ages 3-5.

**Creative teaching. Lifelong learning.**

All workshops align with CKC Code:  
Knowledge Area 2 and Competency  
Level 2

All workshops align with Pennsylvania's Early Learning Standards and the Core Knowledge Competencies for Early Childhood and School-Age Caregivers.

These workshops are available at your center for on-site training workshops.

 Denotes a Wolf Trap workshop

## Dance/Movement

### LEAPING INTO LITERACY, MOVING THROUGH MATH

Presenter: Laurie Tarter, BFA 

Young children learn best through active involvement. During this interactive workshop, participants will recognize movement as means of helping children physically experience emergent math and literacy concepts. Practitioners will explore the basic elements of movement and be able to design active, fun experiences that reinforce basic skills and keep children moving and learning every day.

### MOVE-ABILITY: Nurturing Body, Brain, and Spirit

Presenter: Laurie Tarter, BFA

This interactive workshop will demonstrate how incorporating developmentally appropriate locomotor and axial (non-locomotor) movement experiences can build upon individual abilities and learning styles and support children with special needs. Based upon The Brain Dance, developed by Anne Green Gilbert, participants will learn how to apply the eight movement patterns of early human development to jump-start the body and the brain. Participants will recognize how movement strategies accompanied by familiar nursery rhymes can be applied when working with children with special needs.

## Multi-disciplinary

### MUSIC, MOVEMENT, DRAMA, AND PLAY: The Arts Make Picture Books Come Alive!

Presenter: Margaret Hooton, BA 

Early childhood music educator Margaret Hooton will demonstrate a developmental approach to engage the whole child in the joy of literature and the arts. Participants will learn to apply the basics of pitch, beat, singing in tune and movement to circle time activities. Simple props will be used to enhance engagement in picture books.

### MAKING MUSIC WITH INFANTS & TODDLERS

Presenter: Margaret Hooton, BA 

This active workshop will offer practical information on how to make infant toddler rooms more playful and exciting by including music and movement throughout the day. We will learn the basics of using steady beat, chants, rhymes, simple melodies and movement to reinforce growth in all developmental domains.

### STORY TIME MAKE IT/TAKE IT PROP SHOP

Presenter: Rebecca Covert, MS

During this hands-on workshop, participants will see a demonstration of how simple props made from inexpensive materials can bring a book to life, engage young learners in story time and support language and literacy development. Practitioners will return to the classroom with skills, materials and arts-based extension activities that will allow them to facilitate interactive book time focused on a selected picture book. Sample Focus Book: We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Helen Oxenbury and Michael Rosen



Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts is a program of Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts

## Music

### **MATH SKILLS FOR A SONG**

Presenter: Christina Farrell, BFA 

Active music experiences can support emergent mathematics and may be related in the brain from very early in life. Music has many inherent connections to mathematical constructs within its structure. Find the natural connections between music elements such as steady beat, rhythm, and tempo to math concepts such as counting, sequencing, one-to-one correspondence and patterning. It's as easy as a song! Participants will identify inherent connections to math concepts in music and develop strategies for using rhythm, instruments, movement and singing to foster hands-on mathematical explorations.

### **LOOKING FOR MUSICAL CLUES**

Presenter: Christina Farrell, BFA 

Uncover the hidden music in favorite traditional stories! During this workshop, participants will identify strategies for adapting a book text to include musical elements and practice simple techniques for using rhythm and melody to engage children in storytelling. Participants will create a child-led musical experience based on favorite fairy tales.

### **SING THROUGH THE SEASONS: (Available for Spring, Summer, Fall, or Winter)**

Presenter: Margaret Hooton, BA 

Learn how to bring story books to life by integrating the arts into your pre-K seasonal themed lessons. Practitioners will identify child-centered story extensions that include music, dance phrases, improvisational drama, puppetry and simple crafts to engage young learners.


### **IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY FOR SINGING**

Presenter: Margaret Hooton, BA 

Early childhood music specialist Margaret Hooton will demonstrate how music, movement, chants and games help make young children's school day more exciting and engaging. The objective of all this fun is to help children build phonological and literacy awareness, creativity, social and listening skills. Participants will practice using fingerplays to develop small motor skills and musical games to learn about using the whole body, following the rules, sequencing and being part of the group. Practitioners will identify how the inclusion of simple props during story time can spark the a child's imagination during adult-guided exploration of high quality picture books. Even the most weather-challenged Pittsburgh day can be beautiful in your classroom!


## Dramatic Play

### **A STORY IN A BOX, A BAG OR A CAN**

Presenter: Barbara Russell, BS 

This workshop will demonstrate how Coffee Can Theater – a drama strategy using a container and simple props – can actively engage children in storytelling and child-directed dramatization to reinforce language development. This simple, engaging tool fosters interest, accommodates a variety of learning styles and reinforces Approaches to Learning areas such as curiosity, imagination and problem-solving. Participants will identify child-directed versus teacher-directed storytelling techniques.

### **COUNT ME IN! Teacher-in-Role Strategies for STEM Exploration**

Presenter: Christina Farrell, BFA 

During this highly interactive workshop, master music/drama teaching artist Christina Farrell will demonstrate how participants can tap young children's love of imaginative play to spark meaningful explorations of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) topics by using teacher-in-role techniques. Practitioners will practice simple strategies for assuming dramatic play roles, adapting stories and asking rich, open-ended questions that will empower children to actively use critical thinking skills and evaluate their learning.

### **S-T-R-E-T-C-H YOUR STORYTIME!**

Presenter: Rebecca Covert, MS 

During this interactive workshop, participants will learn to use any picture book as a springboard to facilitate dramatic play experiences that reinforce cross-disciplinary curricular goals. Participants will learn how to use the text, illustrations and overall world of the book to develop simple, arts-based experiences designed to enhance literacy instruction and enliven the story time routine.

## Visual Art

### **PLAYFUL HANDS & CREATIVE MINDS: Using Everyday Items as Artful Opportunities for Endless Creative Play**

Presenter: Alison Zapata, BA

In this engaging hands-on workshop, participants will create props, puppets, and simple costume elements using everyday items and low-cost supplies. Participants will demonstrate how to support dramatic play by retelling a familiar story using these playful tools. Participants will identify how to facilitate art-making experiences with young children that allow for freely chosen experimentation, creative expression and open-ended play opportunities.

### **DESTINATION IMAGINATION: Recycling Everyday Items Into Fabulous Art!**

Presenter: Alison Zapata, BA

This engaging hands-on workshop will illustrate the potential that art-making has to foster growth and skill acquisition in many developmental domains. Participants will tap their own creativity and learn how to use everyday household materials to make art with children. The presenter will model how to make simple puppets to encourage children's imagination, language development, and socialization. Participants will learn how to create a recyclables art station for free access by children in the classroom.

### **MAKING TOYS FROM RECYCLED MATERIALS**

Presenter: Joann Kielar, MFA

Use a variety of recycle materials, (ewspaper, plastic bottles, boxes, etc.) and variety of techniques to create several different projects. Emphasis will be on keeping an open-ended, playful approach and participants will invent situations in which the hand-made toys may be used safely and creatively in ways that are developmentally appropriate.

### **CREATIVE VISUAL ARTS EXPLORATIONS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN**

Presenter: Joann Kielar, MFA

In this hands-on workshop, participants will identify age-appropriate art materials and recognize the value of child-directed/teacher supported creative art experiences.

### **PUPPET POWER!**

Presenter: Joann Kielar, MFA

Discover the power of puppets to enliven your pre-K classroom and reinforce skill development. Participants will create a variety of simple puppets -- hand-puppets, finger-puppets, shadow puppets, and more -- using inexpensive materials. The instructor will model effective ways to use puppets to stimulate learning and help children use puppets appropriately as vehicles for communication and creative self-expression. Includes handouts with puppet templates.



## Professional Development Workshop Details

Cost for 2-3 Hour On-site Workshop:

The workshop fee is approximately \$300 for on-site training for up to 30 participants and includes handouts. Additional fee may apply for art materials. Additional fee for travel outside Allegheny County. Funding may be available.

Credit/Hours:

Act 48 hours are available for all workshops. Gateway to the Arts is approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education as an Act 48 Provider.

Please call 412-362-6982 to schedule.