

## Workshop Presenters 2012 - Bios

### **Angie King:**

Angie King is a Peer Health Worker at Our Place Family Resource and Early Years Centre. She has been working with participants and facilitating programs there for the past six years. Her goal is to bring awareness of what it means to be healthy in mind, body and soul.

### **Brenda Byers:**

Brenda Byers is an Artistic Director of Storywyse oral tradition storytelling. She has presented for the Halton Region "Love of Literacy" Conference in Burlington and family literacy events in schools. Her "Small Wonders" program at the Dundas Public Library was designed for children ages 6 to 23 months and their care givers to encourage language development using rhymes, finger plays and stories.

### **Catherine Flatt:**

Catherine Flatt RN, BNSc is a licensed Brain Gym instructor/consultant who teaches Brain Gym courses and workshops and has a private Brain Gym practice. She volunteers at a day care centre, teaching Brain Gym children with a wide range of skills and needs. Catherine works part time as a community visiting nurse.

### **Courtney Brewer:**

Courtney Brewer is an educator and freelance researcher specializing in educational studies. She has worked on a variety of collaborative projects while pursuing her own independent research interests. After receiving her Master's degree in Education, she has applied her research to practical settings by speaking to educators and community programmers.

### **Dr. Daniela O'Neill:**

Dr. Daniela O'Neill is a Professor of Developmental Psychology at the University of Waterloo where she founded and directs the UW Centre for Child Studies. Her research interests include the development of toddler and preschool children's communicative competence, how children's language use is impacted by their emerging abilities in perspective-taking, and their facility in telling and interpreting stories.

### **Deb Loyd:**

Deb Loyd has been an E.C.E. professional for over 30 years. She has extensive teaching experience with children of all ages and abilities. She is trained in theatre arts and operates "Dramantics," a drama based program for schools to help students learn to express their creativity. As a children's author and storyteller Deb is thrilled to share her stories with children everywhere! She is the founder of the

“Enlighten Up” series of workshops and passionate about working with academic and corporate audiences. As a professional speaker and humourist, Deb inspires people to laugh more and rediscover the joy of life!

**Heather LeDonne:**

Heather LeDonne has been teaching with the Halton District School Board for 12 years. In that time, she has taught everything from Kindergarten to Grade 6 but her “heart is definitely in the early years”. She has been teaching kindergarten for the last 3 years.

**Jen Watson:**

Jen Watson is a Children's Programmer and Senior Library Assistant in a Public Library with a background in Early Childhood Education and experience working in a child care setting. Before joining the library, Jen was a Children’s Advisor and Event Planner for Indigo Books and Music.

**Joanne Davis:**

Joanne Davis has a BA in Political Science from McMaster University and a Certificate in Adult Education from Conestoga College. Joanne’s interest in literacy started in 1993 when she was first board member and then Chairperson of Core Literacy, As an experienced GSL facilitator of GSL, Joanne works very successfully with hard- to- serve families. She uses creative strategies, relationship-building and a strengths-based approach to support and encourage families.

**Judi Waters:**

Judi Waters was a primary teacher and teacher-librarian before developing the Esso Family Math program with Nancy and other teams members.

**Kim Jensen:**

Kim Jensen has been working in literacy for the past 3 years and is presently completing her certificate in adult education. She works for The Literacy Group as an adult facilitator. In this role she helps adults gain the Essential Skills necessary to complete their goals. Her previous work as a Family Literacy Facilitator taught her that families that do not have varied literacy practices in their homes will result in children who do not have success at school. Her passion is to merge her knowledge of adult literacy with family literacy.

**Laura Dick:**

Laura Dick is a newcomer to the Waterloo Public Library having previously worked in libraries in Kitchener, Cambridge and Toronto. Since January Laura has been the Branch Manager at the John M. Harper Branch where a typical day ranges from working on the circulation and reference desks to

dealing with policy issues to cleaning the washroom. A Branch Manager's life is never dull. Laura graduated from library school with a Masters of Library Science from the University of Western Ontario before the internet - it was that long ago. She has worked as a children's librarian, a reference librarian and a literacy librarian before coming to her current job at the Harper Branch of the Waterloo Public Library...which is, of course, her favourite job of all.

**Laura Turner:**

Laura Turner is an Occupational Therapist who has been working with children in a variety of settings over the past 12 years. Laura's areas of expertise include early childhood development, children with exceptionalities and the transition to school. Most recently, Laura has been working with students in their school settings, working as an educator for a private therapy company, and teaching at Conestoga College in the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program.

**Linzy Abraham:**

Linzy Abraham is a Speech-Language Pathologist who has been interested in language and literacy connections for about 20 years. She has worked with children from birth to 6 years in homes, daycares, clinic, and school settings. She completed her Masters and Doctorate degrees from North Carolina and recently returned to Waterloo where she is affiliated with the WRDSB.

**Lorri Sauve:**

Lorri Sauve is a Canada Post Literacy Educator Award recipient in 2011 has 20+ years in adult and family literacy. She has been an instructor, manager, researcher/developer, workshop facilitator, and assessor. In these roles she has encouraged many adult learners to continue their education in order to improve their lives and the lives of their children. Currently, she is the *Outreach and Family Literacy Coordinator for Project READ Literacy Network* as well as being an online facilitator for adult and family literacy practitioners at Conestoga College. Lorri believes that literacy habits must begin in the early years and must be nurtured at home.

**Nancy Chapple:**

Nancy Chapple is a retired teacher with experience in all grades J.K. through Grade 5. She also taught Language Arts and the Early Years option at the Faculty of Education, Western University.

**Meagan Snyder:**

Meagan Snyder is an RECE and OCT with an MA in Child Study and Education (OISE/UT). She currently works with children 0-6 and their families at Kitchener's Our Place, Family Resource and Ontario Early Years Centre.