
The New Jersey State Library is sponsoring an Early Literacy Symposium on May 13, 2011 at the Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City. This day-long program is for educators, librarians, caregivers and other professionals from organizations that provide early literacy training for children from birth to age 8. Lesley Mandel Morrow, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor of Literacy at Rutgers University and Chair, Department of Learning and Teaching, Graduate School of Education will be the keynote speaker. Other partners for this event include Head Start, the NJ Department of Education, NJPIRC at Prevent Child Abuse NJ, the Puerto Rican Action Board, New Jersey Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, The Construction Industry Advancement Program of NJ, NJ After 3 and the Jersey City Public Schools Early Childhood Department. Registration information will be available soon. For further information contact Sharon Rawlins, Youth Services Consultant, New Jersey State Library, srawlins@njstatelib.org, 609-278-2640 ext. 116.

I'm also attaching it as a document. <<Announcement for Early Literacy Symposium.doc>>

At the meeting on Monday, Jan. 24th we went over the confirmed speakers for the event. We also discussed the registration fees again and realized we would need to charge $100 for professionals in order to cover our costs. Certain organizations like Head Start would be charged less to cover the cost of bringing families to the event. We also set the deadline of February 15, 2011 for the registration to be posted with session descriptions.

Would everyone who is contacting a speaker ask them to send to me a short program description (no more than 3 sentences) for their session? Remember to emphasize who the Symposium is for (mentioned in the SAVE THE DATE announcement). The keynote speaker will have an hour and the breakout sessions are 90 minutes each. I need these descriptions by February 7th, or sooner.

Here's a list of the speakers and the contacts I have for them. If this is incorrect, please let me know. I have a few ? for a few contacts so please help me out if you know!

Keynote: Lesley Morrow, Ph.D. Distinguished Professor of Literacy, Rutgers – Meredith Byrnes or Sharon Rawlins?

Breakout sessions:
1. EPIC – Ready, Set, Read! – Meredith Byrnes
2. Carrie Banks, Child’s Place, Brooklyn PL – Sharon Rawlins
4. Nina Jaffe and Partner, Bank Street College of Education, Manhattan – Helen Tinsley
5. EPIC – Abriendo Puertas – Meredith Byrnes
6. Vermont Center for the Book Mother Goose Programs - What’s the BIG IDEA: Making Math and Science Come Alive for Children and Families - Sharon Rawlins
7. Grant writing – Speaker not determined yet – TD Bank or a professional grant writing organizations like the NJ Chapter of Grant Professional Association, etc. I have a contact who might be willing to do it - Sharon Rawlins
Thanks for all of your help. We need to get going on this now that it’s getting closer to the event. I’ll send you the rest of the meeting minutes from Monday, Jan. 24 as soon as I can.

Best,
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