



## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Saturday, September 9 • Tsakopoulos Library Galleria

8:30 – 9 AM	Registration (Library Lobby)
9 – 9:50 AM	Welcome Keynote: <i>Reimagining School Readiness: Early Learning in the 21st Century</i> with Helen Hadani, Ph.D. (Galleria)
10 – 10:50 AM	Breakout Session 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Genuine Play with Children and Toddlers with Gail Nadal and Simone Demarzi</li> <li>• Process over Product: An Equation for Creative Growth in Early Learners with Melissa Etcheverry</li> <li>• Smart Play Promotes Potential Play Quotient with Stevanne Auerbach, Ph.D.</li> </ul>
11 – 11:50 AM	Keynote: <i>A Joyous Way to Learn: Music Play to Promote Readiness, Literacy, and Inclusion</i> with Jim Gill (Galleria)
12 – 12:50 PM	Lunch (Galleria)
1 – 1:50 PM	Breakout Session 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Musical Play with Purpose with Jim Gill</li> <li>• The Child is the Curriculum with Michael Leeman and Dina Miller</li> <li>• Engaging with Refugee and Immigrant Children with Molly Milazzo and Vanessa Centeno</li> </ul>
2 – 2:50 PM	Breakout Session 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play: It is Not All Fun and Games with Lisa Easterla, Ph.D.</li> <li>• The Dark Side of Play with Suzanne Flint</li> <li>• “I’m So Bored!” Helping Children Rediscover the Joy of Play with Tammy Tanner</li> </ul>
3 – 4 PM	Keynote: <i>Playing and Performing Your Way to Growth</i> with Cathy Salit (Galleria)
4 PM	Certificates of Completion Book Sales and Signing

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### Keynote Address 1: 9 – 9:50 AM

Helen Hadani,  
Ph.D

***Reimagining School Readiness: Early Learning in the 21st Century***  
(Galleria)



In today's rapidly changing world, children need to move beyond the basics and develop skills to solve complex problems that require creative thinking, conceptual reasoning, and social competence. Yet pressure to address achievement gaps has led many preschools and early elementary grades to increase didactic, academic instruction and remove child-directed exploration, hands-on learning, and imaginative play—all experiences that research tells us lead to higher order thinking skills. *Reimagining School Readiness*, a new research-backed position paper from the Center for Childhood Creativity (CCC), synthesizes findings from studies in developmental psychology, cognitive science, and education to make recommendations about how best to prepare children for success in school and in life. Dr. Helen Hadani will present key findings from the paper that highlight the important role of playful learning in providing developmentally appropriate and rich experiences to boost learning and cognitive development.

As Head of Research for the Center for Childhood Creativity, **Helen Hadani, Ph.D.** authors original research on creative thinking and child development, including the Center's white papers. She brings more than 18 years of experience in research and education settings, including years in the technology and toy industries. Helen received her doctorate in Developmental Psychology from Stanford University and has taught at UC Davis and San Francisco State University.

### Keynote Address 2: 11 – 11:50 AM

Jim Gill

***A Joyous Way to Learn: Music Play to Promote Readiness, Literacy, and Inclusion***  
(Galleria)



In this energizing keynote session, Jim Gill will share examples of his books and songs that teachers and care providers can bring back to their classrooms, playrooms, and family rooms. Most importantly, Jim will discuss how his unique creations in music play inspire young children not only to move, but to regulate their movements—not only to sing, but to make connections between the words they sing and the printed word. Jim will discuss how a play-based program provides an inclusive environment for children with special needs and share thoughts based on his work with children of all ability levels. You'll leave the session inspired to share a new repertoire of songs and reading play activities with the children in your care.

**Jim Gill** is a musician and author with singular credentials among children's artists. Jim spent 20 years directing programs in music play for families and children with special needs in the Chicago area. Jim completed his graduate studies in child development at the Erikson Institute of Chicago with a special emphasis on the study of play. Jim has released seven award-winning CDs of music play for young children that are favorites in family rooms, classrooms, and playrooms. Jim is also the author of two award-winning children's books.

### Keynote Address 3: 3 – 4 PM

Cathy Salit

***Playing and Performing Your Way to Growth*** (Galleria)



Playing and performing has arrived in the adult world. And not just for ideation, brainstorming, or innovation—play is catching on as a crucial component of learning, growth and change. Just like children, adults can develop—literally transform their lives and work—through improvisational play and performance. In this engaging and interactive presentation, Cathy Salit will share what play and performance looks, sounds, and feels like in her work with educators, teams, and organizations. She'll introduce you to the ideas and practices of The Becoming Principle®, an unusual blending of play, improvisation, and the new science of performative psychology. You'll experience: how

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playing and performing in your everyday life helps you learn, grow, and lead; how listening like an improviser will transform your conversations and relationships; and how being “who you’re not” helps you discover and create more of who you are.

**Cathy Salit** is an author, performer, executive coach, social entrepreneur, and CEO of Performance of a Lifetime, a consulting firm that uses the art and science of play and theatrical performance to help leaders and companies to grow their teams, enhance collaboration, create culture, and expand their ability to play and work well with others. Her work and thought leadership have been featured in numerous national publications. Cathy is the author of *Performance Breakthrough: A Radical Approach to Success at Work*.

## Breakout Session 1: 10 – 10:50 AM

**Gail Nadal  
and Simone  
Demarzi**



### ***Genuine Play with Children and Toddlers (TBD)***

Join local leading RIE (Resources for Infant Educators) experts Gail Nadal and Simone Demarzi for a hands-on workshop exploring the development of infant/toddler play. Learn how you can support young children as they undertake the most important work of all—play! Presented by the Sacramento Area Infant Toddler Network, a group of early childhood educators who are committed to improving the quality of care of children Birth to Three and bringing the work of Magda Gerber to our very youngest and those that care for them.

**Gail Nadal** currently works for the Yolo County Office of Education as the Director of Early Childhood Education. She is responsible for YCOE’s Head Start/Early Head Start program, state preschool programs, and is the Child Care Planning Council Coordinator for Yolo. Gail has a Master’s of Arts in Educational Leadership in Child Development. **Simone Demarzi** has been working in the field of Early Childhood since 1981. She holds a bachelor’s in Elementary Education. She is one of the original four members of the CORE 4, which founded the Sacramento Area Infant Toddler Network in Northern California. Simone currently teaches at the Davis Waldorf School.

**Melissa  
Etcheverry**



### ***Process over Product: An Equation for Creative Growth in Early Learners (TBD)***

Research initiatives in the past 20 years have consistently linked arts engagement to cognitive growth, academic skills, community engagement, and positive social outcomes in children. In this session, we’ll explore process-based art and why it’s a vitally important form of play. Participants will experience a sample lesson on developmentally appropriate viewing and discussion of an artwork that leads to an art activity. Plus, you’ll learn tips to implement more process art experiences in a home or classroom environment and discover easy, cost-effective examples.

**Melissa Etcheverry** has worked with children for 30 years. She is currently pursuing a Master’s in Early Childhood Education at Sonoma State University, where her work is focused on Early Learners in the museum setting. Her past work with children includes both family and school programs at the Crocker Art Museum.

**Stevanne  
Auerbach,  
Ph.D.**



### ***Smart Play Promotes Potential Play Quotient (TBD)***

We know about ‘EQ’ and ‘IQ’, but do you know about ‘PQ’, “Play Quotient”? For the developing and evolving mind, play is essential and paramount. Play, especially active, creative, and educational play, enhances every child to strengthen social and academic skills such as concentration, problem solving, communication, cooperation, and expand positive feelings. This presentation will explore the importance of “*Smart Play*” and the concept of “Play Quotient” to better meet the basic needs of all children, and understand and promote play as integral for sustained success, personal growth, and greater satisfaction.

**Stevanne Auerbach, Ph.D. (Dr. Toy)** is among the leading professionals on play and educational toys. Based on more than 45 years of training and hands-on experience, she selects the best developmentally appropriate oriented, skill-building products for her original best product award programs. Her book, *Dr. Toy's Smart Play/Smart Toys*, is now in its 4<sup>th</sup> edition and has been published in 12 countries.

## Breakout Session 2: 1 – 1:50 PM

**Jim Gill**



### ***Music Play with Purpose* (TBD)**

This session is a great follow-up to Jim Gill's morning keynote address. It is filled with the musical inspiration you'll need to keep energized! In this energizing session, Jim shares additional musical games and explains, in greater detail, the purpose behind his play. His active music play provides a context for children to develop abilities, such as self-regulation, essential to school success. Jim's clever word play and rhymes in the context of active movement games also provide broad opportunities for literacy development. You'll bring some inspiration, useful in the morning and afternoon, back to your work with young children!

See **Jim Gill's** biography under Keynote Speakers.

**Michael Leeman and Dina Miller**



### ***The Child is the Curriculum* (TBD)**

Curriculum, as a plan for learning, must involve children by allowing them a certain level of control in planning, establishing, and pursuing their own objectives and goals. In this presentation, Michael Leeman and Dina Miller from the Roseville Community Preschool (based on the philosophy of Bev Bos) will share their experiences and recommendations for facilitating and enhancing young children's opportunity to learn through self-directed play. They'll offer practical examples of how to establish a child-friendly learning environment in support of children's right to play via current research, photos, videos, anecdotal evidence, as well as a question and answer session.



**Michael Leeman** presented workshops, keynotes, and conferences with Bev Bos to a wide variety of education groups for over 25 years. A graduate of CSU Sacramento, Michael is the Director and a Teacher at the Roseville Community Preschool a play-based, parent-participation preschool established over 50 years ago.

**Dina Miller** is the Business Administrator at Roseville Community Preschool.

**Molly Milazzo and Vanessa Centeno**



### ***Engaging with Refugee and Immigrant Children* (TBD)**

Sacramento has become a major destination for refugee and immigrant families over the past few years, particularly those from Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, and Iran. Sacramento Public Library staff have seen the impact of these new arrivals and have stepped up to help ease cultural and language barriers. Two youth services librarians with the Sacramento Public Library will talk about ways the library has reached out to these growing communities and forged partnerships with local schools and organizations to better serve them. Best practices, the importance of play, and a bibliography of relevant books will all be discussed.



**Molly Milazzo** is a Youth Services Librarian at the Arcade Library. Although she works mainly with teens, her efforts span all youth and their parents. Fluent in Spanish, she conducts Bilingual Storytime at Arcade and is currently learning Farsi/Dari, Arabic, and Pashto to better serve the needs of her community. **Vanessa Centeno** is a Youth Services Librarian at the Colonial Heights Library. Raised in the East Bay among a variety of cultures and traditions, Vanessa advocates for diversity in education and library services to youth. She received an MLIS from San Jose State University in 2015.

**Breakout Session 3: 2 – 2:50 PM**

**Lisa Easterla, Ph.D.** *Play: It is Not All Fun and Games (TBD)*



Play is an integral part of a human’s development, including personal, familial, social, and special. During this session, the discussion will focus on the concepts presented by Dr. Stuart Brown in his book *Play: How it Shapes the Brain, Open the Imagination, and Invigorates the Soul*. We will consider the variations of play, how it influences the development of important life skills, the transformational benefits of play, and the overall wellness for society. The outcome is to gain a deeper understanding of the importance of play, so we may provide more supportive play opportunities for our communities.

**Lisa Easterla, Ph.D.**, is a “native Sacramentan” and Associate Professor at CSU Sacramento Department of Recreations, Parks, and Tourism Administration Faculty. She serves as a Generalist for the department, with an expertise across the core curriculum. One of her favorite topics to explore is the wonder of play.

**Suzanne Flint** *The Dark Side of Play (TBD)*



How do children play when coping with trauma? In this thought-provoking and interactive workshop, participants will explore and discuss the darker side of play. We’ll consider what play means for the child and how child’s play can vary greatly, from re-enacting comforting routines to constructing troubling or violent scenarios. As adult’s supporting children’s play, we’ll also consider what it means and how to scaffold children when play becomes confusing or alarming to adults.

**Suzanne Flint** is a child life specialist with a Masters in Health Education. She has over 25 years of experience working directly with children and families. She joined the California State Library in 2005 where she became the principal architect of the Early Learning with Families @ the Library (ELF) initiative.

**Tammy Tanner**



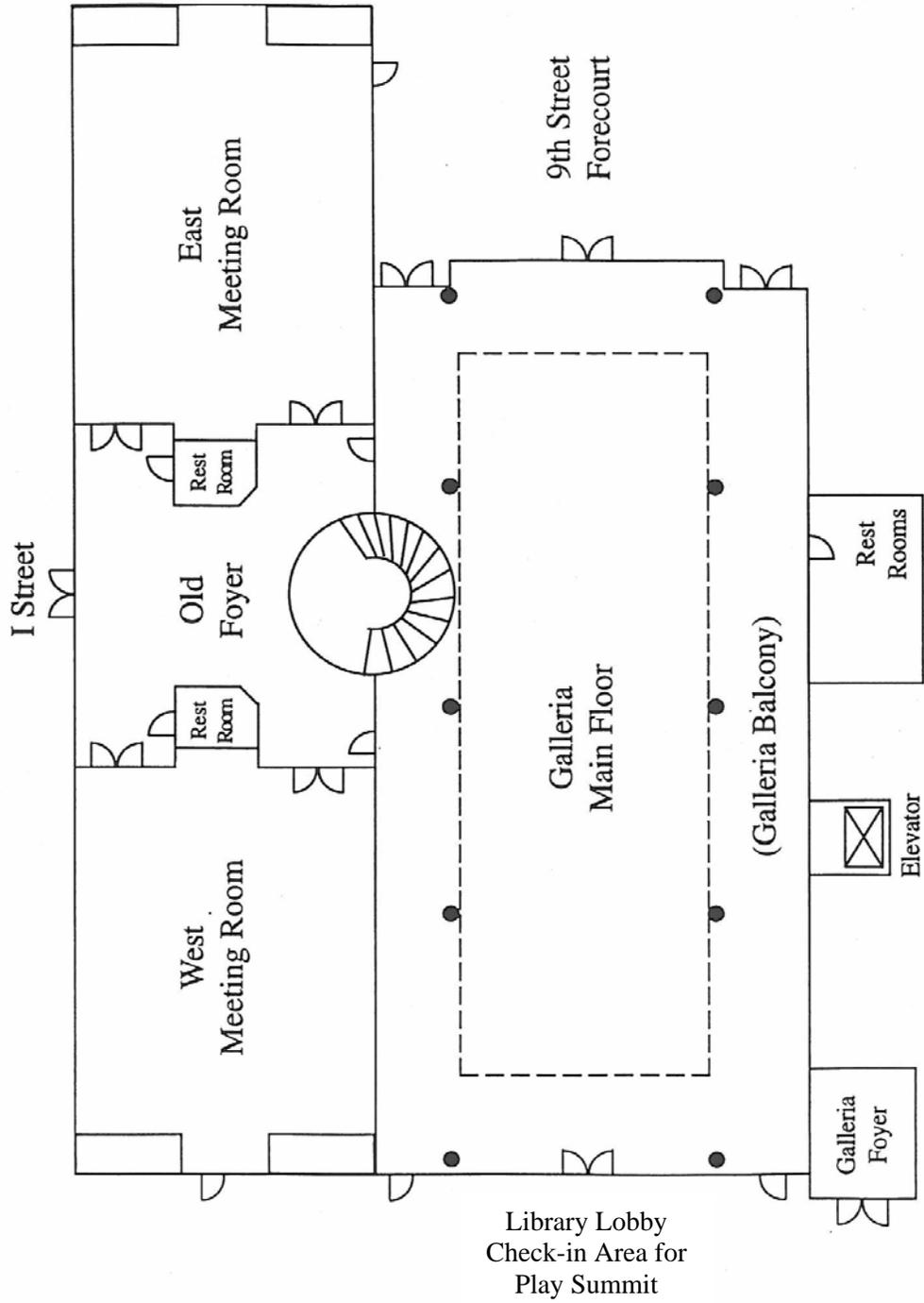
*“I’m So Bored!” Helping Children Rediscover the Joy of Play (TBD)*

Children who are bored today rely on increasing stimuli to decrease their boredom. They expect this stimulus to come from outside themselves instead of using their imagination and creativity to alleviate boredom. In this session, we’ll examine the benefits of unstructured play, including how it promotes executive function. We’ll discuss HighScope’s principles of active learning, discuss the role of the adult in play, and investigate how outdoor play benefits a child physically, socially, and emotionally.

**Tammy Tanner** has been working in the early childhood education field for 18 years. She has a bachelor’s in Interdisciplinary Studies and a master’s in Education, Multiple Subject Teaching Credential.

# ROOM MAP

*Tsakopoulos Library Galleria*



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# CONFERENCE LOCATION

*Tsakopoulos Library Galleria*

**From the West (Davis area):** As you enter Sacramento, take I-5 North. Exit at J St.

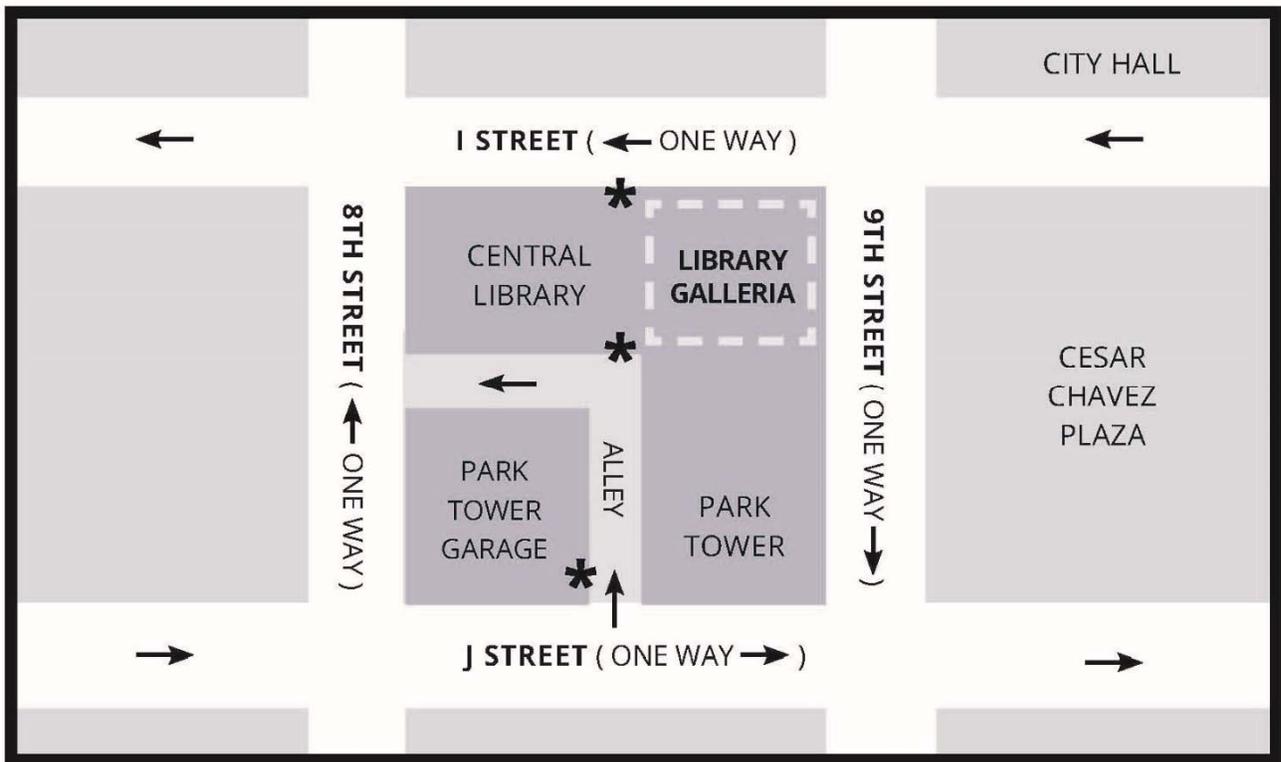
**From I-5 North or South:** Exit at J St in downtown Sacramento.

**From the East via Hwy 50:** Take Hwy 50 West to I-5 North (towards Redding). Exit at J St.

**From the South via Hwy 99:** Take Hwy 99 North. Take the Capital City Fwy (Business 80) West (towards San Francisco), then take I-5 North (towards Redding). Exit at J Street.

**From the Northeast via Capital City Fwy (Business 80):** Take the Capital City Fwy (Business 80) South to 160. Exit at I Street. Turn right. Take I Street to 7th, turn left. Go one block to J Street, turn left.

**To enter Park Tower Garage:** After 8th Street, make a left turn from J Street into alley for garage entrance.



\* Entrances to Parking Garage and Library Lobby

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