



Dianna Rake Portland, Oregon

Biography

In my over 30 years in the Early Childhood profession I have worn many hats. From the mortarboard in the early 70's, clutching an Associate of Arts Degree in ECE to being awarded this honor, my path has been filled with many learning opportunities. I have held positions as Teacher, Administrative Coordinator, Program Coordinator & Program Director. I then came to realize that my true love was working with the children on a daily basis & returned to teaching in the classroom. Here I strive to maintain current in the field by attending workshops, reading current books & attending classes. I have provided teacher training at department meetings & staff planning days. I have been a presenter at the state OAEYC Fall Conference three times & once had the pleasure of attending the NAEYC Conference. In 1997, I worked to help start St. Clare Preschool and Day Care. At the time, it was the first such program within the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon. We have been an accredited program of 8 years & are currently going through the accreditation process. I work to create a classroom atmosphere that supports all the children with their unique strengths & learning styles. It has been very heartwarming when former students stop by the school to reminisce about a favorite activity that they remember. I thank all my classes for the knowledge you have given me-I now can pronounce dinosaur names with increasing ability but still need assistance from the current class expert and the experiences we have had that stretch my abilities as a teacher. My only regret is that my Mother and Father did not live to see this moment, both passing away last year. I have a wonderful, supportive family. My husband, Kenny, who puts up with all of my garage sale treasures, my daughters, Jennie and Kim and grandchildren Brandon and Makayla are important parts of my life. My sister, Amy, deserves recognitions for her care for our parents for the last five years.



Project-"Math Enrichment for Pre-K"

My proposed project will enhance our current math curriculum by integrating elements that will meet the needs of all children with their various learning styles and skill levels. I was a member of the Archdiocesan Mathematics Curriculum Committee for the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon. I helped write the standards for the Pre-K level. While serving on this committee, I learned there are new key strategies for teaching math: focus, go deep, assess and collaborate. Our focal points for Pre-K are: understanding whole numbers, identification of shapes and description of spatial relationships and comparison of objects. Currently I am using ideas from a variety of sources. We have a wide variety of open-ended math materials for the children to use. What I feel is lacking in this approach is a comprehensive plan to fulfill the strategy of going deep with a time line that ensures a logical order of introducing new concepts while also revisiting previous concepts to ensure full comprehension of the idea by all children. My proposal involves purchasing the High Scope "Numbers Plus Preschool Mathematics" curriculum. This program will help me to integrate math throughout the classroom into all the interest areas. To bring math into more interest areas, I propose purchasing math themed books, tactile number sets and a number line activity chart. With these new materials I feel that I will be able to more effectively meet the needs of the children in the class.