

October 11, 2011

For Immediate Release

Is Your Child Prepared To Succeed In The Conceptual Age?

Early Childhood Educators, Kindergarten Teachers, Full-Day Early Learning-Kindergarten Teams, Family Support Services Staff, parents, and others involved in the education and care of young children are invited to attend a special community collaborative workshop at 6:30 pm on Thursday October 20 at the Holiday Inn Suites St. Catharines Conference Centre (formerly Quality Parkway) 325 Ontario Street, St. Catharines Ontario. This professional learning opportunity is being hosted by the District School Board of Niagara (DSBN), Niagara Catholic District School Board (NCDSB) and the Early Childhood Community Development Centre (ECCDC). It will feature a presentation by internationally known author and researcher Dr. Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek, Director of the Infant Language Laboratory at Philadelphia's Temple University. *"Niagara Catholic is proud to work with our partners to present this very informative and timely workshop,"* said Director of Education, John Crocco. *"Dr. Hirsh-Pasek is an extremely accomplished educator and author and I am confident that the teachers, early childhood educators, parents and grandparents who participate in this workshop will come away with wonderful strategies, as we continue to motivate young learners through play."*

Dr. Hirsh-Pasek has written eleven books on children's early learning, is the creator of the *Ultimate Block Party*, author of *Einstein Never Used Flashcards* and is a frequent contributor to *People* magazine and *The New York Times*. She has also appeared on *The View*; *The Today Show*; *Good Morning America* and *20/20*. Dr. Hirsh-Pasek's presentation will begin with a look at some of the critical skills, traits, and abilities that will be essential for employees to possess in the future to ensure success within a global economy, and how it is possible to have a strong curricular program that is delivered in a playful pedagogy in which children are engaged and having fun.

"There's no question that the economy of 2040 will look very different than the economy we're experiencing today," says Tammy McCormick Ferguson of the ECCDC. *"As the world transitions from the Information Age to the Conceptual Age, we anticipate that critical thinking, confidence, creativity, innovation, collaboration and communication will be the core skills required for success at work and in life"*. What many educators are asking is whether our existing early learning curriculum and pedagogy is sufficient to prepare children for the demands they'll face as adults. *"Purposeful play is an essential and rich part of the learning process,"* says Warren Hoshizaki, DSBN Director of Education. *"Play is a powerful motivator for children. It encourages them to be creative and develop their ideas, understanding and language. Play also helps students develop important social skills such as respect, responsibility and cooperation. Our Parenting and Family Centres and Full-Day Early Learning Kindergarten programs both work to foster a healthy sense of play in children that helps them develop the skills and initiative to be successful in school"*.

Tickets for *Preparing 21st Century Children for a Global World: A Community Collaborative Workshop on Playful Learning* are available through the Early Childhood Community Development Centre for \$25/person. Please contact 905.646.7311, ext. 304 or eccdc@eccdc.org.

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For more information on this topic or to arrange interviews with Dr. Hirsh-Pasek, please contact Lorrey Arial-Bonilla, ECCDC Training and Resource Manager at 905.646.7311, ext. 321 or larial@eccdc.org