

# Early Childhood Network Membership



A Professional Learning Community of  
Early Childhood Leaders to Collaborate on Issues that  
are Meaningful and Relevant to  
Early Childhood Development and Instruction



“Free the child’s potential, and you will transform him into the world.”

Dr. Maria Montessori

The most effective way to help children become successful students is to give them a good start in the early years of their development. Although 85% of the foundation for a child’s intellect, personality, and skills are formed by the age of five, we spend only a small amount of money on education and development during this period. As the National Council and Institute of Medicine stated in 2000, “Although there have been long-standing debates about how much the early years really matter in the larger scheme of lifelong development...What happens during the first months and years of life matters a lot, not because this period development provided an indelible blueprint for adult well-being, but because it sets either a sturdy or fragile stage for what follows.” We invite you to join us as we look at the issues that affect the youngest members of our society — in particular the need for play and the ways to increase young children’s vocabulary in readiness for reading — and see how we can merge our talents and efforts to work in their best interests.

The **GCEDC Early Childhood Network** is facilitated by **Pat Barto and Marlene Gombach**. **Pat** is a retired administrator and teacher from CMSD, with vast experience in early childhood education. She is involved in the County’s Universal PreK Initiative, as well as other programs that work for the benefit of young children. Additionally, she served as a literacy consultant to The Cleveland Schools Book Fund Program since 2008. **Marlene** is the GCEDC’s research associate and helps administer the Cleveland Schools Book Fund and other early literacy programs.

Please join us on **Oct 13 and Dec 1, 2011 and Mar 15, 2012** at the **Cleveland State University - Cole Center** from **4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.** as we engage with Early Childhood leaders from across northern Ohio to:

Become involved in the area’s Early Childhood community and find out what’s happening and how you can help

Grow your professional skills and take advantage of the wealth of experience in the EC community

Share ways to help children make a smooth transition from PreK to Kindergarten and to help parents become involved and engaged in their children’s education

Become part of the Play Conference that will bring the importance of children and play to Cleveland in Oct. 2012

*Cost: No charge for GCEDC Member Districts / \$50 Per Person Non-members. Includes children’s books, children’s literacy reference book and refreshments.*

## GCEDC Early Childhood Network Registration Form

Name (Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr.)	Member District <input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Member District <input type="checkbox"/>
Address	Home Phone	
City State Zip	School & District	/
School Address	City	State Zip
School Phone	School Fax	
Email Address	Title/Grade Level/Content Area (s)	
Non-members Only Enclosed is Check or P.O. Number:	Amount \$50	

Mail this form along with a Check or Purchase Order made payable to Cleveland State University (CSU) to: CSU GCEDC Registration, CE 300, 2121 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44114. Fax 216-687-5422. Questions? Call 216-523-7107. Please visit [www.csuohio.edu/cehs/gcedc](http://www.csuohio.edu/cehs/gcedc) for more engaging professional development opportunities. *Cleveland State University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution.*