

Making Connections: Bridging the Link Between Early Childhood and Kindergarten Readiness

8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.
Monday, September 22, 2014
Sartell, Minnesota

Agenda

- 8:30–9:00 a.m.** **Arrival and Registration**
- 9:00–9:15 a.m.** **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Presenter:** Jill Walston, Ph.D., Principal Researcher, American Institutes for Research (AIR)
Dr. Walston will provide a brief overview of the Regional Educational Laboratory and introduce the keynote presenter.
- 9:15–9:30 a.m.** **Minnesota Service Cooperative Welcome**
- **Presenter:** Minnesota Service Cooperative Representative
- 9:30–10:10 a.m.** **Bridging the Link Between Early Childhood and Kindergarten Readiness**
- **Keynote presenter:** Amy Claessens, Ph.D.
Dr. Claessens will discuss her recent work on the relationship between academic content in kindergarten and student achievement. Dr. Claessens and her colleagues also published “The Case for the New Kindergarten: Challenging and Playful” in *Education Week*. Drawing from her research and the knowledge base on early childhood education, Dr. Claessens will examine how districts and schools can adapt concepts to engage higher-level thinking in young children.
- 10:10–10:30 a.m.** **Q&A With Presenter**
- Moderated by Jill Walston, Principal Researcher, AIR
- 10:30–10:45 a.m.** **Break**

10:45 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Moderated Panel Discussion

Panelists: Amy Claessens, Ph.D. (keynote), Margarita Calderon, Ph.D. (research expert), Shannon Riley-Ayers, Ph.D. (National Institute for Early Education Research representative), and Megan Cox, Ph.D. (Minnesota Department of Education representative)

Research experts and practitioners will present their work in evidence-based practices and policies that support districts, schools, and states implement high-quality early childhood education programs. Panelists will draw from their work to illustrate efforts at the national and state levels, and how they can be applied locally.

Moderator: Jill Walston, Ph.D.

Panelist #1: Margarita Calderon, professor emerita at Johns Hopkins University, will review evidence-based instruction on developing vocabulary to accelerate literacy and content learning, particularly for English language learners (ELLs).

Panelist #2: Amy Claessens, keynote and assistant professor at the University of Chicago, will highlight her work in mathematics instructional content and interventions to support mathematical thinking at early ages.

Panelist #3: Shannon Riley-Ayers, an assistant research professor affiliated with the National Institute for Early Education Research, will discuss how formative assessment can be used to tailor instruction to the individual needs of children.

Panelist #4: Megan Cox, an assessment specialist for early learning services for the Minnesota Department of Education, will discuss the department's efforts to support districts and schools with its revised early learning standards and the implementation of full-day kindergarten.

12:00–12:15 p.m.

Break

12:15–12:30 p.m.

Presentation from Minnesota Department of Education

Dr. Cox will highlight the department's revised early learning standards and assessments, as well as which professional development initiatives by the department are available for early learning providers.

12:30–1:00 p.m.

Working Lunch: Teaching Vocabulary for Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts in Early Childhood

Dr. Calderon will discuss and model evidence-based instructional strategies for English as second language teachers, bilingual teachers, and mainstream teachers on how to integrate mathematics, science, social studies, and language arts with ELL instruction.

1:00–1:30 p.m.

Working Lunch: Peer Learning Communities

Dr. Riley-Ayers will discuss how peer learning communities can be used as a professional development strategy for regions, districts, and schools.

1:30–1:45 p.m.

Sharing Connections

Dr. Walston will sum up the keynote, panel discussion, and presentations.

1:45–3:45 p.m.

Regional Breakout Sessions: Professional Development Planning and Delivery

Planning and share-out led by the Minnesota Service Cooperative

- Assessing and identifying regional needs
- Discussing the organization’s vision for support

3:45 p.m.

Adjourn