

# PTAC

## Preschool Teachers Adventure Conference

*Featuring Workshops for*  
Early Childhood Educators, Mother's Day Out Teachers,  
Preschool Teachers, & Directors



*Sponsored by*

*The Adventure Programs at Windwood Presbyterian Church, 10555 Spring Cypress Road, Houston, TX 77070*

[www.ptac-preschoolteachersadventureconference.org](http://www.ptac-preschoolteachersadventureconference.org)

# Welcome to Winter PTAC!

For those of you familiar with our Annual Preschool Teachers Adventure Conference held in the summer — we would like to invite you to Winter PTAC!

For over 17 years PTAC has been helping those in the field of Early Childhood Education keep their training current and their motivation strong during our 3-day summer 'adventure!' We sponsor a 1-day Winter version to serve those who missed training at the summer conference and/or those who would like a mid-year motivational 'push' to greet the New Year!

Working with children and their families is an important God-given task. Whether you work with infants & toddlers or preschoolers, in either a Christian or a secular setting, or you supervise people who do, you have the power to influence lives every day — "one heart at a time."

Let us help educate and inspire you — fill your spirit & entertain you! It is our hope that you will leave Winter PTAC renewed in body and spirit — ready to have a positive impact on the lives of the children and families that you work with! Please join us!

## Your Day at Winter PTAC



Time	Event
7:30 am — 8:00 am	Registration/Continental Breakfast
8:00 am — 8:25 am	Praise & Worship
8:30 am — 9:20 am	<b>Keynote Speaker — Carl Sommer</b>
9:30 am — 10:20 am	Session #1 Workshops
10:30 am — 11:20 am	Session #2 Workshops
11:30 am — 12:20 pm	Lunch #1 <b>OR</b> Session #3 Workshops
12:30 pm — 1:20 pm	Lunch #2 <b>OR</b> Session #4 Workshops
1:30 pm — 2:20 pm	Session #5 Workshops
2:35 pm — 3:30 pm	<b>Footnote Speaker — Kristin Weber</b>

### Disclaimer

The opinions expressed by presenters and/or exhibitors are their own, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Conference Planning Committee, The Adventure Preschool, Windwood Christian Academy or Windwood Presbyterian Church. The Conference Planning Committee does not officially endorse any particular product, program, teaching method, activity or handout presented at this conference.



# General Information



## Different Tracks for Different Folks!

We offer workshops for both Directors and Early Childhood Professionals. Directors have a separate track to attend with topics chosen especially for them, while those who work in Mother's Day Out and Preschool have different workshops to choose from during each session. We truly have something for everyone!

## How is Winter PTAC Different?

Winter PTAC is a smaller version of its summer counterpart. Instead of three days — it runs only one. We will still have a Keynote and Footnote Speaker to motivate and inspire you! We provide a box lunch, which will be served in the gymnasium. A selection of vendors will be available as well.

## What is the Cost of Winter PTAC?

The cost for our 1-day conference is \$80.00. Fees include admission to speakers, workshops, and a box lunch. We are 'green' again this year! Handouts will only be available on the website, unless the presenters provide their own.

## Do I Get Training Hours/CEU's for Winter PTAC?

Yes, if you attend the **entire day's activities** you are eligible for 7 training hours. You may apply for .7 CEU's through Texas Southern at a cost of \$25.00.

## What is the Deadline for Registration?

The deadline for registration is January 16, 2015. Registration fees are NOT refundable, but ARE TRANSFERRABLE!

## Is Childcare Available?

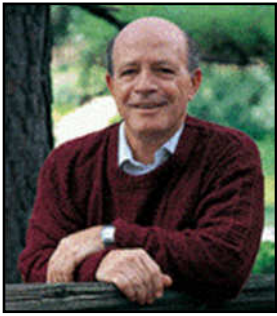
Winter PTAC has no childcare available on the premises. Participants should arrange for their own childcare. Children cannot attend workshops with a conference attendee.

## Questions?

Should you have any questions about Winter PTAC, please visit our website for the latest updates at [www.ptac-preschoolteachersadventureconference.org](http://www.ptac-preschoolteachersadventureconference.org) or call The Adventure Programs at 281-378-4080 or email [ptac@windwoodpc.org](mailto:ptac@windwoodpc.org)



# Featured Speakers



## Keynote Speaker — Carl Sommer

Carl Sommer is a devoted educator and a successful businessman with a passion for communicating values and practical learning skills to children. He is eminently qualified to impart to students the principles necessary for success in an increasingly complex world.

Following his passion, he has authored books in many categories, over 100 books. His works include the award winning "Another Sommer-Time Story" series of children's books and read-alongs that impart values and principles for success for children. This series of 20 books has won many awards including: Teachers' Choice Award, Mom's Award, Family

Review Center Gold Award and many others. The other books he has also authored include Reading Adventure, Reading Success, Number Success and several other books that have also won awards. Across the nation he has appeared on radio and television programs including the Oprah Winfrey show.

## Footnote Speaker — Kristen Weber

Kristin's parents gave her a comedic head start by home schooling her. She graduated college at 20 with a degree in journalism, packed up her car, and headed to the city where all home school parents hope their kids end up: Los Angeles. While working in newspaper and radio she discovered her passion for comedy and studied and performed improv and sketch comedy. Her clean, observant, occasionally alternative approach to comedy makes her a favorite at clubs, churches, colleges, and coffee shops. (Really any venue beginning with the letter C.) In addition, Kristin has a passion for youth and frequently speaks to middle and high school girls and writes for Sisterhood Magazine, a national Christian publication for teen girls. Her book, "The Smart Girl's Guide to God, Guys and the Galaxy", co-written with Susie Shellenberger, was released in 2014.



### Session 1 Workshops

9:30—10:20 am

#### Termination 101

Even though Texas is an "employment at will state", releasing employees must be done in a specific way. Come and learn how to keep yourself out of court and away from unemployment claims.

*Speaker: Tym Smith*

*Audience: Directors*

#### Infant & Toddler Development, Part 1

(This session continues in Session 2) The early years of life are critical to who we become later in life! The physical, mental, and social/emotional health of every person begins to develop at birth as our bodies grow quickly, our brains experience enormous activity and we begin to build trusting relationships with those around us! Let's discuss the who, what, when, where and how of infant/toddler development!

*Speaker: Kara Gore*

*Audience: MDO*

#### Building a Child's Mind: Intentionality in the Block Center & Its Relationship to Preschool Achievement

Among the most familiar staples of an early childhood classroom, blocks can be used — and misused — in many ways. Ensuring that these wonderful tools are a part of the foundational learning in all areas is the focus of this session. Research, history, and connections to multiple skills will be shared by presenter and participants.

*Speaker: Sharon Jackson*

*Audience: MDO*

#### Using Picture Books to Teach Math

This session will use an interactive, hands-on format to familiarize participants with a rubric for evaluating picture books to be used in mathematics instruction. The rubric emphasizes accuracy, visual and verbal appeal, connections, audience, and the "wow" factor. We will practice with the rubric and then brainstorm lesson ideas based upon the high-quality picture books they discover. I will also provide participants with more than 20 literacy-based mathematics activities & an annotated bibliography of high quality children's literature with mathematical content.

*Speaker: Carrie Cutler*

*Audience: MDO/Preschool*

#### Terrific Transitions

Ahhhh! Transitions! One of the scariest words in a pre-school teacher's vocabulary! I believe that transitions can be some of the most fun & meaningful moments with children. We are going to change those transitions from terrifying to TERRIFIC!

*Speaker: Lori Buxton*

*Audience: MDO/Preschool*

#### The Teaching Touch

Jesus was the master teacher and he made learning REAL. In this interactive and experiential workshop you will learn how to teach through interactivity, senses, affirmation, and personalized education.

*Speaker: Dr. Rick Chromey*

*Audience: MDO/Preschool*



## Session 1 Workshops (continued)

9:30—10:20 am

### Fine Motor Skills . . . Write Out of the Box!

Engaging and hands-on presentation of the fine motor development of young children 3-6 years old. This session contains essential, rarely addressed information for educators of all young children, which supports pencil grasp and pre-writing development across the curriculum. Activities & techniques are ready to use in the classroom tomorrow!

*Speaker: Marianne Gibbs*

*Audience: Preschool*

### Object Lessons

Offered in this workshop are Eye Catching Object Lessons that will most definitely keep the attention of youngsters and adults alike! There will be no more sleeping in your class!

*Speaker: Gene Bubba Wright*

*Audience: Preschool*

### From Loving to Learning

How can we deepen the bonds of love in our homes and in our classrooms? In order for children to learn at their highest capacity, they must have strong relationships with their teachers and classmates. How can we plan our day to ensure that these bonds are being made? Scripture teaches that, "The greatest of these is love." Join us as we talk about specific activities that will help us to intentionally build those relationships even with our youngest children.

*Speaker: Courtney Osborne*

*Audience: Preschool*

### Kids With Differences

Special needs kids need special care. It is essential that all children have successes in life. This workshop can help your facility be prepared to host and work with special needs children. You can make the difference by being prepared.

*Speaker: Albert Wright*

*Audience: Preschool*

### Yee Haw!

A round-up of great books for children on Texas, rodeos, cowboys, and cowgirls! A great resource for teaching about the west with special emphasis on Texas!

*Speaker: Judy Staley*

*Audience: Preschool*

### Let's Process Art

Art is not only about making projects — it's about exploring materials, creative expression and experimenting with new ideas! Children don't always have to end up with a perfect product. Let's explore how to implement process-focused art explorations into the early childhood classroom.

*Speaker: Kendolyn Pope*

*Audience: Preschool*

### Brain Based Basic Training

Are there some basic steps in training a child that would apply to any situation? Absolutely! Many times we want to jump to a consequence or a punishment when the child has not been given the skills! Join Lauren as she shares the brain based steps to training a child in the most effective way. You will see results!

*Speaker: Lauren Osborne*

*Audience: Preschool*

### Take Them to the Rock!

Emotions are all over the place in my classroom. How can I teach young children to handle the world when it does not go their way? Children learn best through props. Setting up a prayer area in your classroom/home can be a great step in helping the children (and everyone else) learn to take their upsets to Jesus! Join us at this workshop to learn how!

*Speaker: Peggy Osborne*

*Audience: Preschool*

## Session 2 Workshops

10:30 — 11:20 am

### The 15 Invaluable Laws of Growth

We invest thousands of hours & dollars promoting growth in our teams, but precious little on ourselves. Based on the best-selling book by John Maxwell, this session will challenge us not to settle for "good enough" but instead to press on & realize our full potential. Maxwell encourages us to be the leaders we are called to be.

*Speaker: Lori Buxton*

*Audience: Directors*

### Infant & Toddler Development, Part 2

(Continuation of Session 1 Workshop) The early years of life are critical to who we become later in life! The physical, mental, and social/emotional health of every person begins to develop at birth as our bodies grow quickly, our brains experience enormous activity and we begin to build trusting relationships with those around us! Let's discuss the who, what, when, where and how of infant/toddler development!

*Speaker: Kara Gore*

*Audience: MDO*

### Happy Kids = Happy Parents

What prevents children from being happy at school? We all want excited participants & kids that are eager to come to school. This session will help teachers eliminate parent concerns by providing them with happy children!

*Speaker: Tym Smith*

*Audience: MDO/Preschool*

### Skills for School: Partnering with Parents for Success

Partnering for specific steps for the happy & successful entry into school are an important way for early care systems to support families. This session will provide an overview of skills for children, as well as strategies for teachers & parents to use together, to prepare for the important journey into structured education.

*Speaker: Sharon Jackson*

*Audience: MDO*

### Schedules, Routines, & Transitions — Oh, My! Developmentally Appropriate Classroom Environments

Find out how classroom set-up affects learning & motivation. Learn how to establish a sense of community through realistic expectations, class rules, & hands-on tasks. We'll view pictures of organized, child-centered classrooms & some that aren't so great!

*Speaker: Carrie Cutler*

*Audience: MDO/Preschool*

### Roots & Fruits

Learning happens, but how? Is it by plan or planting? Is it by gimmicks or guidance? In this insightful workshop we will investigate the parable of the soils to discover how learning is organic & driven by human needs of grace, community, empowerment, dignity, pleasure, & security.

*Speaker: Dr. Rick Chromey*

*Audience: MDO/Preschool*

### Shapes, Symbols, & Scissors Skills Sequenced for Success!

This collaborative & interactive session focuses on documentation & assessment methods for handwriting readiness & scissor skill proficiency. Enhance parent conference interactions, & your professional articulation of students' progress with objective & meaningful information produced from these methods.

*Speaker: Marianne Gibbs*

*Audience: Preschool*

### Music

Offered in this workshop is music that will teach children about the King of Kings in an extremely exciting way! If your kids have been up late the night before — and they are dragging into class — they will be dragging no more after you lead them in a few of these worship songs!

*Speaker: Gene Bubba Wright*

*Audience: Preschool*

### Attitude Determines Altitude

Is your staff morale suffering due to rising stress levels in school today? This module demonstrates how teachers can maintain a positive attitude, as well as affect their co-workers by giving a step-by-step process to change everyone's way of thinking. Knowing how to diffuse a situation is imperative!

*Speaker: Albert Wright*

*Audience: Preschool*

### Could There Really Be PEACE In My Classroom?

God has established so many patterns in our world and there is such order! How can this knowledge affect me in the classroom and/or at home with my children? Can it help lead us to peace? Join us as we look at this concept of bringing order and peace to our classrooms and homes through some very simple steps that can turn chaos into cooperation!

*Speaker: Courtney Osborne*

*Audience: Preschool*

### Connecting Our Favorite Stories with Math & Science

Story time is often a teacher's favorite time of the day, and science or math might be a least favorite. Learn how to extend classic stories into simple math and science lessons that can be taught quickly with minimal prep and supplies. Favorite stories can be wonderful starting points for lessons across the curriculum!

*Speaker: Kendolyn Pope*

*Audience: Preschool*

### From Babbling to Brilliance

In this fun workshop the participants will see how easy it can be to develop the vocabularies & language expression in young children. Specific ideas on how to use rhyme, music, modeling, & reading will be practiced during this session. The group will also have fun playing with challenging words that young children can learn when presented in a developmentally appropriate way! Music, movement, & videos will be used during this session!

*Speaker: Lauren Osborne*

*Audience: Preschool*

### I Want the Fruit to Flourish!

Do you want to see more kindness, gentleness, & goodness in your classroom? Join us as we take a look at how we can actually train our children to bear good fruit. . . The fruit of the spirit! In this brain-based approach, the climate of the classroom can be noticeably changed as we intentionally teach the children what each fruit looks like in action!

*Speaker: Peggy Osborne*

*Audience: Preschool*

### Yee Haw!

(Repeat of Session 1 Workshop) A round-up of great books for children on Texas, rodeos, cowboys, and cowgirls! A great resource for teaching about the west with special emphasis on Texas!

*Speaker: Judy Staley*

*Audience: Preschool*

## Session 3 Workshops

11:30 am — 12:20 pm

**NOTE: Lunch 1 is served during this time period.**

### A Day in the Life of a Toddler

Toddlers are interesting, unique, & fun little people! They are experiencing difficult physical challenges & important developmental milestones. Additionally, they lack crucial social skills & need extremely specific environments! Through humor & hands-on fun, we will put ourselves in their shoes. Get ready to be 2 years old — again!

*Speaker: Kara Gore*

*Audience: MDO*

### Music for Little Ones!

Are you ready to get energized? Come to this high energy workshop that will introduce ways to help keep those little one's attention through a variety of popular songs that keep kids enthused and excited to participate in music. You don't need to be a strong singer to teach children how much fun music, movement, and learning can be!

*Speaker: Shelley Akins*

*Audience: MDO*

### Quality Interactions:

#### Conversation. . . Connection. . . Competence

Children learn from what they hear no matter their age. How we encourage them to converse with others in their

world is an important support for appropriate development and learning. This session will discuss how to make the time we spend with our children a productive, positive, and practical influence.

*Speaker: Sharon Jackson*

*Audience: MDO/Preschool*

### Picking the Right Battles With Children

Much of our time is spent in battles that should have never been started & just can't be won! This is not an ideal way to spend your day in the classroom! We will take a look at triggers, both ours & those of the children in our care, & decide together how we can avoid unnecessary conflict in our classroom.

*Speaker: Lori Buxton*

*Audience: MDO/Preschool*

### Tips & Tricks for Everyday Teaching

Come and see new tips and tricks to implement in your classroom. The K-Crew will cover daily routines, smooth transitions, making math really "count", technology tips, and lots more! Teachers will leave this session excited and ready to put these ideas into practice. Participants are encouraged to bring their iPads, iPhones and other "Smart" devices.

*Speakers: Bonnie Jackson/K-Crew*

*Audience: MDO/Preschool*

## Session 3 Workshops (continued)

11:30 am — 12:20 pm

### Sharing Scripture With Science

Science is a method used to build & organize knowledge & understanding. Why not use science to help children build & organize an understanding of scripture? Children & adults find science amazing; it grabs their attention right away. Once you have the children's attention, it's time to share something biblically sound from the experiment. You & the children will be able to remember so much about God's Truth because science keeps the lesson developmentally appropriate, engaging, & fun!

*Speaker: Melissa McKenzie*

*Audience: Preschool*

### The Role of a Teacher

You can make or break a student's impression of what school is all about. It can be a place they look forward to coming or they can dread it. Research has shown that a child learns best by making connections between what they already know in their world & the concepts they learn in school. Great training can help you help them make the connections. This module is wonderful for new teachers or first-year teachers. Essential concepts prepare children for a life-time of learning.

*Speaker: Albert Wright*

*Audience: Preschool*

## Session 4 Workshops

12:30 — 1:20 pm

**NOTE:** Lunch 2 is served during this time period.

### Understanding Kid Culture

What's your tech? Did you grow up on black & white television & vinyl records? Or cable & cassettes? Today's kids have gone digital & this interactive, experimental workshop helps early childhood professionals navigate postmodern culture through the SPIRIT perspective & provides understanding for how culture changes & changes children.

*Speaker: Dr. Rick Chromey*

*Audience: Directors*

### Help! I've Lost Control & I Can't Get It Back!

This is a topic based on Harry Wong's, The First Days of School & other ideas for classroom management — not discipline — management!

*Speaker: Judy Staley*

*Audience: MDO*

### Let's Process Art

(Repeat of Session 1 workshop) Art is not only about making projects — it's about exploring materials, creative expression and experimenting with new ideas! Children don't always have to end up with a perfect product. Let's explore how to implement process-focused art explorations into the early childhood classroom.

*Speaker: Kendolyn Pope*

*Audience: MDO*

### Making God Real to Toddlers & Preschoolers

God seeks to make Himself known to all persons of all ages through any means. Young children — infants through preschool — are no exception; we just need to know how a child learns about God. Toddlers & Preschoolers aren't grown-ups, so let's not try to teach them about God the way that we teach grown-ups. Participants will gain an understanding of how infants through preschoolers see God & how to help these young children understand & know God.

*Speaker: Melissa McKenzie*

*Audience: MDO/Preschool*

### Movement in the Early Childhood Classroom

Kids gotta move! Find out how to incorporate movement into transitions, routines, & all areas of the curriculum. Even the campus music & movement teacher will come away from this workshop with lots of new ideas for helping kids learn to move & move to learn!

*Speaker: Carrie Cutler*

*Audience: MDO/Preschool*

### Taking Interactions to the Next Level

This advanced session is designed for veteran caregivers who are looking to take interactions above & beyond what is expected. Come with an open mind & be ready to WOW your parents!

*Speaker: Tym Smith*

*Audience: MDO/Preschool*

### Object Lessons

(Repeat of Session 1 Workshop) Offered in this workshop are Eye Catching Object Lessons that will most definitely keep the attention of youngsters and adults alike! There will be no more sleeping in your class!

*Speaker: Gene Bubba Wright*

*Audience: Preschool*

### Fine Motor Skills. . . Write Out of the Box!

(Repeat of Session 1 Workshop) Engaging & hands-on presentation of the fine motor development of young children 3-6 years old. This session contains essential, rarely addressed information for educators of all young children, which supports pencil grasp & pre-writing development across the curriculum.

*Speaker: Marianne Gibbs*

*Audience: Preschool*

### Tips & Tricks for Everyday Teaching

(Repeat of Session 3 Workshop) Come & see new tips and tricks to implement in your classroom. The K-Crew will cover daily routines, smooth transitions, making math really "count", technology tips, and lots more! Teachers will leave this session excited & ready to put these ideas into practice.

*Speakers: Bonnie Jackson/K-Crew*

*Audience: Preschool*



**Remember:** Last minute cancellations will be posted outside the session rooms and highlighted in our morning announcements. Some of your chosen sessions might be full, but be aware that some of the workshops will be repeated. We recommend that you have an alternative workshop already chosen in advance for each session time. In fairness to all participants, saving more than one seat in a session is prohibited.



**Leading With Style**

Leadership is influence. And effective leaders recognize their personal style for guiding others. This insightful & helpful learning session explores the four types of leaders (game show host, chef, stage manager, & counselor) & provides helpful hints to maximize your influence as well as secrets to motivate those within the other styles. If your leadership battery needs a re-charge, this interactive workshop is just the ticket!

*Speaker: Dr. Rick Chromey*

*Audience: Directors*

**Emotional Development in Young Children**

How young children experience & interpret the world around them influences their sense of security, confidence, self-image, & much more! We will discuss responsive caregiving, how to help children deal with challenges, & the importance of discussing “feelings” with even the youngest of children. Emotionally healthy children grow up to become compassionate, self-confident, & empowered adults!

*Speaker: Kara Gore*

*Audience: MDO*

**Help! I've Lost Control & I Can't Get It Back!**

(Repeat of Session 4 Workshop) This is a topic based on Harry Wong's, The First Days of School & other ideas for classroom management — not discipline — management!

*Speaker: Judy Staley*

*Audience: MDO*

**Communicating with EEE's: Finding the Way to Build Relationships with Families**

Staff are key elements in building strong relationships between families & programs. This presentation is an overview of positive steps to take & solutions for challenges. Ideas shared from the participants will be the focus of the session with opportunities for practice & reflection built in.

*Speaker: Sharon Jackson*

*Audience: MDO/Preschool*

**Learning to Play Well with Others**

Teamwork. Teamwork doesn't happen by accident. Real team players make decisions every day about their attitude, their contribution, their role & their goals. When we work as a team, we share both the work & the reward & are able to bless the children in our care & our community with our accomplishments.

*Speaker: Lori Buxton*

*Audience: MDO/Preschool*

**Supervision & Risk Management**

This session is designed for the veteran teacher & will go over advanced strategies to enhance supervision & maintain a safe environment.

*Speaker: Tym Smith*

*Audience: MDO/Preschool*

**Music for Little Ones!**

(Repeat of Session 3 Workshop) Are you ready to get energized? Come to this high energy workshop that will introduce ways to help keep those little one's attention through a variety of popular songs that keep kids enthused and excited to participate in music.

*Speaker: Shelley Akins*

*Audience: Preschool*

**Balloons**

In this workshop, you will learn how to do two or three simple balloon creations — like a dog, sword, & bumble bee! As you learn these simple balloon creations — you will also be given a lesson to teach God's Word with each.

*Speaker: Gene Bubba Wright*

*Audience: Preschool*

**Errorless Learning. . . Who Knew?**

This session involves significant self-reflection and interaction using a strategy for reflective learning called Errorless Learning. The session engages learners in a meta-cognitive approach to assessing their own teaching strategies and shares a new way to evoke children's esteem during the process of acquiring academic mastery. Like no other, this session is full of surprises for you about you!

*Speaker: Marianne Gibbs*

*Audience: Preschool*

**Achievement Motivation**

Kids love to accomplish goals. This session teaches you how to motivate your kids with positive & fun methods of achievement. When they experience success, it is invaluable to their self-esteem. With each success, they will be motivated to achieve the next goal you have set for them. Kids thrive on positive reinforcement. Be that force!

*Speaker: Albert Wright*

*Audience: Preschool*

**Counting & Beyond:****Making Preschool Math Fun & Engaging**

I know I should be teaching more than just counting, but what topics are appropriate for preschool? Find out how measurement, algebra, geometry, & graphing support early learning in math. We'll keep it hands-on with lots of engaging activities like number sculptures, shish-kabob patterns, & post-it note quilts!

*Speaker: Carrie Cutler*

*Audience: Preschool*

**Connecting Our Favorite Stories with Math & Science**

(Repeat of Session 2 Workshop) Story time is often a teacher's favorite time of the day, and science or math might be a least favorite. Learn how to extend classic stories into simple math and science lessons that can be taught quickly with minimal prep and supplies. Favorite stories can be wonderful starting points for lessons across the curriculum!

*Speaker: Kendolyn Pope*

*Audience: Preschool*

**Tips & Tricks for Everyday Teaching**

(Repeat of Session 3 & 4 Workshops) Come & see new tips and tricks to implement in your classroom. The K-Crew will cover daily routines, smooth transitions, making math really “count”, technology tips, and lots more! Teachers will leave this session excited & ready to put these ideas into practice.

*Speakers: Bonnie Jackson/K-Crew*

*Audience: Preschool*

**God & Nature**

In the beginning, God created the heavens & the earth (Genesis 1:1 NIV). Take a step outside & look around — every intricate, beautiful detail of the natural world was put into its place by God. It is in nature that children have the opportunity to feel that innate desire to be closer to other living things as they learn, explore, create, & invent without the boundaries of classroom walls. As early childhood educators, we have countless opportunities to each children about God through what we see & find in nature. This session explains the importance of providing natural spaces & experiences for young children, as well as practical ideals for connecting those experience with the Creator.

*Speaker: Melissa McKenzie*

*Audience: Preschool*



# **Winter Preschool Teachers Adventure Conference**

*January 24, 2015*

## **Registration Form**

**Please Print!**

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**School or Organization** \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Position (circle one):**    Director/Admin. Staff            Preschool Teacher            MDO Teacher

I would like to obtain .7 CEU's from Texas Southern for my attendance at PTAC.

I understand that my PTAC Registration Form, CEU Form, and payment of \$25.00

must reach The Adventure Preschool by NLT **January 16, 2015**.         Yes         No

Registration Deadline is **January 16, 2015**, or until full.

**\*\*\*Registration fees are NON-REFUNDABLE,  
but are transferable\*\*\***

Payment: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

CEU

**Conference Payment: \$ 80.00**

*Send completed forms and make checks payable to:*  
**The Adventure Preschool**  
**10555 Spring Cypress, Houston, TX 77070**

*Questions may be directed to The Adventure Programs at 281-378-4080.  
Email : ptac@windwoodpc.org*



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Continuing Education Registration Form
Preschool Teachers Adventure Conference 2015
PTAC Winter 2015

Student Registration Information

Last Name: First Name:
Previous Last Name: Date of Birth:
Phone No. Home: Cell:
Address: City: State: Zip:
Mailing Address: (if different)
Gender: M F

Table with 4 columns: Course Title, Location, Start Date, Course Fee. Row 1: PTAC Winter Conference 2015, Offsite, 1/24/2015, \$25.00

Student Signature:

CEU's are only available if you attend all 7 hours of the PTAC conference.

Check in and Check out will be required on the day of the conference.

Please make checks out to The Adventure Programs and attach to this form and the PTAC registration form.

Forms must be received no later than January 16th 2015 to receive CEU's

PTAC Winter Conference 2015 hosted by The Adventure Programs

10555 Spring Cypress Rd., Houston, TX 77070

281 378 4080, Fax: 281 370 4081



# Workshop Leaders



**Shelly Akins** musical career started at the age of 8, performing at local theatre groups, as well as film & television. After touring with many musical groups, she & her husband, Paul, began leading worship together in Mission Viejo, California. After relocating to Houston, Shelly's love for children led her to a career teaching music at Christian private schools.

**Lori Buxton** has been involved in Early Care and Education since 1995 and has served children and their families on many levels, including classroom teacher, trainer, children's pastor and executive child care administrator. Lori is the founder of the Gulf Coast Directors Network in southeast Texas.

**Carrie Cutler** is a frequent presenter at local, regional, and national conferences on mathematics and early childhood education. She is also an adjunct professor in the College of Education at the University of Houston, and at the University of Houston-Downtown.

**Marianne Gibbs**, MOT,OTR, is an occupational therapist & education speaker. She is a national speaker & the creator of *"Fine Motor Skills. . . Write Out of the Box."*

**Kara Gore** has worked in the field of ECE for over 13 years. Kara currently works as the Director at Saint Mark Lutheran Preschool, an adjunct instructor at Brazosport College, an early childhood expert witness/legal consultant for TASA & has been a public speaker since 2006.

**Bonnie Jackson** has an M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education and is currently a Prekindergarten teacher with Huffman ISD. She has served in both public & private schools, both as a teacher and as a speech therapist. She is a member of the K-Crew — a team that presents practical and proven ideas to teach teachers how to teach "smarter" not harder — practical because they use them in their own classrooms, and proven because they've recorded the successes of their own students.

**Sharon Jackson** has directed a successful birth to five Head Start program for 17 years. Sharon's background includes work in public and Montessori education, as well as for profit, in home, faith based and military child care in the United States and overseas. She has also served as an NAEYC validator, a leader in faith based settings, and an active community child care trainer and advocate.

**Courtney Osborne** taught kindergarten and pre-kindergarten for six years before staying home with her twins. She enjoyed her years in the classroom in private school, public school, and home bound student instruction. She feels that educating children in Biblical principles is vitally important. Courtney has enjoyed serving in the youth ministry, children's ministry, and teaching kindergarten for her church's home school enrichment program.

**Melissa McKenzie** is an Early Childhood Professional committed to making learning a joyful journey for both children & adults. She has worked with children of all ages for over 17

years, integrating music, movement & method to help each child grow. Melissa is a member of the Texas Trainer Registry & she has recently partnered with Nabor House Community to provide the *Mighty Messages* for their non-profit Christian childcare centers, with plans to publish her curriculum.

**Lauren Osborne** is a 2004 graduate of Texas A&M University and earned her Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Texas at Arlington. She taught school in the Dallas/Fort Worth area for six years and has been using Conscious Discipline® strategies in her professional and personal life since 2005. Lauren is also a Conscious Discipline® Certified Instructor. She completed her training in the spring of 2008 and is now actively presenting workshops for educators, parents and churches.

**Peggy Osborne** has been in the field of education for over 25 years. Peggy spent fourteen years in the elementary classroom teaching pre-k, kindergarten, second and fourth grades. From 1998 through 2010 she was an administrator within the College Station Independent School District's Early Childhood Department in College Station, TX. As a Conscious Discipline® Certified Instructor, she trained the CSISD Early Childhood teachers in Conscious Discipline®.

**Kendolyn Pope** has worked in the field of early childhood education for over 14 years. With both a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education/Child Development & a Master's in Museum Education, she brings her experiences as a nanny, classroom teacher, & Director of Curriculum & Instruction at the Children's Museum of Houston to her current work as the Director of Faith Lutheran Day School.

**Tym Smith** began working in the Early Childhood Development field in 1986. After spending more than five years in the classroom, he advanced to fill various positions, including Education Specialist, Assistant Director, Site manager, and then, Director. Tym has served as an NAEYC Validator since 2002 and is a certified trainer.

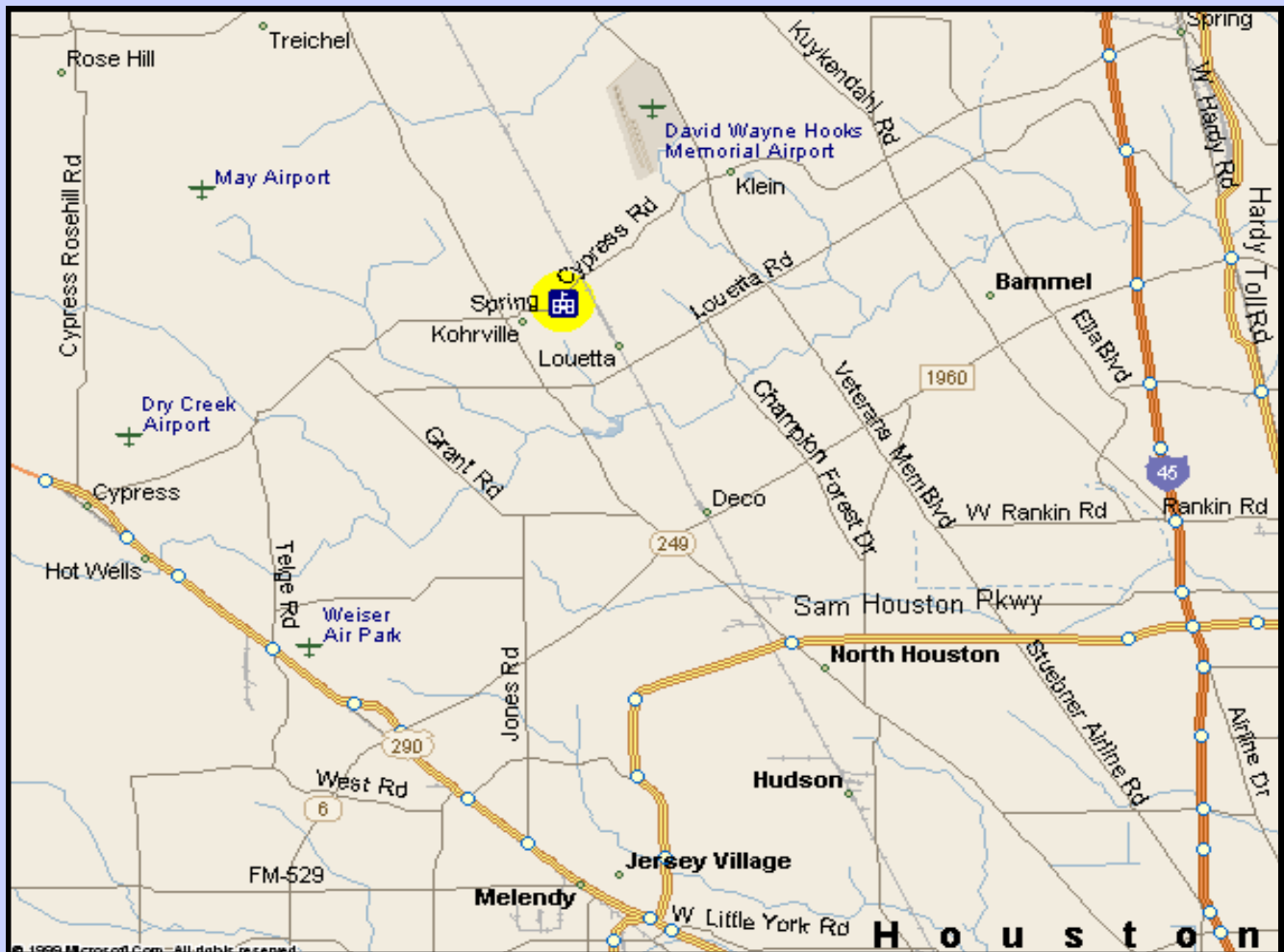
**Judy Staley** was an elementary school librarian for 30 years before retiring & has been doing presentations on the importance of early literacy for 14 years. She was voted Teacher of the Year three times during her career — she loves children, books, & getting teachers excited about reading to their students!

**Albert Wright** has spent the last few years leading North & South regions of Dallas/Fort Worth as the School Age Education Specialist. He has successfully inspired numerous pre-school & after school programs to grow their enrollment. Albert is also a working expert in helping programs get accredited by NAC and NAA, assisting in validation.

**Gene Bubba Wright** has served as a Children's Pastor for over 21 years. He now travels the country doing Adult Revivals, Children's Camps, VBS and a variety of programs in churches & public schools.

# Conference Location

**The Adventure Preschool &  
The Windwood Christian Academy**  
*Ministries of Windwood Presbyterian Church*  
**10555 Spring Cypress Road**  
**Houston, TX 77070**  
**Phone: 281-378-4080**



## Directions

The easiest approach to our facility is to follow State Highway 249 (also called the Tomball Parkway) west towards Tomball. Take the Spring Cypress Road exit and turn right on Spring Cypress. Windwood Presbyterian Church is about one mile down on the right.

