

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL KINDERGARTEN CONFERENCE: PLANTING SEEDS FOR SUCCESS

“What Teaching Is All About”

July 9 & 10, 2014

Conference Registration Brochure

Featured Presenters:

Kurt Schwengel

Kindergarten Teacher

Santa Monica, CA

“Rock and Roll Kindergarten”

“Technology in the Classroom”

Dr. Debbie Silver

Educational Speaker

Melissa, TX

“Drumming to the Beat of Different Marchers”

Featured Authors:

Jeff Kurrus - “Seven Simple Questions That Can Make Writers of
Kindergartners to PhD’s”

Jim Aylesworth - “The Teacher Who Became an Author”



NEBRASKA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Holiday Inn Convention Center
Kearney, Nebraska

Conference Sponsor:

Nebraska Department of Education
Office of Early Childhood

Conference Registration Fee: \$120.00

Important Payment Information:

All conference fees are expected with your registration form. Make checks payable to NDE Early Childhood Training Center (Federal ID# 47-0491233). Purchase orders will be accepted. Registration forms will be returned to participants at the conference as requested for receipt of payment.

Refunds:

Refunds must be requested in writing and will be assessed a \$20.00 processing fee. Substitutions will be accepted. Cancellations will not be refunded after July 3, 2013; **no exceptions**.

Registration Information:

Preregistration is not required for individual sessions. Be sure to include an e-mail address for confirmation of your registration. If you are concerned about your registration, you may call 402-557-6880.

Lodging:

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Kearney Holiday Inn & Convention Center. The conference room rate is \$94.95 plus tax for one to four people. Reservations must be identified as being part of the Kindergarten Conference. Reservations can be made by calling (308) 237-5971. Other motels are also available in Kearney.

Meals:

The Kindergarten Conference registration includes continental breakfast and a luncheon on Wednesday and Thursday. Refreshments will also be provided during all breaks.

Vendors:

We will have a variety of different vendors for the conference. Come browse and purchase materials related to the early care and education field.

Conference Courtesy

To enhance the enjoyment of every participant, please observe the following tips:

- No smoking is allowed in any of the workshop or general session rooms.
- Please respect other conference participants and place your cell phone on vibrate mode or turn it off during sessions. If you should receive a call, please leave the meeting to take the call in a commons area.
- Please refrain from texting during sessions.
- The planning committee has made every effort to create a conference that is developmentally appropriate for the adults for whom it is designed. While families are welcome at the conference, our conference sessions are not designed for children.

Dress in layers as the climate will vary due to weather and differences in temperature experienced throughout the conference facility.

For additional information about the conference, please contact Mary Beth Pistillo at 402-557-6893 or marybeth.pistillo@nebraska.gov. For questions regarding your registration, please contact Kim Schamp at 402-557-6881 or kim.schamp@nebraska.gov.

Featured Speakers and Authors

Kurt Schwengel - Kindergarten Teacher, Santa Monica, CA



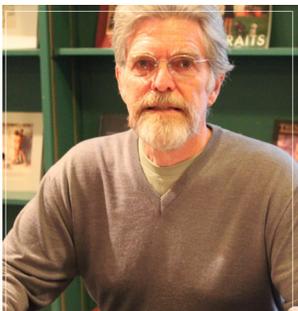
Kurt Schwengel has been teaching Kindergarten since 1995. He has created his own original curriculum which he implements in his classroom. Kurt has received the NBC Crystal Apple Award, SMMUSD Teacher of the Year, was named the e.How.com “Education Expert” and is a Google Certified Teacher. His Ted talk *Occupy Kindergarten* describes the grassroots movement to “bring the fun back to Kindergarten.”

Educational Speaker, Melissa, TX - Dr. Debbie Silver

With 30 years spent as a teacher, staff development instructor, and university professor, Debbie Silver doesn't just know her way around the classroom-she is familiar with the challenges educators face at every level, from kindergarten to college. She travels the world giving presentations on how teachers can interact with students on a deeper level. She firmly believes that teachers need to be having fun and staying in touch with their passion; to make their biggest impact in the classroom!



Jim Aylesworth - Children's Author, Chicago, IL



Picture book author Jim Aylesworth tells his stories with generous doses of loud sounds, rhythms and rhymes. His experiences as a teacher have taught him that these are the elements children like in a story, especially when it is being read aloud. Jim's experiences as a teacher eventually led him to writing children's books such as *Old Black Fly*, *Hanna's Hog*, and *Country Crossing*. He loves to share his journey from teacher to author as he travels around the country.

Author, Gretna, NE - Jeff Kurrus

Jeff Kurrus is the author of the 2013-14 Golden Sower Award finalist “Have You Seen Mary?” He is also the associate editor of NEBRASKAland Magazine. He is currently working on a new book “The Tale of Jacob Swift”, and will share the work that he has done with one kindergarten classroom this past year. He currently lives in Gretna with his wife and two children.



Tuesday, July 8th

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Early Bird Check-In/Registration

Conference participants will have the opportunity to pick up conference materials and name tags in the convention registration area and beat the Wednesday morning crowd!

Wednesday, July 9th

7:45 - 8:45 a.m. Check-In/Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:45 - 9:00 a.m. Welcome & Announcements

Morning Keynote

9:00 - 11:45 a.m.

“Rock and Roll Kindergarten” Kurt Schwengel

Join Kurt on a journey through his entire year long original curriculum, “Rock and Roll Kindergarten”. We will explore some new and exciting thematic units that include Dinosaurs, Mystery, Golf, Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Star Wars, Racing, Pizza Restaurant, Construction, Japan and Pirates! This is no pilot program, Kurt has been teaching this curriculum since 1995!

11:45 - 2:45 p.m. Lunch

1:00 - 3:45 p.m. Technology in the Classroom!

Kurt Schwengel

Join Kurt as we explore the use of Smartboards, Kindles, iPads and iPods in the Kindergarten classroom. Kurt will also spend some time on technology acquisition (grant writing) so that you can obtain any technologies that you do not have yet.

Thursday, July 10th

Breakfast Keynote

7:30 - 9:00 a.m.

**“A Year With Who?”
Jeff Kurrus**

In the past year, I have worked on writing with students from kindergarten to PhD's, and have seen that everyone struggles with coming up with writing topics. I have also seen that very young writers (K-3) have a high desire to write, but this desire starts to decrease in 4th grade. So we must first give young writers the tools to write, then keep them interested by teaching them how to revise, how to work with criticism, how to keep their audience in mind, and how to, most of all, have fun while writing. Viewers will gain additional motivation to teach writing in an entertaining and inspiring environment.

9:00 - 9:15 a.m. Visit the Vendors, Book signing by Jeff Kurrus and Jim Aylesworth

**9:15 - 11:45 a.m. Drumming to the Beat of Different Marchers
Dr. Debbie Silver**

Based on her best-selling book, *Drumming to the Beat of Different Marchers - Finding the Rhythm for Differentiating Learning*, Debbie Silver offers her wisdom and humor to answer the question, “How do we engage students from all backgrounds and experiences?” She demonstrates how to capitalize on student strengths, and illicit greater achievement gains and higher motivation among students.

Lunch Keynote

11:45 - 1:00 p.m.

**“The Teacher Who Became An Author”
Jim Aylesworth**

Jim Aylesworth was a first grade teacher for twenty-five years. During that time, he read to his children nearly every single day, and he grew to love the books himself every bit as much as the children did. Here, Jim will describe how his many years as a teacher and reader gradually changed him into an author of more than thirty children's books.

Registration Form

Seventeenth Annual Kindergarten Conference: Planting Seeds for Success
Use one registration form per participant; make copies if necessary

Registration Fee: \$120.00

Registrations will not be accepted without payment or purchase order

Registrations due by Thursday July 3rd

Participant Information (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY OR TYPE):

Name: _____

Title: _____

Agency: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Summer Phone: _____

Email: _____

*Confirmations will only be sent by e-mail.
Please include a year round accessible
account.*

Program Type: ___ Pre/Kindergarten or Head Start ___ Kindergarten ___ Other

If you have any special accommodations or dietary needs please list: _____

Once complete, please mail form with payment (**payable to NDE Early Childhood Training Center**) or purchase order to:

Kindergarten Conference Registration
NDE Early Childhood Training Center
6949 South 110th Street
Omaha, NE 68128-5722
Fax: 402-557-6890

For Office Use Only:

Date rec'd _____ Check# _____ PO# _____