



**BJE BEBE FEUERSTEIN SIMON
EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTE**

Growing Leaders

Monday, March 4, 2019

at Adat Ari El, 12020 Burbank Boulevard, Valley Village, CA

Opening Keynote

Presented by

Jonathan Mooney

The Gift: LD/ADHD Reframed

*Author of "Learning Outside the Lines"
and "The Short Bus: A Journey Beyond Normal"*



Dear Colleagues,

BJE helps over 140 affiliated schools and 2,500 educators provide high quality education to nearly 27,000 students in the greater Los Angeles community. As a unifying force in the community, BJE links a diverse educational system comprising a full spectrum of Jewish ideology and traditions. Through programs, services and scholarships, BJE enhances educational quality, encourages participation of children and families in Jewish education and helps make Jewish education more accessible.

Mark S. Berns, *President*

Gil Graff, Ph.D., *Executive Director*

Miriam Prum Hess, *Associate Director*

Rabbi Jim Rogozen, *Director*
Center for Excellence in Early Childhood
and Day School Education

Jaclyn Lafer, Ph.D., *Early Childhood Education*
Specialist

Claudine Douglas, Alana Levitt, *Co-Presidents*
BJE Early Childhood Directors' Network

I am thrilled to invite you to register for our 38th annual Early Childhood Institute. As BJE's Early Childhood Education Specialist, I have enjoyed meeting and engaging with many of you this year and look forward to our day of learning together in March!

This year we are focusing on the theme of Leadership. This can be seen through many lenses. For example: what kind of leader are you as a Director, as a teacher, how do you collaborate and strive to build learning communities, and how do we nurture leadership in young people?

This year we are again offering three learning sessions. We, in collaboration with the Spring Institute Planning committee, have strived to fill each session with workshops that will allow you to come together as a community and enrich your practice and thinking about the vital work of early childhood education.

Special thanks to Patrick Miller of Adat Ari El for his help in meeting our facility needs for this conference. We appreciate the efforts of the BJE staff in bringing this conference to fruition, especially Janice Tytell who guided and supported us through all of the organization needed to put the day together. Special thanks to the Early Childhood Directors' Network Co-Presidents, Alana Levitt and Claudine Douglas, and the Institute Planning Committee: Angie Bass, Claudine Douglas, Shayna Goldmann, Valerie Segall, Carly Rosenstein and Deborah Kaplan for providing guidance, input and direction in shaping and planning this special day.

Warmly,

Jaclyn

Jaclyn Lafer, PhD
BJE Early Childhood Education Specialist

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

DIRECTIONS

Adat Ari El, 12020 Burbank Boulevard, Valley Village

Adat Ari El is located just east of Laurel Canyon Boulevard on the south side of Burbank
Limited parking is available in the lot with a parking pass issued by BJE. Carpools are strongly advised. Street parking near the synagogue requires a permit.

PRE-REGISTRATION

NEW REGISTRATION PAYMENT POLICY

Pre-registration is available **online only** at <https://tinyurl.com/ECEInstituteRegistration> and must be **completed** by Friday, **February 8, 2019**, in order to qualify for the BJE affiliated school early bird registration fee of **\$60.00 per person**. BJE affiliated schools registering **11-20 individuals qualify for reduced early bird fees of \$55 per person**. BJE affiliated schools registering **21 or more qualify for an early bird fee of \$50 per person**. **PLEASE NOTE: Payment is required at the time of registration by credit card or debit card only.**

WALK-IN

Registrations made **after February 8, 2019** will not be processed until the day of the Institute, and will be considered as **walk-in registration**. All walk-in registrants from BJE affiliated schools must pay **\$100.00** and workshops will be assigned the morning of the conference, based on space availability.

NON BJE-AFFILIATED SCHOOLS

All registrations completed by **February 8, 2019** from schools and guests not affiliated with BJE, must be accompanied by an early bird registration fee of \$85.00 per person. Those received after this deadline will be considered **non-affiliated walk-ins** and must pay **\$125** per person. Workshops will be assigned the morning of the conference based on space availability.

LUNCH

Boxed lunches are available for online pre-order, only at the time of registration, for \$12. Lunch purchases will not be available the day of the Institute. Those bringing their own lunch must bring dairy or pareve only – no meat allowed.

PAYMENT AND REFUND POLICY

Payment **MUST** be made by credit or debit card online. A 50% refund can be granted until February 15. **NO refunds will be allowed after February 15, 2019.** You may, however, send a substitute participant.

For further information, contact ECEInstitute@bjela.org, (323) 761-8623.

CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

8:15 AM - 9:00 AM	REGISTRATION AND SNACK
9:00 AM - 9:50 AM	WELCOME <i>Jaclyn Lafer, BJE Early Childhood Education Specialist</i>
	OPENING REMARKS <i>Mark S. Berns, President, BJE</i>
	EDUCATOR AWARD PRESENTATIONS BJE Lainer Distinguished Educator Awards BJE Smotrich Family Educator Awards <i>Dr. Gil Graff, Executive Director</i> <i>Rabbi Jim Rogozen, Director, Center for Excellence in Early Childhood and Day School Education</i>
	KEYNOTE: Jonathan Mooney <i>The Gift: LD/ADHD Reframed</i>
10:00 AM - 11:10 AM	WORKSHOP 1
11:20 AM – 12:30 PM	WORKSHOP 2
12:30 – 1:00	LUNCH and MUSIC JAM
1:10 – 2:15 PM	WORKSHOP 3
2:15 PM	Turn in Evaluation Forms

Keynote Address: The Gift: LD/ADHD Reframed

Learning disabilities (LD) and attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD) are profoundly paradoxical experiences. Often students with these academic and behavioral labels struggle profoundly in traditional settings. Yet emerging brain research suggests that many students labeled LD/ADHD have profound gifts for creative and visual thinking that go unrecognized in academic environments. As a result, many bright and gifted labeled students struggle with a devastating pattern of academic failure, learned helplessness, and low self-esteem.

This presentation tackles this paradox head on. In this presentation, Jonathan clearly outlines the research that validates a reframing of LD/ADHD as not a set of deficits or disorders but in fact, as cognitive gifts. He speaks honestly, based on his personal and professional experience, about the systemic and cultural barriers to validating these unique learning styles. Most importantly, in this practical presentation, Jonathan empowers teachers with concrete strategies to build a positive self-understanding in their students.

Jonathan Mooney, Author of *“Learning Outside the Lines”* and *“The Short Bus: A Journey Beyond Normal”*

WORKSHOPS 1 and 2

Participants will attend three workshops and must indicate their top three choices for each workshop period when registering. Workshops 1 and 2 are presented twice.

Sensory Strategies for Self-Regulation

Appropriate for ages 1-5

Each of us is a unique sensory being. We respond to what we feel, see, hear, touch and how we move differently. How we process sensory information influences how we self-regulate our emotions and behavior. Together, workshop participants will explore sensory processing as we learn about our own sensory profiles and seek to understand those of our young students. By the end of this workshop, participants will:

- Understand all 8 sensory systems (yes, there are 8!)
- Assemble a tool kit of strategies and activities to promote self-regulation at school
- Learn how to effectively introduce sensory tools to young children.

Leah Hiller, OT, Pediatric Occupational Therapist, Hiller Therapy

Leadership in a Musical Setting

Appropriate for ages 3-5

This workshop will explore ways to give children leadership opportunities during music time. Leading movement activities, call and response, solo singing with peers echoing and having a chance to lead the class in rhythm and story time provide wonderful opportunities to build confidence and self-esteem.

Kira Rappaport, MA, Music Specialist, Pressman Academy

Hebrew with Movement

Appropriate for all age groups

Adopting the concept of Hebrew Through Movement for ECC aged kids, making Hebrew learning fun and interactive.

Rabbi Daniel Sher, Youth and Family Rabbi, Kehillat Israel

Workshops 1 and 2 continued next page →

WORKSHOPS 1 and 2

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Play to Lead, and Lead to Play

Appropriate for 18 Months-6 Years

Playing provides opportunities to develop skills in communication, decision making, team building and so much more! “Follow the leader!” “Simon Says” and “ Mr. Fox” are just a few examples of simple playtime activities that offer public speaking, planning and organization. Pretend play builds children's understanding of emotion, which helps them regulate their feelings. Learning physical skills requires attention, patience, and perseverance. Sounds amazing, right?! But, are you wondering how to support your students in their efforts to acquire these skills from playtime? What if a child doesn't enjoy being the leader, or the mommy or the superhero? From the field or sandbox to the classroom and beyond, we will cover the science behind play, its role in leadership and the road to applying it pedagogically. Using concepts of physical literacy, unstructured and guided play we will be sitting, standing, and marching to experience the power of movement. Come ready to play!

Farrah Zweig, Early Childhood Physical Educator at Pressman Academy

Provocation vs Invitation: How do we introduce materials to children? **Appropriate for all ages**

Together we can unpack these words and see how they can be applied to the work in our classrooms. At the end of our time together in this session, we will create age appropriate provocations and invitations using Passover as the foundation of our curriculum and content.

Jenna Turner, Director of Early Childhood Professional Learning, Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago

Providing a Diverse and Inclusive Learning Environment For Early Learners

Appropriate for all age groups

Leaders of schools and classrooms set expectations and model behaviors for the families and children in their care. We agree, as teachers and heads of school, that striving for excellence is a critical component of how we manage our day-to-day practices. We can look to research in child development to support the need for exceptional learning environments for our young children--our children thrive in elementary school and beyond when we have helped them master the skill of “Learning to Learn.” This applies to all students, regardless of ability. As leaders in an educational setting we must adapt to the diverse needs of all the people we support: children, parents, colleagues, and ourselves. We will introduce a set of tools, applicable in any setting, that can help establish a growth-oriented mindset for your entire community. It starts with you!

Jessy Lichter Maret, Director of Early Childhood Center, Temple Israel of Hollywood

Liz Schwandt, Director of Developmental Programming, Silverlake JCC

Dare to Teach: Finding Your Inner Leader

Appropriate for all age groups

In this workshop we will explore the qualities of leadership that great teachers possess. We will discuss principles of leadership from Brene Brown and others, and discover how to incorporate them into our classrooms and ECC programs.

Sari Abrams, MA, Director, Parent and Child Education, Pressman Academy of Temple Beth Am

Workshop 3 begins next page →

WORKSHOP 3

**Participants must indicate their top three choices
for each workshop period when registering. Workshop 3 is presented once**

Jewish Values as the Foundation of Our Work

Appropriate for all age groups

Can we use core Jewish values to influence our work with the youngest of children and their families? YES! Together we will explore *Hachnasat Orchim*, welcoming guests and *Chessed*, kindness as values we can explore with young children through text study, material exploration, and literacy.

Jenna Turner, Director of Early Childhood Professional Learning Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago

Partnering with Parents: Sensory Processing and Self-Regulation Strategies

Appropriate for ages 1-5

How can parents and teachers work together to meet the real, challenging, and ongoing needs of the complex learning communities we call classrooms? As educators, we know that open and consistent communication between teachers and parents helps ensure student success. But it's just so hard to do! By the end of this workshop, participants will:

- Understand and value what parents and teachers can learn from each other
- Examine her/his own needs and biases to promote safe, attuned, and collaborative partnerships with parents
- Learn how to effectively engage in difficult conversations with parents, colleagues, and beyond
- Feel prepared for parent-teacher conferences

Leah Hiller, OT, Pediatric Occupational Therapist, Hiller Therapy

Teaching Journeys

Appropriate for all age groups

A panel of distinguished teachers, who have won the Lainer or Smotrich award in past years, will share their teaching journeys with you, and answer your questions or engage in discussion, with you. This is an opportunity to come together as a community, and do that thing that we all love to do, talk with colleagues and friends about teaching!

Rachel Klein, MA, Pressman Academy

Robyn Solovei, Temple Beth Hillel ECC

Shannon Rey, Temple Beth Hillel ECC

Francine Farkas, Pressman Academy

Workshop 3 continued next page →

WORKSHOP 3

Participants must indicate their top three choices for each workshop period when registering. Workshop 3 is presented once

From PowerPoint to Play, how to take the games back to your classroom

Appropriate for all age groups

Play research has been around for centuries. From comparing animal play to human play, play and its effect on the brain, play and how it effects a child's social/emotional/behavioral skills, and so much more... While staying current on the recent research and ideas is a great opportunity to improve one's knowledge and skills, sometimes it's challenging to take all that information and convert it into everyday classroom usage. Perhaps pieces are directly applied, but how do we take new and exciting material and continue to apply it in a unique way to operate at its best in the classroom. To improve play skills, you have to play! We will briefly explore the world of play in all its glory and then workshop through ideas and scenarios to provide you with take home plans to start applying these new activities the next day with your students. Come ready to brainstorm and play! PLEASE NOTE: This session is a different opportunity to learn about play than the morning workshop. Open to all attendees.

Farrah Zweig, Early Childhood Physical Educator at Pressman Academy

Classroom Teachers Leading an exploration of the outdoor classroom space, loose parts and small world play, and emerging literature everywhere!

Appropriate for all age groups

In this workshop, you will be led by a cohort of three classroom teachers from BJE affiliated ECC's on an exploration of **Loose Parts**, materials that can be moved, carried, combined, redesigned, lined up, and taken apart and put back together in multiple ways. The idea of 'loose parts' uses materials to empower a creative imagination.

Small World Play. Small world play is creating a life scene for the child to play with. You can use miniature items (such as miniature furniture or barn animals) in the environment you create for them to play with.

In addition, we will explore ways to integrate literature and love of books into all of your lessons and learning environments. And, there will be a presentation about one schools development and implementation of an outdoor classroom and how that affected the ECC community.

Yehudis Greenberg, Palisades Jewish Early Childhood Center
Jenna Rubin, MA, Pressman Academy

PRESENTERS

Jonathan Mooney is a writer and learning activist who did not learn to read until he was 12 years old. He is a graduate of Brown University's class of 2000 and holds an honors degree in English Literature. In 1997, as an undergraduate at Brown University, Jonathan co-founded Project Eye-To-Eye, a non-profit advocacy organization for students with learning differences. As the founding president and Executive Director, Jonathan grew the organization from an undergraduate project conceived in his dorm room into a national organization, which currently has 38 chapters in 20 states working with over 10,000 parents, educators, and students

With the publication of *Learning Outside The Lines* (now in its 18th printing) when he was 23, Jonathan has established himself as one of the foremost leaders in the neurodiversity and learning revolution. His second book, *The Short Bus: A Journey Beyond Normal* was published in the spring of 2007 to outstanding reviews in The New York Times Book Review, The Los Angeles Times, The Chicago Tribune and many other national publications. Both books are considered foundational texts in the disability rights movement, the inclusive education movement, and the learning revolution and are used in undergraduate and graduate program at universities and colleges across the country including Harvard's Graduate School of Education and Teachers College, Columbia University.

Jonathan is a highly sought after speaker on neurodiversity, education reform, the learning revolution, and creating college and career pathways for at risk youth. He has lectured in 43 states and three countries. He has been featured and quoted in/on The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, The Chicago Tribune, USA Today, HBO, NPR, ABC News, New York Magazine, The Washington Post, and The Boston Globe.

Sari Abrams, MA is Director of Parent and Child Education at Pressman Academy. She holds a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology. She has been at Pressman for 19 years. During that time she has taught two and three-year olds, taught Parent and Me classes, and, for the past 14 years has run the Pressman Parenting Institute. In her current position she is facilitating parenting programs, teaching parenting classes for parents of children in the ECC, Elementary and Middle Schools, teaching parent and me classes, mentoring new teachers and working closely with the ECC director and members of the Student Services division. Sari is also a member of the inaugural cohort of First 36 Fellows, a program of the BJE and Simms-Mann Institute. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband and has 3 sons, 2 daughters-in-law and a granddaughter.

Francine Farkas has been an Early Childhood Educator for 37 years, and 23 of those years have been spent teaching at Pressman Academy. She is a recipient of the Lainer Award and also received a third place award in a BJE sponsored ECC-High School Statewide Judaic curriculum competition in 1981. Francine feels very fortunate that she happened on a career that allows her to spend every day doing what she is passionate about.

Yehudis Greenberg has been a preschool teacher for over 20 years, and says that her passion for being with and motivating children has grown through time and experience. Her love for art and books has enriched her life and sharing it with the children has always been her goal. Going on Sunday trips to art museums and being in nature inspires Yehudis to connect learning in deep and meaningful ways

Leah Hiller, OT is a pediatric occupational therapist (OT), an educational consultant for public and independent schools, and a former Jewish day school teacher. In addition to providing OT services to children and young adults in her private practice, she offers parent education, mentors and trains teachers, and teaches at Hebrew Union College. She provides parents and educators like you with the strategies and evidence-based resources to help children thrive at home, school, and play. Leah's years of classroom experience and being a mom to two young daughters informs her OT practice. Leah lives in Los Angeles with her family, and her OT practice is located in her backyard!

PRESENTERS

Rachel Klein, MA was born in Israel to European Holocaust survivors. She immigrated to the United States when she was about 3 years old and lived in New York until family asked them to relocate to South Bend, Indiana where she was raised. Rachel moved to New Jersey to be married and received her B.A. in Special Education. Her first job was working with severely emotionally disturbed children. She eventually made her way to the west coast where her three children were born. In 2012 Rachel received her master's degree in counseling psychology. She has worked at a variety of Jewish schools in the area running a resource room in one, directing an early childhood camp for 8 years in another and teaching 4-year old's and 2-year old's. She has been at Pressman Academy now for 15 years teaching the 3-day transition class for 2-year old's as well as running the outdoor classroom and mentoring assistants.

Jessy Lichter Maret, MA has over 14 years of experience working in early childhood. She has chosen to work in this field because she loves being a part of a child's educational foundation. Jessy holds a Masters' degree in Applied Behavior Analysis, and is a certified special education teacher; additionally, Jessy served as an adjunct professor and mentor for Simmons College in Boston for 9 years in the graduate program for Behavior Analysis. One of the most integral pieces of Jessy's work within the field of early education is her passion for supporting her fellow teachers in their journey of lifelong learning.

Kira Rappaport, MA is in her 15th year as the music specialist at Pressman Academy, where she teaches "Parent & Me" Music, 10 weekly preschool classes and Kindergarten. She has an M.A. in Music Education from CSULA and a Bachelors of Music in Flute Performance from USC. In addition, she has completed all three levels of Orff Schulwerk teacher training, Dalcroze Eurhythmics teacher training and Mastership Certification in Edwin Gordon's Early Childhood Music Learning Theory. She regularly presents workshops to classroom teachers on the use of music in the classroom, including presentations at CAEYC and BEST Arts Conferences. Kira is currently a fellow in the "First 36 Project" powered by the Simms/Mann Institute and the BJE. In addition, she is writing music for Cuddle Bright, which is a Simms/Mann program promoting healthy parenting and separation rituals for caregivers and their children. Kira believes music is an invaluable tool in the early childhood classroom and is very passionate about and committed to providing classroom teachers with the tools to make music a regular part of their curriculum.

Shannon Nissan Rey is a native Angeleno, raised in Valley Village. Her Jewish education began at an early age and continued through high school giving her a solid foundation of strong Jewish values which she strives to pass along to the children at Temple Beth Hillel. Her education continued, receiving a BA in Sociology and continuing to expand her education in early childhood, including her work on a certificate program to become a director. In addition to her classroom work, Shannon serves as an enrichment and curriculum coordinator for Beth Hillel, planning lessons and facilitating programs as well as planning summer camp. In 2017, she reached an exciting milestone in her career receiving the Smotrich Family Foundation Award of Merit for outstanding service in early childhood education. Shannon's favorite part of teaching is watching her students grow and develop and hearing them repeat and reflect on what they have learned in class. She loves being involved and collaborating with her co-workers and building meaningful relationships with the families of her students.

Jenna Rubin, MA has her Masters in Education and has been working in the field of Jewish Early Childhood Education for over 15 years. She has been a Nursery School Director, a Jewish Curriculum Specialist and a teacher of young children in the Los Angeles area. She is currently the Outdoor Classroom teacher at Pressman Academy. Her favorite role is mommy to her three children.

PRESENTERS

Liz Schwandt has worked in early childhood education for almost 20 years. She is dedicated to promoting the importance of a true developmental, play-based program at Siverlake Independent JCC (SIJCC) ECE program, and believes fully that early childhood is the critical period of human development. Liz has been at the helm of several organizations that serve young children (with a comprehensive variety of developmental needs and profiles) and is currently completing her doctorate in Child Clinical Psychology. Her research examines the role of attachment in developmental neurobiology between the ages of 2 and 6. Most importantly, Liz considers the position of Director of Developmental Programming to be the perfect culmination of her life's work and passions, as she serves children and families from early infancy to elementary school entry.

Rabbi Daniel Sher, recently ordained as a rabbi, has joined the educational team at Kehillat Israel after two terrific years as KI's rabbinic intern. Daniel serves as the Youth & Family Rabbinic Fellow, and, as such, is charged with engaging all of KI's families with children ranging in age from infancy to teens to young adults in the 20s and 30s group, Kehillat 20/30. On any given day you might find Daniel helping to lead Shabbat for our Parenting Center, on the floor with two-year-olds leading Hebrew Through Movement, leading teens on a hike through Temescal Canyon or preparing to lead Saturday morning Torah Study. In his spare time he enjoys spending time with his wife and son.

Robyn Solovei originally hails from South Africa, the daughter of a German mother and Latvian father. Many of Robyn's family perished in the Holocaust which fueled her passion to teach children tolerance through Jewish values in the hopes of "growing good people." Touting her personal credo "tolerance begins when ignorance ends," she has spent 35 years in the field of Jewish Early Childhood Education. In 2008, Robyn was honored by the Long Beach Jewish community for her outstanding leadership in driving our future generations to thrive which included commendation from Mayor Bob Foster, Assemblywoman Bonnie Lowenthal, and Senator Diane Feinstein. This past year she was presented with the Lainer Distinguished Educator Award from the BJE, acknowledging a lifetime of teaching excellence in the Jewish arena. Robyn is also an entertainer, known as "HaMo'Robyn" to her fans and has recorded two CD's: "Just in Case", and "Kosher Style".

Jenna Turner is the Director of Early Childhood Professional Learning Jewish United Fund (JUF) of Metropolitan Chicago, and a member of the Paradigm Project. Her passion for the field began when she graduated from the University of Iowa with her BA in Elementary Education and a specialization in early childhood education. Jenna spent her first two years in a campus based program. She then moved back to the Chicagoland area where she spent the next 17 school years at Moriah Early Childhood Center in Deerfield, IL. There, she taught in all age groups and moved into leadership as the Associate Director. In 2013, she transitioned to be the Director of the Harry and Rose Samson JCC in Milwaukee, WI at Gan Ami Early Childhood Center. Jenna began her next adventure with JUF of Metropolitan Chicago as their Director of Early Childhood Professional Learning in September 2016. She also just started the EMAJPS program at Spertus College. Her journey and work in the field has inspired her passion for working with educators

Farrah Zweig serves as the physical education coach at Pressman Academy. She is also the Co-founder/Director of programming at Student Fitness Experts and has been a Certified Personal Trainer and Exercise Physiologist for over 15 years. A graduate of San Diego State, she holds her bachelor's in Kinesiology with an emphasis in fitness, nutrition, and health. Spending her initial years improving the health and fitness of her community, she turned her attention to youth fitness 10 years ago, after discovering a gap in opportunities for children to learn functional and applied movement skills. Her research interests focus on pediatric exercise science, movement and brain development, as well as physical literacy. Combining her education, experience, and joy of learning, Farrah has created a pathway to creating ideal learning environments for students that subsequently relate to benefits beyond the playing field.