



**BJE BEBE FEUERSTEIN SIMON
EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTE**

When You Wonder, You're Learning

Monday, March 7, 2022

4 Adar II 5782

Keynote Address

Presented by

Gregg Behr & Ryan Rydzewski

14.3 Lessons from Fred Rogers' Blueprints for Learning

*Co-Authors of **When You Wonder, You're Learning: Mister Rogers' Enduring Lessons for Raising Creative, Curious, Caring Kids***



BJE builds and secures a vibrant and enduring Jewish future through education. BJE works with more than 140 affiliated schools and 2,500 educators to provide high quality education to nearly 25,000 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.

Bennet Spiegel, President

Gil Graff, Ph.D., Executive Director

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

*Carly Rosenstein, Early Childhood Education
Specialist*

*Abby Mars, President
BJE Early Childhood Directors' Network*

Dear Colleagues,

I am thrilled to invite you to register for our 41st annual Early Childhood Institute which will focus on the theme of *When You Wonder, You're Learning*.

This year will look a little different than in recent years. We will be hosting our conference at four different BJE-affiliated school sites, two in the city and two in the valley. After a conference-wide virtual keynote address, you will have the opportunity to take a tour of your chosen school site and find out more about an area in which each excels. After the tour, participants will engage in a workshop that digs deeper into that highlighted area. While this year's conference will end a little earlier than previous year, we strongly encourage school directors to invite their teachers back to their own school site in the afternoon to debrief what they have learned earlier in the day.

As well, for those unable to join us for an in-person conference, we are also offering an entirely virtual track where participants will also experience a school tour and workshop, in addition to our keynote address.

With an unprecedented conference ahead, we would like to offer a special thank you to Temple Isaiah Preschool, Pressman Academy of Temple Beth Am ECC, Temple Judea ECC, and Valley Beth Shalom ECC for opening their doors to us, as well as Wilshire Boulevard Temple ECCs for virtually sharing their space. We also want to thank the Early Childhood Directors' Network President and Vice-President, Abby Mars and Valerie Segall and the Institute Planning Committee: Angie Bass, Claudine Douglas, Avital Etehad, Shayna Goldmann, Renee Hutchings, Alana Levitt, April Schafer, and Alisha Sela for providing guidance, input and direction in shaping and planning this special day.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Carly'.

Carly Rosenstein
BJE Early Childhood Education Specialist

IMPORTANT PRE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION

REGISTRATION POLICY

Registration is available **online only** at <https://www.tfaforms.com/4952597> and must be completed by **Monday, February 4, 2022**, in order to qualify for early bird registration fees. Conference sites will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis and must be designated on the registration form. Anyone registering after February 4, will be considered a walk-in registration and will be assigned their conference site based on availability.

Schools should designate one representative to register all of their participants at the same time. Please have the names, emails, and site preferences for all of the educators you are registering ready before beginning the registration process.

COVID POLICY

All participants attending the in-person conference must be able to show proof of full vaccination on the day of the conference. The virtual option is available to all participants regardless of vaccination status. Masks will be required at all times during the in-person conference when not eating.

REGISTRATION FEES (Same for In-Person and Virtual Options)

BJE-AFFILIATED SCHOOLS

Early Bird Registration (before February 4)	from 1 to 10 participants	\$45/each
	from 11 to 20 participants	\$42/each
	from 21 to 30 participants	\$39/each
	30 or more participants	\$36/each
Walk-In Registration (after February 4)	any # of participants	\$60/each

BJE NON-AFFILIATED SCHOOLS

Early Bird Registration (before February 4)	any # of participants	\$60/each
Walk-In Registration (after February 4)	any # of participants	\$75/each

BREAKFAST AND BOOK

For those attending in-person, registration fees include a light breakfast (dietary laws observed) and a copy of the book authored by our Keynote Address presenters, *When You Wonder, You're Learning: Mister Rogers' Enduring Lessons for Raising Creative, Curious, Caring Kids*. The book is made possible thanks to a generous donation by Sanford and David Weiner in memory of their beloved wife and mother, Karen Weiner²¹. For those attending virtually, the book will be mailed/delivered to participants after the conference. Any walk-in registrations are not guaranteed to have the book available on the day of the conference. If the book is not available, it will be distributed at a later date.

PAYMENT AND REFUND POLICY

Payment **MUST** be made by credit or debit card online at time of registration. Refund requests must be made in writing directly to ECEInstitute@bjela.org and will be issued in the form of a check from BJE. A 50% refund can be granted until February 4, 2022. **NO refunds will be allowed after February 4, 2022.** You may, however, send a substitute participant. If due to unforeseen circumstances the entirety of the conference needs to be switched to the virtual presentation, there will be no refund in price of ticket and the book will be mailed/delivered to the conference participants' schools.

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

CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

- 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM** **REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST**
- 9:00 AM - 9:15 AM** **WELCOME**
*Rabbi Jim Rogozen, Director, Center for Excellence
in Early Childhood and Day School Education*
- INTRODUCTION & AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENT**
*Carly Rosenstein, BJE Early Childhood Education
Specialist*
- 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM** **KEYNOTE ADDRESS:**
Gregg Behr & Ryan Rydzewski
*14.3 Lessons from Fred Rogers' Blueprints for
Learning*
- 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM** **SCHOOL TOUR GROUP A/WORKSHOP GROUP B**
- 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM** **SCHOOL TOUR GROUP B/WORKSHOP GROUP A**
- 12:15 – 12:30** **CLOSING & EVALUATION FORMS**

Keynote Address:

14.3 Lessons from Fred Rogers' Blueprints for Learning

Fred Rogers was more than a nice guy in a sweater — he was also a learning scientist who was decades ahead of his time. In this session, we'll explore how Fred engineered Mister Rogers' Neighborhood to develop the "tools for learning" that experts now consider essential to children's success: curiosity, creativity, communication, and more. These tools have been shown to boost academic learning and children's overall well-being, and they benefit kids of every background and age.

We'll also discuss how educators can use Fred's blueprints to nurture these tools in the digital age, building wondrous, joyful, inclusive learning spaces in which every kid can thrive. By spotlighting examples from educators, artists, makers, scientists, and others — many of whom worked with Rogers himself — we'll share inspiring, actionable ways to follow in Fred's footsteps.

Gregg Behr & Ryan Rydzewski, Co-Authors of *When You Wonder, You're Learning: Mister Rogers' Enduring Lessons for Raising Creative, Curious, Caring Kids*

OPTION 1: VIRTUAL

If you chose this option, you will be registered for all 3 of the sessions listed below.

Session 1:

Keynote Address (see above)

Session 2:

Wilshire Boulevard Temple ECCs Tour: Join ECC Director Carol Bovill and her staff to get a virtual tour of their schools. In addition to seeing the space they have created, you will also hear from their teachers about the amazing long-term investigation projects they have worked on with their students.

Session 3:

Introduction to Early Childhood Project Based Learning. Explore what Project Based Learning (PBL) looks like in early childhood settings. Through video, project examples and engaging discussion, participants will gain an introduction to PBL and learn some essential elements to this approach as a means to make PBL successful with our youngest learners.

Sara Lev, co-author of *Implementing Project Based Learning in Early Childhood: Overcoming Misconceptions and Reaching Success*

OPTION 2: In-Person

Each in-person site will include the Keynote Address, a tour of the school site and a workshop, as listed below. During registration, you will be asked to indicate your top 3 site choices.

Site #1: Temple Isaiah Preschool (10345 W Pico Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90064)

STEM: Challenge Children to Reach Their Full Potential and Enjoy Every Minute of It

STEM is about setting up challenging activities that stimulate out-of-the-box thinking, collaboration, discussion, creativity, imagination, problem-solving, and of course science, technology, engineering, and math. Come have a great time with this hands-on highly interactive workshop where you will be immersed in teacher-directed and child-initiated STEM challenges and activities.

Tamar Andrews, EdD, Director, Temple Isaiah Preschool

Avital Etehad, Associate Director, Temple Isaiah Preschool

Site #2: Pressman Academy of Temple Beth Am ECC (1055 La Cienega Blvd, LA, CA 90035)

Inside Out: Growing the Whole Child Outdoors - In this workshop, participants will discover and interact with messy and sensory activities that incorporate all areas of development and are able to be set up anywhere in your school. There will be a lot of opportunity for hands-on participation, for those who are willing. It is advised that participants come dressed ready for messy and active play.

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

Rachel Klein, Outdoor Classroom Specialist, Teacher & Mentor, Pressman Academy of Temple Beth Am ECC

Farrah Zweig, PE coach, STEAM Teacher, & Outdoor Classroom Specialist, Pressman Academy of Temple Beth Am ECC

Site #3: Temple Judea ECC (5429 Lindley Ave, Tarzana, CA 91356)

The 8 Senses and Why They are Important- In this workshop, participants will receive an introduction to our three hidden senses and why they are important for a child's development. We will discuss using all of the senses to help a child with self-regulation and how to create a sensory friendly classroom.

Allie Ticktin, OTD, author of *Play to Progress: Lead Your Child to Success Using the Power of Sensory Play*

Site #4: Valley Beth Shalom ECC (15739 Ventura Blvd., Encino, CA 91436)

COVID Kids – In this workshop, we will explore how COVID has affected our students and their parents. We will examine what we are seeing in the field in terms of delays (emotional, social, and physical). We will discuss ways that teachers can help address these delays and manage a range of developmental competencies among their students and how teachers can engage in productive conversations with parents.

Siggie Cohen, PhD, Child Development Specialist

PRESENTERS

Gregg Behr is a father, children’s advocate, and director for the Grable Foundation whose work is inspired by his hero, Fred Rogers. For more than a decade, he has helped lead Remake Learning—a network of educators, scientists, artists, and makers he founded in 2007—to international renown. Formed in Rogers’ real-life neighborhood of Pittsburgh, Remake Learning has turned heads everywhere from Forbes to the World Economic Forum for its efforts to ignite children’s curiosity, encourage creativity, and foster justice and belonging in schools, libraries, museums, and more. A graduate of the University of Notre Dame and also Duke University, Gregg holds honorary degrees from Carlow University and Saint Vincent College. He’s an advisor to the Brookings Institution and the Fred Rogers Center, and has been cited by Barack Obama, Richard Branson, and the Disruptor Foundation as an innovator and thought leader. You can learn more at GreggBehr.com

Ryan Rydzewski is a writer whose science and education reporting has garnered several awards and fellowships. A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, he taught elementary school in south Louisiana before earning an MFA in nonfiction writing from Chatham University. As a freelancer, his magazine stories focus on everything from schools to space travel to Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood, and his poems and other pieces appear in several journals. A native of Erie, Pennsylvania, Ryan lives in Pittsburgh with his wife, Jacqueline. You can learn more at RyanRydzewski.com

Sari Abrams, MA is Director of Parent and Child Education at Pressman Academy where she has worked for the past 20+ years. During that time, she has taught two, three, and five year olds, taught Parent and Me classes, and coordinated the Pressman Parenting Institute. She currently teaches parenting classes, facilitates parenting programs, mentors teachers and works on curriculum. Sari holds a Master’s Degree in Clinical Psychology and was a member of the inaugural cohort of The First 36 Fellows, a program of The Simms-Mann Institute, in partnership with BJE and the Jewish Federation. She is also an instructor and mentor with the AJU's program in Early Childhood Education. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband and has 3 sons, 2 daughters-in-law and 3 grandchildren.

Tamar Andrews, EdD has been working in the field of early childhood education for over 30 years. She began her career as a classroom teacher and then moved into early childhood administration working in schools that were affiliated with Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox philosophies, and has served as the early childhood education director at Temple Isaiah in Los Angeles since 2003. As a university professor, Dr. Andrews has taught courses ranging from the theoretical foundations of growth and development to how social policies affect children and their education. As a consultant and trainer, Dr. Andrews has spoken at over 400 conferences and symposia where she has presented on curriculum models, theory and administration issues. A California Mentor Director and international consultant and trainer, she has worked both extensively in California, the United States as well as in countries as far away as Azerbaijan and China. Dr. Andrews was born in Israel and raised in Los Angeles and educated in our Jewish schools.

Siggie Cohen, PhD is often referred to by parents as the “Child Whisperer” for her unparalleled depth of insight in working with children. For more than 35 years, she has worked intensively with children and families, first as a teacher and then as a child developmental specialist. Her approach has proven successful in helping parents and teachers deepen their understanding of children’s behaviors, so they can support them through the entire range of emotional challenges, including social-emotional difficulties, transitions and trauma. For over two decades, Dr. Siggie, as she’s known, has been teaching and training teachers to be at Pierce College, CSUN, Pacific Oaks, and Union College and University. She has run many staff development workshops at a variety of preschools in the greater Los Angeles area, has published many articles, and a parenting course, that is currently available on her website (www.drsgiggie.com), and is about to publish another, while providing daily tips and support to her large community of 347K followers on Instagram. One more future endeavor Dr. Siggie is hoping to accomplish in the very near future the publishing of her parenting book.

PRESENTERS

Avital Etehad has been in the ECE field for more than 30 years. She is currently the Associate Director of Early Childhood Education and Engagement at Temple Isaiah. Avital holds an MAEd in Early Childhood Education from American Jewish University and is a California State Mentor Director. As a mentor, Avital helps and guides other directors in the field of early childhood, as well as mentoring many of our teachers in methods to improve their practices. She is a presenter at many early childhood conferences around the country. She has inspired other early childhood educators to include STEM in their programs by presenting at early childhood conferences, including NAEYC and STEM conferences around the state. Avital was born and raised in Israel and has a deep love for Jewish education.

Rachel Klein has been in the business of education for over 40 years. Having lived with a brother with special needs, Rachel received her BA in Special Education vowing to advocate for a population with no clear voice. While raising a family, Rachel directed multiple Shabbat youth groups, directed a science camp for 5 year olds and a summer camp for 2-4 year olds out of a local Jewish Day School. She continued to advocate for children by becoming a certified behaviorist. Having witnessed the day to day struggles so many parents and children deal with, Rachel went back to school for her Master Degree in Counseling Psychology. For the past 17 years, Rachel has been at Pressman Academy teaching two year olds and 4 year olds, running the Outdoor classroom and mentoring TA/ATs as well as teaching them the principles of Conscious Discipline. As the director of Outdoor Classroom, Rachel has successfully implemented many out of the box multi-sensory activities using recycled/used materials.

Sara Lev is the co-author of the book *Implementing Project Based Learning in Early Childhood: Overcoming Misconceptions and Reaching Success*. She has been an early childhood teacher in public, private and charter school settings since 2005, and currently teaches Transitional Kindergarten in Los Angeles. Sara received her Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education from Bank Street College in New York City. Sara is a member of the National Faculty of PBLWorks where she facilitates Project Based Learning workshops for PreK-12 educators and is also the co-founder (with her co-authors Erin Starkey and Amanda Clark) of Early Childhood Project Based Learning LLC, where she supports educators of our youngest learners in developing and implementing PBL.

Allie Ticktin, OTD is an occupational therapist specializing in sensory integration. Allie began her work in pediatric development at the University of Michigan, where she earned her B.S. in Movement Science, and continued her studies at USC, where she received her M.A. and Clinical Doctorate in Occupational Therapy. Allie is certified in Sensory Integration (SIPT & STAR Institute). Allie is the founder of Play 2 Progress and the author of the book, *Play to Progress: Lead Your Child to Success Using the Power of Sensory Play* published by TarcherPerigee at Penguin Random House. Allie uses the science of child development and the joy of play to boost children's confidence and enhance development within all areas of their life, from social and emotional to physical and academic. Allie believes that the best way to support children is by arming their parents, from inception, with the knowledge and skills necessary to encourage their child's development for success through childhood and beyond.

Farrah Zweig serves as the physical education coach, STEAM teacher, and Outdoor Classroom Specialist 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 20 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.

IN MEMORIAM

Bebe Feuerstein Simon (1925-2003) was a long-time director and officer of the BJE board. Active in many community causes, Bebe championed parent and family education and took special interest in early childhood Jewish education. Her family chose to memorialize Bebe by establishing an endowment at BJE to support its annual conference for early childhood educators.

Karen Weiner (1942-2017) was a long-time director of the board of BJE and Chair of its Early Childhood Education Committee. A “hands on” volunteer actively engaged in community causes, Karen was, for many years, a vital presence at BJE’s Bebe Feuerstein Simon Early Childhood Education Conference, assisting with on-site coordination. Her husband, Sanford, and son, David, are sponsoring a copy of the book authored by the keynote address speakers for every conference participant in Karen’s memory.