

**HILLTOP  
EDUCATOR  
INSTITUTE**

# EDUCATOR DISCUSSION SERIES

Sponsored by KidsQuest Children's Museum

## From Survive to Thrive:

### A Director's Guide for Leading an Early Childhood Program

Facilitated by Debbie LeeKeenan, Iris C. Ponte, and Sarah Felstiner

Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – 8:25 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Location: The Bertschi School - 2227 10<sup>th</sup> Ave E Seattle, WA 98102

Being an early childhood program leader (mentor, administrator, director, policy-maker, coach, or lead teacher) is more challenging than it's ever been before. Some of us come from a business background, some of us come from other management roles, and many of us started out as classroom teachers. Very often, we find ourselves in leadership roles, charged with supporting learning for both children and adults, sometimes with very little formal training about how to do the job.

With so many demands on program leaders, amid the constant struggle to stretch our limited time and resources, leading early childhood programs is challenging work. If we don't have the building blocks and core dispositions we need, it can be overwhelming to develop effective policies and practices, build a strong faculty, support children and families, handle confrontation and conflict, and more.

In this full-day workshop, Debbie LeeKeenan and Iris Chin Ponte, co-authors of NAEYC's newest book for directors, *From Survive to Thrive*, will be joined by Hilltop's Education Director Sarah Felstiner, to share their experiences working in Montessori, Reggio Emilia, Special Education, International, Public and Urban settings.

You are invited to join this special session, designed particularly for program leaders in the Pacific Northwest. The focus of this interactive and collaborative workshop is on the guiding principles and practical strategies that support program leaders of early childhood programs. Topics and issues to be discussed include:

- Facilitated Leadership and Leading with Equity
- Building the Culture and Context of Your Program
- Growing and Maintaining Great Staff
- Engaging Families
- Managing Conflict

Program Leaders seldom make space for their own professional development, so this day offers the opportunity to connect, brainstorm, and build relationships with other program leads in the area. The day will be spent engaging in cross-contextual and cross-organizational dialogue in order to problem-solve, and action-plan. A copy of *From Survive to Thrive* is included with your registration for this session. For more info please visit [www.hilltopcc.com/thrive](http://www.hilltopcc.com/thrive) or email Mike Browne at [institute@hilltopcc.org](mailto:institute@hilltopcc.org)

**\*Please Note\*** This workshop is free for eligible City of Seattle DEEL early learning partners in the Seattle Preschool Program (SPP), SPP Pathway Program, Step Ahead Program, and ECEAP, and all City of Seattle DEEL Early Learning Staff.



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In partnership with The Bertschi School,  
The City of Seattle, The Department of  
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