



# Young Learners in America's Schools: What's in Your Toolkit?

## July 12-15, 2009

### I. Why is this Conference needed?

A Conference for Principals serving young learners is necessary because:

- Children as young as the age of three are a rapidly increasing part of elementary schools.
- There is an escalation of diversity in the language and culture of young children in school districts.
- Principals want and need greater understanding of theory and practice in early care and education.

Many Principals are unprepared to either lead schools with children younger than kindergarten or to align the youngest children with appropriate elementary school practices. **The CAYL Conference, led by seasoned Principals, offers you a pathway to vision, strategy and practice** for addressing these needs. From July 12-15, 2009, CAYL will create the conditions for Principals to empower themselves and create sustainable change for children.

### II. How will these needs be addressed?

This Conference is designed for you to explore the CAYL framework for integrating high quality early childhood programs in schools and districts. This includes five content areas and five Conference strategies:

#### Five Content Areas:

1. Vision
2. Policy Perspectives
3. Pedagogy and Practice
4. Supervision
5. Family and Community

#### Five Conference Strategies:

- Networks of Principals from other communities from which you can further extend your learning.
- Virtual community for ongoing shared experiences.
- Examples of Principal leadership through visits to schools and a state of the art early childhood exhibit at the Boston Children's Museum.

- Understanding of the changes your school and district need to better support our youngest learners.
- Practice with application of *CAYL Principals Toolkit*.

### III. What are the results you will achieve?

**At the end of the Conference principals will have a pathway for leading, supporting and integrating children age 3 to third grade in a high quality, developmentally appropriate elementary school program.** Participants of the CAYL Conference will take away:

1. **Vision:** a clear view of how to create high quality.
2. **Leadership strategies and skills** to lead change.
3. **Knowledge:** a comprehensive understanding of developmentally appropriate practice.
4. **Action plan** to implement a pathway to high quality for young children.
5. *CAYL Principals Toolkit* for immediate action and application.

# Young Learners Conference Agenda

Sunday, July 12, 2009

*\*\*Hotel check-in time is 4:00 PM\*\**

4:00-5:30 Conference Sign In

- ✓ *Please Visit Our Exhibitors!*

## Inspiring Change: VISION

Renewing our Commitment to Young Learners.

5:30 Meeting, Greeting, and Warming Up For Action

- ✓ Workshop Registration
- ✓ Graffiti Board Question of the Day:  
VISION: What is your vision for young learners?
- ✓ Complete Pre-Survey and Receive Gift
- ✓ Drummers Performance
- ✓ *Please Visit Our Exhibitors!*

5:50 Welcome Friends and Colleagues!

- ✓ Introducing the CAYL Principal Fellows and CAYL Staff
- ✓ Overview of Learning Materials and Strategies for the Conference

6:00 Dinner: Sharing the Vision and Building Community

6:30 Welcome

- ✓ Local Mayors
- ✓ Boston Superintendent Carol Johnson, Ed.D.
- ✓ *"Our Vision for Young Learners in America's Schools"*  
Valora Washington, Ph.D., President, The CAYL Institute

7:45 Media Presentation from the *CAYL Principals Toolkit*

8:00 Adjourn for the Evening

*Please complete the VISION Action Plan*

## Monday, July 13, 2009

7:30-8:30 Breakfast

### *Please Visit Our Exhibitors!*

Graffiti Board Question of the Day:

KNOWLEDGE: What would you like to learn about young learners in your school?

### Identifying Change: KNOWLEDGE

*We can be architects of change for young learners.*

8:30-8:45 **Reflections**

Valora Washington, PhD, President of The CAYL Institute

8:45-10:30 **Keynote Address and Panel Discussion**

Facilitator: Valora Washington, PhD, President of The CAYL Institute

Keynote: "Creating a Vision for Young Learners"

**Barbara Bowman**, Chief Early Childhood Education Officer, Chicago Public Schools– *Vision*

Panelists:

**John Lippitt**, Executive Director, Thrive in Five, Boston MA – *Family and Community*

**Vicki Milstein**, Principal, Brookline Early Childhood –*Supervision*

**Jacqueline Jones**, Assistant Commissioner, New Jersey Division of Early Childhood Education, - *Policy Perspectives*

10:30-10:50 **Roundtable Discussion** to generate questions led by the CAYL Principal Fellows

10:40-11:15 **Questions & Answers** between participants and panelists

11:15- 11:30 Presentation of the *CAYL Principals Toolkit*

**Winifred Hagan**, Vice President of Programs, The CAYL Institute

11:30-1:00 **Concurrent Workshop Sessions I: *CAYL Principals Toolkit* Examples**

Please select one morning and one afternoon workshop about the five areas of the CAYL Principals Fellowship:

1. Vision
2. Policy Perspectives
3. Pedagogy and Practice
4. Supervision

## 5. Family and Community

Principals from the Boston Public Schools lead each workshop, sharing their knowledge, skill and experiences.

Each workshop will include media samples and materials from the CAYL Principals Toolkit that you will be able to use when you return to your home communities.

1:00-3:00 **Lunch and Break** (on your own)

3:00-4:30 **Concurrent Workshop Sessions II: *CAYL Principals Toolkit* Examples**

1. Vision
2. Policy Perspectives
3. Pedagogy and Practice
4. Supervision
5. Family and Community

4:30-6:00 **Children's Galleries and Reception**

- ✓ Artwork and work samples
- ✓ Special demonstrations and presentations
- ✓ Complimentary appetizers and cash bar

Dinner and networking on your own

*Please complete the KNOWLEDGE Action Plan*

## Tuesday, July 14, 2009

7:30-8:30 Breakfast

### **Please Visit Our Exhibitors!**

Graffiti Board Question of the Day:

LEADERSHIP: How can you lead high quality programs for young learners?

### **Guiding Change: LEADERSHIP**

***Principals are well positioned to lead changes our youngest learners need.***

8:30-9:00 **Reflections**

Valora Washington, PhD, President of The CAYL Institute

9:00

Keynote: "Leading the Changes our Youngest Learners Need"

**Maurice Sykes**, Early Childhood Leadership Institute, University of the District of Columbia

9:30

#### **A View From Inside the School: Principals as Leaders**

Following the keynote address you will visit schools which serve children from the age of 3 through the third grade in Boston, Brookline and Cambridge. The purpose of these visits is to observe high quality and developmentally appropriate environments and practices; to discuss actionable, applied leadership skills and strategies; and to extend learning commensurate with the workshop sessions you attended yesterday.

9:45

Meet in the Hyatt Lobby to receive your Site Visit schedule and board your shuttle.

10:15-12:00 **Travel to first Site Visit**

- ✓ Roundtable Discussion led by CAYL Principal Fellows
- ✓ Box lunch provided

1:00- 3:15 **Travel to second Site Visit**

- ✓ Roundtable Discussion led by CAYL Principal Fellows

3:15 Depart second Site Visit for hotel

4:00 Approximate arrival at Hyatt

**Dinner and networking** on your own

*Please complete the LEADERSHIP Action Plan*

## Wednesday, July 15, 2009

7:30-8:30 Breakfast

### **Please Visit Our Exhibitors!**

Graffiti Board Question of the Day:

ACTION : What will you do to implement ideas and strategies for young learners in your schools beginning next fall?

*\*\*Hotel check out for those leaving today; luggage may be held at front desk if returning to hotel\*\**

### **Initiating Change: ACTION**

*Principals can create changes that are timely, relevant and immediately actionable.*

8:45 Gather in Hyatt Lobby to board bus for Museum Wharf

9:15-9:30 **Reflections**

Valora Washington, PhD, President of The CAYL Institute

9:30 **Making Plans: What will you accomplish when you return home?**

- ✓ Discussion groups with CAYL Principal Fellows

10:30-11:30 **What Schools and Communities Are Doing To Implement Change For All Children:**

Several communities will present how they are working together to support young children. Among the communities are:

- ✓ **Boston, MA**  
**Ben Russell**, Assistant Director, Boston Public Schools Department of Early Childhood
- ✓ **Washington, DC**  
**Barbara Kamara**, Administrator, District of Columbia Department of Human Services' Early Care and Education Administration

11:30-12:00 **Using Community Resources to Support Young Learners:**

- ✓ **Jeri Robinson**, Vice President of Children's Programs, Boston Children's Museum

12:00 **Lunch on the Museum Wharf/Synthesis of the Conference**

- ✓ Box lunch provided
- ✓ Complete Post-Conference Survey and receive gift!

1:00 **Adjourn** & Return to Hyatt or depart directly to Logan airport (*transportation from the Museum to the Hyatt is provided*)