

A New Beginning submitted by Dr. Robin Hooper

**Laugh at yourself
and children will
learn to laugh
at their own
mistakes. A role
model is a very
powerful thing.**

**-Gigi Taylor
Schweikert**



Robin Hooper, Ed.D.

*Executive Director of Early
Childhood Department*

In Rochester we are beginning the prekindergarten school year with the implementation of the newly adopted HighScope Preschool Curriculum. All Universal Prekindergarten classrooms and Head Start classrooms will be using the curriculum in September. The selection of the curriculum was the culmination of a year-long adoption process facilitated by the Early Childhood Department and Head Start. Although early childhood educators will face challenges as they work to implement new practices and become familiar with new materials; the potential rewards from the implementation of this research-based curriculum are very promising for the approximately 2,400 four-year-old students attending prekindergarten programs in Rochester.

The HighScope Preschool Curriculum has a strong research base including multiple longitudinal studies that followed former students who participated in the HighScope Preschool Curriculum through age forty. These multiple longitudinal studies are known as the HighScope Perry Preschool Project. The Perry Preschool Project found students who participated in the HighScope Preschool Program had higher graduation rates, higher employment rates, higher earnings and lower arrest rates than peers who did not attend preschool. Although additional research supporting the effects of participation in the HighScope Preschool Curriculum exists; the Perry Preschool Project is the most comprehensive study of the curriculum. Additional information about the HighScope Preschool Curriculum is available at www.highscope.org.

During August a team of 20 classroom supervisors and technical support teachers from the Early Childhood Department and Head Start participated in 10 days of mentor training led by a certified HighScope training specialist. The mentors will work together to plan and provide professional learning experiences for preschool administrators, agency directors, prekindergarten staff, educational consultants, and special education service providers. The mentors will visit classrooms to support teachers and staff as they work to implement the new curriculum.

During our Summer Institute on August 23rd and 23th over 300 UPK and Head Start staff received training from HighScope certified trainers in sessions held at Monroe Community College. Staff participated in sessions focused on the using the Plan, Do, Review instructional framework, adult-child interactions, strategies for scaffolding learning during small groups and daily routines. Sessions included participatory learning activities, videos and presentations. Follow-up support from HighScope Preschool Curriculum developers will be provided throughout the year through web meetings and conference calls. The UPK professional development calendar this year will focus on topics related to the implementation of the HighScope curriculum. The upcoming year promises to be an exciting one as we work together to provide high quality preschool programs for our students.

Welcome Back!

**Save the date!
November 2
Superintendent's
Conference Day**

**Register for
this and other
professional
development
online using
avatar:**

[https://
rochesterny.courseinsite.com](https://rochesterny.courseinsite.com)

Summer Institute: High/Scope Curriculum on August 23-24



Eight trainers from HighScope presented to groups of 40 UPK and Head Start staff over two days at MCC. The presentations included a mix of lecture, classroom video clips and much "hands-on" experience. On day one, the curriculum was introduced using the activities and format covered in Lesson Plans for the First 30 Days. Staff explored the various components of the daily routine. On the morning of the second day, teacher-child interaction was examined while the afternoon provided an opportunity to learn how to scaffold children's learning during small group time.



UPK staff from Head Start enjoy a hands-on activity with a newspaper ball.



UPK staff from the Community Place of Greater Rochester use their balls as they experiment with different interaction styles.



UPK staff from RPPP participate in small group time, role playing as teacher and students at various developmental levels.



Another "teacher and child" from the YMCA practice HighScope small group time.

*"Who are you
going to call?"*

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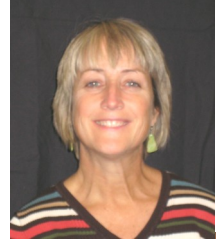


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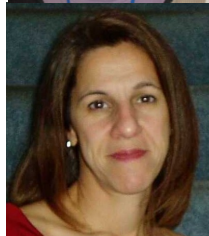


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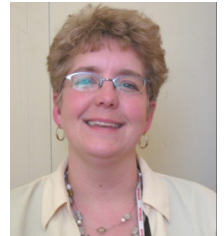
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Music and the HighScope Curriculum

Submitted by M'Lou Speranza, Music Building Blocks Teacher

Many teachers are wondering how Music Building Blocks will fit into the HighScope curriculum. As I learn about the various parts of the daily routine such as children's planning time, work time, clean-up, recall, small and large group time, I am confident that most of our material will continue to be useful. Large group time continues to be the best place to introduce a new instrument, use song cards, or move to music, just as we have in the past! HighScope encourages support strategies that many of our UPK teachers who have had the Music Building Blocks embedded professional development already use:

- ◆ Encourage children to explore and identify sounds.
- ◆ Encourage children to explore sounds and singing with their own voices.
- ◆ Play a wide variety of recorded and live music.
- ◆ Sing with children.
- ◆ Encourage simple ways of moving to music.
- ◆ Provide simple instruments.
- ◆ Expose children to the materials and techniques used by musical artists.

I will begin to revise some of the Music Building Blocks materials (song cards, song index, etc.) to be sure it aligns with our new curriculum. Be on the look-out for my e-mails!