

## Featured Presenters / Presentadores principales

### Tom “Teacher Tom” Hobson

Teacher Tom's World, Co-Founder

**Tom “Teacher Tom” Hobson** is an early childhood educator, international speaker, education consultant, teacher of teachers, parent educator, and author. He’s best known, however, for Teacher Tom's Blog, where he has posted daily since 2009, chronicling the life and times of his little preschool in the rain-soaked Pacific Northwest corner of the USA. Today, Teacher Tom shares his play-based pedagogy through online courses for early childhood educators; produces online early childhood conferences; consults with organizations about his "Family Schools" program; and inspires early years audiences around the world and across the US, both virtually and in-person with his engaging views on early childhood education, play, and pedagogy. He also hosts Teacher Tom's Podcast. He was pressured by his blog readers into authoring his first book, aptly named Teacher Tom’s First Book, and subsequently Teacher Tom’s Second Book.



### Bianey Jimenez y Victoria Bencomo



Victoria L. Bencomo y Bianey Jimenez son Trabajadoras Sociales Asociadas Clínicas (CSWA) con una sólida trayectoria apoyando a la comunidad Latina/e/x en el sur de Oregon. Con más de 20 años de experiencia combinada, han trabajado con familias y jóvenes migrantes, abordando temas como la salud mental, la experiencia DACA, y los retos de la juventud indocumentada. Ambas han facilitado talleres para padres, jóvenes y profesionales sobre autorregulación, bienestar emocional, y equidad e inclusión (DEI). Como co-fundadoras de Apapacho Consulting, se dedican a ofrecer capacitaciones culturales y emocionalmente responsables, promoviendo servicios de salud mental accesibles y alineados con las necesidades de la comunidad. Inspiradas por sus raíces, su práctica se centra en la cultura, la empatía y la conexión. En su tiempo libre, disfrutan de la familia, la naturaleza y crear un impacto positivo en sus comunidades.

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**Peter Buckley** served for 12 years in the Oregon House of Representatives (2005-17), representing south Jackson County. During his tenure, he served for 8 years as House Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means, the legislature's budget writing committee. After leaving the legislature, Peter was hired to lead Southern Oregon Success, a collaboration of all levels of education, health care, human services, public safety and workforce development in Jackson and Josephine counties, dedicated to working across all



**Shannon Bilbao** is an early childhood educator and administrator with a robust background in special education. Holding a Bachelor's in Special Education and a Master's in Early Childhood Special Education, Shannon has dedicated over 15 years to teaching young learners in Colorado, Montana, and now Oregon. Her experience in both inclusive settings and self-contained settings and her passion for inclusive education drive her commitment to creating



**Dr. Eric Dukes** graduated from Pacific University in 1993 after successfully completing two internships, one in vision therapy and the other in ocular disease. In addition, he is a board-certified fellow in the treatment of visually related learning disorders, specializing in children with ocular vision disorders, stroke patients, and many other eye diseases and conditions. He has helped hundreds of children and adults overcome learning disorders such as Dyslexia, eye tracking and focusing skills. Dr. Dukes has devoted his life's work to helping others see to their greatest potential. Progressive Optometry was founded in 1997 by Dr. Eric N. Dukes, C.O.V.D.



**Alyssa Geoffrey** has been in the early learning field for 15 years and has had many roles during that time. She has been a teacher, family advocate, education manager and now a CCR&R TA specialist. After graduating with her masters in Infant Toddler mental health and inclusive early childhood education, she found a passion for helping educators meet the needs of all the children in their care.



**Louise Horn** is a seasoned Program Manager with 25 years of experience in Early Childhood Education. Throughout her career, she has taken on diverse roles, including program manager, inclusion specialist, and classroom teacher, bringing a wealth of practical knowledge to her work. Louise holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Master's in Early Childhood Education with a focus on inclusive classrooms. Her expertise lies in fostering supportive, accessible learning environments that empower both educators and young learners to thrive.

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**Stacy Inman** holds a master's degree in special education with an emphasis on Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) from the University of Oregon. With over 20 years of experience in Early Childhood Education, she is deeply committed to supporting young children and their families. Throughout her career, Stacy has focused on creating and implementing evidence-based practices that ensure equitable access to high-quality early childhood services. She is passionate about fostering collaboration among families, service providers, and communities. In addition to her professional dedication, Stacy is a proud mother of a 7-year-old, which brings a personal perspective to her understanding of the critical role early childhood development plays in a child's life.



**Beth Jaffee-Stafford, LMFT, IMHM-C**, has been the Clinical Director of the Family Nurturing Center (since 2011), a community-based, non-profit organization committed to increasing family strengths, enhancing child development, and supporting family safety. Beth is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, and she has earned the Association for Infant Mental Health's endorsement for culturally sensitive, relationship-focused practice, promoting Infant Mental Health as a Clinical Infant Mental Health Mentor. At the Family Nurturing Center, Beth works to co-create an environment of positive mental health and well-being for children, families, and staff. Beth supports a diverse group of service providers, acting as a thinking



**Paula Lynam, M.Ed.**, founded and directed The Secret Garden nature based preschool / kindergarten, for 20 years, and is an adjunct faculty member at Southern Oregon University and Rogue Community College where she teaches holistic practices in early childhood education, positive psychology and varied early childhood classes. Paula advocates for the effectiveness of holistic practices in education and nature-play-based early learning, while encouraging educators on their path of inner-development to incorporate nature, creativity, play, hand-work, and soul filled reflective practices into their daily life.



**Melissa Moore** is an adventurer at heart, a mom of four ranging from ages newborn to seven, and a co-owner of Freckled Fawn Nature School alongside her husband Benjamin of nine years. Melissa strives to make an impact in the lives of families by encouraging them to move outside. Step out of the box and away from the norm and truly experience what nature has to



**Deborah Murphy** has been an educator for close to 50 years! She has taught little children as well as graduate students in New York, California and Oregon. She still has a passion for teaching. She is a life-long learner; and she is indeed still learning. Working as advocate in Public Policy is also part of her professional life. She loves to read, write, walk in nature and travel!

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**Sarah Razzano** has dedicated her career to working with students and their families who experience Autism Spectrum Disorder and related disabilities. She has been in the field since 1998 as both a behavior therapist and as a lead special education teacher. Currently she is a full time behavior analyst in a clinic setting focusing on pediatric patients with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Along with holding a certificate and license as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, she also holds a current teaching license and autism specialization. She believes that advocacy and education among future professionals and caregivers can help unlock the vast potential of our learners on the spectrum.



**Rhonda Schock** is an ECE veteran, beginning her career 1986 as a stay at home mom, taking in a few other babes to help make ends meet. Over the past 38 years she has worked in/ owned RF, CF, Center, Recorded, Corporate, Public School venues. She became a Master trainer about 10 years ago, creating trainings to share with ECE teachers. She believes that PLAY is the foundation in the House of higher education & that children will rise to our expectations.



**Heather Siewell**, a lifelong resident of the Rogue Valley and parent of young adults, holds a master's degree in Psychology and is a Qualified Mental Health Professional (QMHP). She currently works at Jackson County Mental Health, where she specializes in trauma-informed care and attachment-based approaches to support young adults, families, and individuals in crisis. Heather is also a member of the Southern Oregon ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) training team, known for her compassionate and engaging teaching style. She enjoys teaching, coaching, and empowering youth and families as they transition from merely



**Lori Taft Sours**, PhD, RYT500, retired in 2019 from a career of over 25 years in higher education. She started a yoga practice in 2009 and has been teaching since 2014, earning her advanced yoga teacher training (RYT500) in 2023. She has extensive training in Subtle® Yoga, yoga for longevity, and yoga for brain and nervous system resilience. Lori founded Consider Yoga to support people in creating sustainable yoga practices for wellness throughout the life span. She is especially



**Rebecca Tree** M. Ed. has worked in the early childhood community for over 35 years beginning at Red Rocks Community College in Colorado. After moving to Oregon in 1990, she worked for various preschools prior to establishing a non-profit program in Medford, Oregon serving diverse populations for over 20 years. Until recently, Ms. Tree served as acting Director of the Community Preschool at Southern Oregon University in addition to her current duties as adjunct faculty in the Early Childhood Development program. Ms. Tree received her master's in education from

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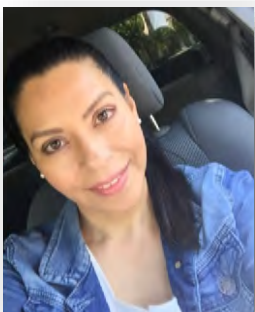
**Darcy Van Duzer** is the autism consultant for Jackson County EI/ECSE services program of Douglas ESD. Darcy has worked in early childhood special education for 20+ years in many different capacities. The common theme throughout her career has been working with autistic children and their families. This training is to increase your knowledge about autism and give you strategies that target autistic individuals' learning strengths and their challenges. Educating people about autism is her passion and she looks forwards to sharing her knowledge and resources with you.



Me llamo **Claudia Cervantes Lopez**. Yo soy de México y he tenido la fortuna de trabajar en el campo de la educación los últimos 25 años. Entre mi experiencia laboral en México, puedo destacar mi rol como profesora en el Colegio de Educadoras, además, fui instructora para bebés y mamás en mi propio centro de juegos. Aquí en el sur de Oregón, tuve el privilegio de trabajar como maestra de preescolar en OCDC, como especialista de preescolar para migrantes en SOESD y también como especialista en desarrollo temprano en Listo Family Literacy Program. He publicado 2 libros en español, uno para padres y el otro es un libro del abecedario para niños en edad negocios y recursos humanos. En mi tiempo libre nado, hago caminatas en las montañas y disfruto cocinar con mi familia y amigos.

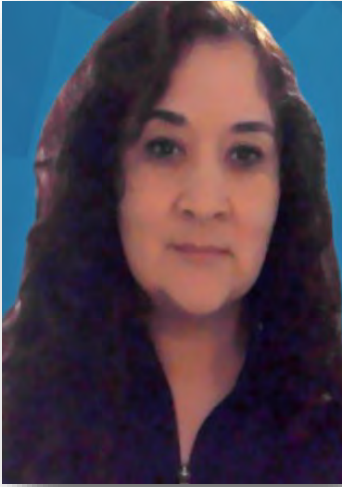


Soy **Lupita Maravilla**, Especialista Bilingüe con Child Care Substitutes of Oregon (CCSO). Me apasiona apoyar a los educadores y proveedores de la primera infancia en la creación de entornos de aprendizaje seguros, inclusivos y positivos. Mi objetivo es ayudar a los proveedores de cuidado infantil a acceder a los recursos, desarrollo profesional y oportunidades que necesitan para crecer y tener éxito. Estoy comprometida a marcar la diferencia en la vida de los niños pequeños promoviendo prácticas de cuidado infantil de alta calidad y fomentando relaciones sólidas y de apoyo dentro de las comunidades. Me encanta ayudar a proveedores y familias a trabajar juntos en beneficio de los niños, y me esfuerzo por ser una voz de apoyo en la comunidad de la primera infancia.



Soy **Irasema Rodriguez Moreno**, una psicóloga licenciada con más de 27 años de experiencia en psicoterapia y enseñanza. Trabajo como profesora preescolar en el programa OCDC. Como maestra de preescolar, soy responsable de implementar el plan de estudios, la planificación de la lección, el mantenimiento de un ambiente seguro y de pertenencia para los niños y las familias, y mantener registros de las observaciones de los niños para sus evaluaciones, ayudar a implementar planes de servicio integral e individualizado de la familia (IFSP),. Como psicoterapeuta Acompaño a las personas en el área de salud mental con respeto y ética, e imparto talleres de habilidades para enfrentar el estrés, la ansiedad y la toma de decisiones.

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**Norma Pantoja** ha llamado felizmente hogar al sur de Oregón durante 24 años después de mudarse de México. Como orgullosa madre de cuatro hijos, realmente aprecia el tiempo que pasa con sus hijos. Una de sus actividades favoritas como madre voluntaria en Head Start era la hora del cuento, donde le encantaba compartir cuentos con los más pequeños. Su aventura continuó en la biblioteca pública, donde pasó siete maravillosos años difundiendo su pasión por las historias. A pesar de que al principio se enfrentó a la barrera del idioma, rápidamente descubrió que la alegría y la curiosidad de los niños brillan, sin importar el idioma. Norma cree en el poderoso don de cultivar el amor por la lectura desde una edad temprana, sabiendo que puede durar toda la vida.



**Fabiola Reyes y Eunices Ayala** - Somos dos personas dedicadas a el área de la educación infantil que aportamos diversidad en esta área. Nos gusta trabajar en nuestro desarrollo profesional y dedicarnos a la necesidad de los niños, sus familias y la comunidad. Somos parte de diferentes programas y tenemos experiencias en diferentes centros como Listo Family Literacy, Montessori, y Promesa Preescolar. En cada uno de estos programas hemos obtenido desarrollos y experiencias profesionales. PD Somos divertidas, exploradoras y curiosas.