

CALIFORNIA EARLY MATH PROJECT PRESENTS

Early Math Seminar

PLAY MORE, LEARN MORE

FEBRUARY 23RD, 2023
6-8PM (PST) | VIRTUAL EVENT



SCHEDULE



6:00PM

- Opening Remarks

6:15PM

- EMP Activity: Exploring Ramps and Rollers

7:00PM

- Break

7:05PM

- Breakout Sessions: Choose from 1 of 5 sessions

- Developing and presenting a Family/Community Math Night
- Math is All Around Us! - Exploring math through diverse stories, food, and culture
- Loose Parts and Mathematical Thinking
- Everybody Codes: Using Playful Movement to Introduce Early Coding Skills
- "Math is Everywhere!": Using Augmented Reality for Community Math Exploration

7:55PM

- Closing Remarks

PRESENTATIONS



Exploring Ramps and Rollers

Early Math Project Team

Using everyday materials, we'll playfully experiment with ramps and rolling objects. We'll become familiar with the phenomenon of rolling, explore how small changes affect the way objects roll, modify rolling objects, and test ideas. We'll see how ramps and rolling objects spark children's interest in tinkering and investigation.

Developing and presenting a Family/Community Math Night

Jonathan Dueck | Age: Pre-K - 3rd Grade

Inviting families and the community into school events is always a worthwhile experience. Engaging in a math-related event is a great way to encourage and support the math occurring at your site. This session is all about what a Family Math Night can look like and how to prepare for one. We will be looking at what has worked well, and discussing how an event like this might be planned at your school. Jon has facilitated and co-facilitated Family Math Nights with preschools, primary and upper elementary students and their families. This session will be focused on geometry and shapes that are connected to literature books and activities. Come with ideas and questions about how to include family members in the math program that all of your students are a part of.

Math is All Around Us! Exploring math through diverse stories, food, and culture

Natasha Yim | Age: Kindergarten - 2nd Grade

As a child, children's author Natasha Yim never thought she was good at math. In fact, math was workbooks, boring text books, and a lot of day dreaming! Even as an award-winning author, when she was invited to submit a story for Charlesbridge Publishing's Storytelling Math series, she was full of self-doubt. Can she write a math book? She can and she did!

Loose Parts and Mathematical Thinking

JaNay Brown-Wood | Age: Infant - Kindergarten

"Luna's Yum Yum Dim Sum" was released as part of the Storytelling Math series by Charlesbridge Publishing in 2020. In this session, Natasha Yim will discuss using food and stories to explore math concepts and cultural traditions, and offer simple math activities to include in everyday routines. Weaving math early into the fabric of kids' daily lives will encourage them to see math not as something to be feared and intimidated by, but as a common aspect of their day-to-day schedule. From cooking/baking, putting away toys to getting dressed and eating meals, math is all around us!

Everybody Codes: Using Playful Movement to Introduce Early Coding Skills

Alejandra Alvarez & Scott Nielsen

Age: Pre-K - Kindergarten

In this breakout session, we will discuss Loose Parts and the powerful role they can play within Early Childhood curriculum in supporting multiple domains of development. Then, we will discuss some hands-on ideas of how parents and educators can use Loose Parts to support developing mathematical skills in young children while incorporating other content areas as well!

"Math is Everywhere!": Using Augmented Reality for Community Math Exploration

Claudia Ferrara & Keith Griffin

Age: Pre-K - 3rd Grade

In this session, participants will learn about MathTalk's approach to creating culturally-relevant tools that engage communities in playful math learning within their own neighborhoods. MathTalk will demonstrate how they are using MathTrails and augmented reality to encourage the idea that Math is Everywhere! The session will conclude with an invitation for participants to interact with the MathTalk technology via mobile iOS and Android devices.

SPEAKERS

Alejandra Alvarez

Alejandra has been working in education for over a decade in New York City and Costa Rica. She has worked as an educator, a consultant and a curriculum developer in primarily progressive, interdisciplinary and play-based programs. She also has extensive experience working with diverse groups of students and families in dual language and special education settings. She received her B.A. in History from Haverford College and later received a masters degree in Dual Language/Bilingual Early Childhood Special and General Education from Bank Street College of Education. Over the course of her career, she has taken a particular interest in incorporating environmental and nature-based education into her work. Her work aims to empower educators, caregivers and children by destigmatizing STEAM fields and helping make the content more accessible. She enjoys being active, exploring the natural world, gardening and spending time with her Pomeranian mix.



JaNay Brown-Wood



JaNay Brown-Wood, PhD, is an award-winning and children's author, poet, educator, and scholar. Her first children's book "Imani's Moon" won the NAESP Children's Book of the Year Award and was featured on Stephen Colbert's The Late Show and Storytime with the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Her second book "Grandma's Tiny House: A Counting Story!" received a starred review from Publisher's Weekly and won the CELI Read Aloud Book Award, and her third book "SHHH! The Baby's Asleep" received a starred review from School Library Journal. Additionally, her book TOO-SMALL TYSON is a Storytelling Math title with Charlesbridge Publishing. She enjoys writing, discussing the importance of authentic diversity in children's literature, teaching about child development and literacy, and spending time with her husband, Catrayel, and her daughter, Vivian.

Jonathan Dueck

Jon Dueck helps coordinate the California Early Math Initiative as a part of the Fresno County Early Care & Education Team. Jon works with teachers and administrators to build programs that promote a worthwhile and optimistic view of math and science, and help show families and the community that math is all around us. As a part of the CA Early Math Initiative, he leads the countplayexplore.org site, coaches preschool and primary teachers, and supports community math events. Jon leads STEM initiatives in the region while supporting schools and districts with comprehensive math program tools. Jon has spoken at local, state-wide, and international conferences about building strong math understanding and deepening math concepts in daily math lessons. He has worked in preschools, TK-12 schools and at the secondary level. Jon enjoys talking about numbers with young children.



Claudia Ferrara

Claudia Ferrara is the Learning and Engagement lead for MathTalk. Claudia graduated with her Masters in Psychology from Wesleyan University where she studied child cognitive development, focusing on children's development of early numeracy. Claudia served as a project manager for a large NSF funded preschool Math Game Intervention that was rolled out to schools across Connecticut. Claudia is passionate about math equity work, and is dedicated to being a part of creating playful and meaningful math experiences for families in underrepresented communities. Claudia enjoys spending time outdoors, baking, creative writing, and photography.



Keith Griffin

Born and raised in Cambridge, MA, Keith Griffin has been involved with youth physical education for the past 27 years. He coached multiple youth sports leagues for ages 4 through 12. Keith serves on the Cambridge Family Council policy board to help build equity in health and educational opportunities across the city. In 2018, Keith joined MathTalk where he applied his people (and carpentry!) skills to help create and develop math installations in public spaces throughout the community where he currently lives and raises his 6 children. Keith enjoys the outdoors. In his spare-time he likes to fish, cook/grill and spend time with family.



Scott Nielsen

Scott has 20 years of teaching experience in upper-elementary and middle school grades. He has taught in multiple-subject classrooms as well as single-subject math and woodworking courses. He has served as a coach, presenter, and coordinator at the AIMS Center since 2017. Scott's interests in music, art, engineering, and tinkering help fuel his desire for children to learn in playful, experimental, and engaging ways. He enjoys playing instruments in local bands, taking care of his yard, and walking his basset hound, Sweet Pea.



Natasha Yim

Natasha Yim is the author of nine picture books including, "Goldy Luck and the Three Pandas" (Charlesbridge Publishing, 2014), a Junior Library Guild and Scholastic Book Club selection, "The Rock Maiden" (Wisdom Tales Press, 2017), "Mulan's Lunar New Year" (Disney Worldwide Publishing, 2018), "Luna's Yum Yum Dim Sum" (Charlesbridge Publishing, 2020), and "Like Mother, Like Daughter" (Disney/Pixar, 2022). Natasha's nonfiction articles have been published in the children's magazines "Highlights for Children", "Faces", "Appleseeds", and "Muse". She grew up in Malaysia, Singapore, and Hong Kong, and many of her stories are inspired by her cultural upbringing.

