

Play + Relationships + Academics: Teaching in the Ways Kindergartners Learn Best
GLR Learning Tuesdays | Learning Loss Recovery Challenge Series

November 29, 2022 | 3 pm – 4:30 pm ET

PRESENTER BIOS

MODERATOR



Lisa Guernsey
Senior Fellow & Strategic Advisor, Education Policy Program
New America
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Lisa Guernsey is a senior fellow and strategic advisor in the Education Policy program at New America. Lisa's writing and editing sits at the intersection of literacy (including digital and media literacy), equity in education systems (including libraries, schools, and digital environments), and the science of learning. Lisa led the Teaching, Learning & Tech team at New America for five years, and from 2010 to 2015 directed New America's Early Education Initiative (now the Early & Elementary Education Policy program). Lisa co-founded and co-leads the Learning Sciences Exchange (LSX), a fellowship program at New America developed with Kathy Hirsh-Pasek at Temple University, Roberta Golinkoff at the University of Delaware, and the Jacobs Foundation. Before coming to New America, Lisa was a staff writer at the New York Times and the Chronicle of Higher Education. She has contributed to national publications including Scientific American, The Atlantic, the Washington Post, Newsweek, Time, Slate, ZERO TO THREE, and USA TODAY. She is co-author, with Michael H. Levine, of Tap, Click, Read: Growing Readers in a World of Screens (Jossey-Bass, 2015) and author of Screen Time: How Electronic Media—From Baby Videos to Educational Software—Affects Your Young Child (Basic Books, 2012). Lisa holds a master's degree in English/American studies and a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Virginia. She lives in Alexandria with her two daughters.

PRESENTERS



Nell Duke, Ed.D
Executive Director
Center for Early Literacy Success
Stand for Children
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Nell K. Duke is executive director of the Center for Early Literacy Success at Stand for Children. She also holds a position as professor of education and psychology at the University of Michigan. Duke's work focuses on early literacy development, particularly among children living in economic poverty. Duke has been named one of the most influential education scholars in the U.S. in EdWeek. In 2018, she received the International Literacy Association's William S. Gray Citation of Merit for outstanding contributions to research, theory, practice, and policy. Duke's most recent book is Literacy Learning for Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers: Key Practices for Educators.



Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology
Temple University
Senior Fellow
Brookings Institution
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Kathy Hirsh-Pasek, a Professor of Psychology at Temple University and a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution was declared a “scientific entrepreneur” from the American Association of Psychology. Writing 16 books and 250+ publications, she served as President of the International Congress for Infant Studies and was on the Governing Board of the Society for Research in Child Development and is on the board of Zero to Three. Her Einstein Never Used Flashcards won the Book for a Better Life Award in 2003 with her *Becoming Brilliant* (2016) reaching the NYTimes Best Sellers List in education. Her newest book *Making Schools Work* came out in November of 2022. Hirsh-Pasek won awards from every psychological and educational society for her basic science and translational work designed to bridge basic science and educational impact. A founding member of the Latin American School for Educational and Cognitive Neuroscience, she spearheaded a global network of scientists devoted to educational science. Co-founder of the global Learning Science Exchange Fellowship, she brings together scientists, journalists, policy makers and entertainers, to put learning science in the hands of educators. In 2021, she was elected as a member of the National Academy of Education. Her initiative Playful Learning Landscapes re-imagines cities and public squares as places with science-infused designs that enhance academic and social opportunities. Hirsh-Pasek frequently comments for the press (e.g. NPR, NYT) and blogs for the Brookings Institution.



Anya Hurwitz, Ed.D.
Executive Director
Sobrato Early Academic Language (SEAL)
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Dr. Anya Hurwitz is the Executive Director of SEAL (Sobrato Early Academic Language), an educational nonprofit working to ensure all English Learners/Dual Language Learners in California learn, thrive, and lead. She has worked for over 25 years in education as a teacher, school leader, district administrator, and within the educational nonprofit sector. The early part of her career was in New York City, and in 2010 she moved to northern California. Dr. Hurwitz joined the SEAL team as Deputy Director in 2014 and became Executive Director in 2017. She has a doctorate in educational leadership from UC Berkeley.



Deborah Leong, Ph.D.

Co-founder and President

Tools of the Mind

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Dr. Deborah J. Leong is the Co-founder and President of Tools of the Mind and Professor Emerita of Psychology at Metropolitan State University of Denver, where she taught for 36 years in the Psychology Department and in the Department of Education. Dr. Leong developed the Tools of the Mind approach with Dr. Bodrova with whom she has written numerous books, articles, and educational videos on the Vygotskian Approach to Psychology and the development of play. Dr. Leong has written several books on early childhood assessment with Drs. McAfee and Bodrova. She has her Ph.D. from Stanford University in Psychological Studies in Education, her M.Ed. from Harvard University, and her B.A. from Stanford University. She was a Fulbright Fellow to the University of Patagonia, Argentina.

COMMENTATORS

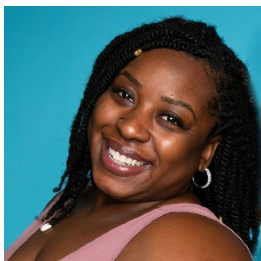


Cynthia Crespo

Kindergarten Special Education Teacher

New York City Schools

Cynthia Crespo is a kindergarten special education teacher in district 13. This is her 14th year teaching for the department of education. She spent most of her career teaching kindergarten and first grade. Ms. Crespo is an active participant in her school community. She has led many professional development series for her colleagues on best practices, she created a school wide behavior system for her former school and gets involved in school committees. Ms. Crespo always looks for a learning opportunity. She likes to educate herself with new educational theories and is developing herself as a future educational leader. She graduated from Long Island University with a masters degree in urban education. As an educator in the NYC school system, she strives for her instruction to be equitable and rigorous for all of her students.



Seymonnia Cutkelvin

Kindergarten Teacher

New York City Schools

Seymonnia Cutkelvin is a general education teacher in an integrated co-teaching (ICT) Kindergarten classroom at P.S. 9 Sarah Smith Garnet in Brooklyn, New York. She has been teaching at P.S. 9 for three years. Before joining the school community, she taught three-year-olds at a preschool in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. To date, she has a total of 10 years teaching experience. When she is not in the classroom, she is usually listening to music with my dog, traveling, or bugging her teenager to smile in photos.



Luis Gallego, M.A.Ed

Partnership Development Manager

Tools of the Mind

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Luis Gallego is a Senior Partnership Development Manager who works with teachers, coaches, and school and district administrators to help them provide high-quality education to Preschool and Kindergarten students through Tools of the Mind Curriculum as well as help them grow in the educational field. Luis has been working for Tools of the Mind since 2014 bringing 12 years of teaching experience in preschool and elementary levels (English and Spanish) in his native Colombia and Denver, CO. Luis Holds a B.A. in Foreign Language Teaching (English and French) from Universidad del Valle, Colombia, and an M.A. in Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Education from University of Colorado-Denver. He has experience in supporting Dual Language Learners, Spanish Language Acquisition, Literacy in Spanish and Bilingual Education.