

**Press Release: 4/6/09**

## **Ooey Gooley Lady® Headlines 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Learning Early Conference**

On Friday, April 24, 2009 at the Sayre Theatre in Sayre, PA, the Learning Early Network's Annual Conference will bring experts in early childhood issues together to explore the topics of Community Fitness and Health. Learning Early Network partners including the Bradford-Sullivan Early Childhood Coalition, Guthrie Health, the NE Pennsylvania Key, BLaST IU 17, and Penn State Cooperative Extension will join the Bradford County Regional Arts Council to present workshops on fitness, nutrition, science, Kindergarten readiness, multiple intelligences, challenges including obesity, mental health, and what is too sick to be in school; as well as music, rhythm, dance and Ooey Gooley® visual art and play.

The Ooey Gooley Lady® (Lisa Murphy) will provide the keynote address and two workshops at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Learning Early Network Conference. Recognized nationally, the Ooey Gooley Lady's presentations are sponsored by the Bradford-Sullivan Early Childhood Coalition. In addition to the anticipated 300 conference attendees, the public is invited to attend the 9am keynote for a good-will offering.

Lisa Murphy created The Learning Through Adventure Company in 1997 (now known as Ooey Gooley, Inc.) in order to bring high-energy, informative yet exciting and FUN hands-on workshops to teachers, directors, parents and family child care providers. From her first workshop held in a small preschool in the San Diego area for about 15 teachers... where it took her 2 hours to set up and 2 mini-vans to haul all the materials... to her latest... where she flew from New York to Florida to Sacramento in a 48 hour period with 3 tubs of goo! The security folks in the airport know her well! They see those tubs coming and say "OH OH! Here she comes again!"

In order for children to be "ready" for school, they need to have time to PLAY, and Lisa and Ooey Gooley believe the best places for them to play are in child-centered environments - whether within homes, preschools, family childcares, kindergartens, or day care centers, children need to have the opportunity to be engaged in experiences that are relevant and meaningful to them.

Other presenters at this year's conference include artists Vanessa Knause, Mary Knysh and KJ Reimensnyder-Wagner and Guthrie Health employees Kim Davenport, Faith McMahon and Susan Terwilliger. The Northeast Regional Key, which works for Pennsylvania "to improve the quality of early learning" is sponsoring presenters Elizabeth Anderson, Elizabeth Schwartz and Cindy Middendorf. BLaST Intermediate Unit #17 is presenting Meg Ralston and Penn State Extension is presenting Cathy Guffey.

The Health, Fitness and Nutrition focus of the conference is in response to the growing problem of obesity in the nation and in Bradford County. Guthrie Health has been facilitating a community-wide effort to improve fitness and nutrition by bringing schools, healthcare providers, YMCA and others together. Because children learn habits and behaviors prior to entering Kindergarten, the Bradford County Regional Arts Council's Learning Early Network Conference was selected to help identify the importance of fitness and nutrition to the early childhood community.

The details of the conference can be found at [www.learningearly.com](http://www.learningearly.com) or by calling the Arts Council at 570-268-ARTS (2787).