

Featured Speakers

Dan Habib is the director and producer of the new documentary, *Including Samuel*. He is currently Filmmaker in Residence at the Institute on Disability at the University of New Hampshire. Until joining UNH in April of 2008, Mr. Habib was the photography editor of the *Concord Monitor*. In 2006 and 2008, he was named the national Photography Editor of the Year for papers under 100,000 circulation. Between his stints at the *Monitor*, he freelanced and created a multi-media documentary project titled "Teen Sexuality in a Culture of Confusion." Mr. Habib's freelance work, including extensive documentary work in China, has appeared in numerous publications, including *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Life*, *Mother Jones* and the *New York Times*. He has been named New Hampshire Photographer of the Year 6 times. He has been a judge of Pulitzer Prizes, Pictures of the Year, Best of Photojournalism and White House News Photographer's Association. Mr. Habib and his wife, Betsy, live in Concord, New Hampshire, with their sons Isaiah, 12, and Samuel, 9. For more information about Dan Habib and his work, please access www.danhabib.com.

John Almarode has been an educator and staff developer for many years, working with all age groups of students from kindergarten to the graduate level. He began his career in Augusta County, Virginia. As a mathematics and science teacher, Mr. Almarode created an innovative and unique experience for each of his students, matching instruction with how the brain learns. As a staff developer, he has presented locally, regionally, nationally, as well as internationally on the role of brain research in education. Allowing audiences to experience brain-based learning, his action-packed workshops will provide you with the knowledge to create change in the classroom and school community. Recognizing the uniqueness of each individual brain, the techniques and strategies modeled and discussed will support an increase in student achievement in the classroom. Mr. Almarode lives in Waynesboro, Virginia with his wife Danielle, a fellow educator.

Location and Lodging

The conference will be held at Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel, 5700 Atlantic Ave., Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23451. Participants must make hotel reservations for overnight stay by calling the Wyndham Virginia Oceanfront at 1.800.365.3032. The Virginia Department of Education Early Childhood Project has offset the cost of typical summer conference rates for a block of rooms on Monday (7/13/09) and Tuesday (7/14/09) nights. These special rates are \$128 (non oceanfront room) and \$149 (oceanfront room). To receive this rate, please identify yourself as part of the Shining Stars Conference group. Make your reservations early, as space is limited. The reservation room block will close on June 6, 2009.

Who Should Attend

- ★ Early Childhood Special Educators ★
- ★ Early Childhood Educators ★ Paraprofessionals ★
- ★ Head Start, Title I, and Even Start Providers ★
- ★ Childcare Providers ★ Administrators ★
- ★ Families ★ Virginia Preschool Initiative ★
- ★ Related Service Providers ★ Early Interventionists ★

For more information and TO REGISTER:
Please register online at www.ttaconline.org. Once on TTAC Online, click on your region, click on the Events tab at the top, and scroll down to Shining Stars 2009 – Early Childhood Conference. Click on the conference description and follow the directions for General Registration.

The conference registration fee is \$75.00

Shining Stars:

Charting the Future for Today's Children Virginia's Sixth Annual Early Childhood Conference

July 13th - July 15th, 2009
Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Sponsored collaboratively by:

The Virginia Department of Education
The Virginia Department of Education's T/TACs
The Partnership for People with Disabilities
Virginia Division for Early Childhood

Shining Stars 2009 Tentative Schedule

Monday, July 13th, 2009

12:00 – 1:00 pm Registration/ Vendors Open
 1:00 – 1:30 pm Welcome
 1:30 – 3:30 pm Opening Keynote Address

Dan Habib

Dan Habib, photo journalist, rarely thought about inclusion before he had his son Samuel. Now he thinks about inclusion every day. Mr. Habib's award-winning documentary film, *Including Samuel*, examines the educational and social inclusion of youth with disabilities as a civil rights issue. His documentary follows the efforts of his family to include Samuel, who is eight years old now, in all facets of family, school, and community life. *Including Samuel* also features four other families with varied inclusion experiences, plus interviews with dozens of teachers, young people, parents, and disability rights experts.

Following the viewing of the film and some key speaking points from Mr. Habib, we will have a large town meeting on inclusion. Tables will have town-meeting discussions about the benefits and challenges of the educational and social inclusion of children with disabilities. These discussions will be facilitated by Mr. Habib and the Shining Stars conference committee.

3:30 – 4:30 pm Vendors/Networking Social

Tuesday, July 14th, 2009

7:30 – 8:00 am Registration/Vendors Open
 Continental Breakfast

8:00 – 4:30 pm Breakout Session Topics

- ★ Brain Development with John Almarode
- ★ Developing Concepts Through Story Time
- ★ Read With Me! Strategies for Building Language and Literacy
- ★ Choosing a Curriculum for Preschoolers in Roanoke City Schools
- ★ Terrific Transitional Techniques
- ★ Understanding Hearing Loss (EI)
- ★ Apples: The Fruit of the Community
- ★ See Me, Feel Me, Touch Me, Hear Me: Adapting Books for All Children
- ★ Using Everyday Technology
- ★ Bridging the Gap Between Parents and Professionals
- ★ SmartBoards: Work Smarter, Not Harder
- ★ Common Feeding Problems in Early Childhood (EI)
- ★ Sensory Integration: Easy Solutions for Sensory Needs of Young Children
- ★ Oral Health Care for Children with Special Health Care Needs (EI)
- ★ Multicultural Factors in Early Childhood Services
- ★ Brain Development: What We Know About How Children Learn (EI)
- ★ Special Quest
- ★ Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)
- ★ Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)
- ★ Video Self Modeling
- ★ The I'm Determined Project

11:45 am – 1:00 pm Lunch/Vendors
 2:30 – 3:00 pm Vendors
 5:30 – 7:00 pm Reception

Rhythm Project Steel Drum Band
 Oceanside Patio, Wyndham VA Beach Oceanfront

Wednesday, July 15th, 2009

8:00 – 8:30 am Vendors/ Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 10:00 am Breakout Session Topics

- ★ I'm Special Too! Working with Siblings of Children with Special Needs
- ★ Children at Work: The Importance of Play
- ★ State Overview
- ★ Family Diversity (EI)
- ★ There was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Book

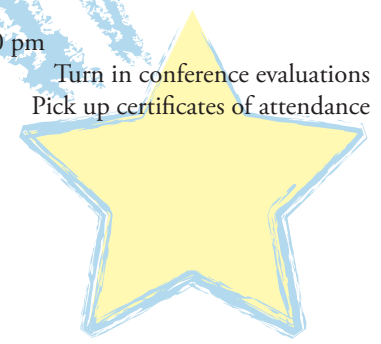
10:15 – 12:00 pm Closing Keynote Address

John Almarode

The Early Years: What Brain Research Says About Teaching Our Youngest

This keynote investigates the developmental milestones of the brain and the notorious "critical periods." The focus is on brain development and the factors that positively and negatively impact it. Is there a window of time for learning language, motor skills, and visual processing skills? The answer may surprise you! Participants will walk away from this experience with a sound understanding of what happens in the developing brain and AWESOME strategies to enrich the experiences of the children they teach. If you are looking for ways to create optimal environments that make big time changes in young brains, this keynote is for you!

12:00 – 12:30 pm Turn in conference evaluations
 Pick up certificates of attendance



Shining Stars