

# California Kindergarten Association E-News

April 2014



**CKA Presents**  
***Common Core Tools, Tips & Tricks for  
TK, K and 1st Grade***  
***Featuring Heidi Butkus!***



The second in a series of full- and half-day professional development workshops (PDW's) throughout the state, *Common Core Tools, Tips & Tricks for TK, K and 1st Grade* will be held in **Oakdale on Tuesday, June 10th.**

***Earn up to three graduate-level semester units by attending the workshop.*** Email [courses4teachers@courses4teachers.net](mailto:courses4teachers@courses4teachers.net) and mention you'd like credit linked to your attendance at CKA's Professional Development Workshop Series.

For more information on the Oakdale PDW, please [click here](#).

***Stay tuned for more dates and locations!***

## ***Early Childhood Stem Conference 2015 Call for Presentations***

The Children's Center at Caltech (CCC) in collaboration with THINK Together, and The Children & Families Commission of Orange County are sponsoring and hosting another ***Early Childhood Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (ECSTEM) Conference*** to promote and increase awareness of the importance of introducing STEM education in early childhood (birth through eight years).

The ECSTEM committee is seeking proposals for workshop presentations for its conference to be held at the **Hilton Hotel in Costa Mesa, California, on February 5-7, 2015.** To apply, please complete and return [the proposal form](#) no later than Monday, **June 2, 2014.**

Sessions may range from 1.5 hours to 3 hours in duration. Please consider the session length when submitting your proposal.

## **Help support CKA at no cost to yourself!**

Any time you shop on Amazon following the link on our site (you'll find one on our home page). CKA receives a percentage of the sale and the price for the shopper remains the same. Thanks for your support and spread the word!

Ready to get shopping?

[Click here!](#)

## **JOIN CKA!**

Become part of a network of educators who want early childhood education to be the best it can be! CKA members can look forward to:

- TKP Implementation
- Common Core State Standards lesson plans
- More You Tube videos
- More offerings on our website's Members Only Portal

### Room setup

Audiovisual equipment: ECSTEM will provide a standard audiovisual equipment setup which includes a screen and an LCD projector. One table microphone or one podium mic will be setup in larger rooms. A sound patch will be setup if requested. Any additional AV equipment is at the presenter's expense.

### Presenter registration

If your proposal is selected, you will receive a detailed e-mail with acceptance letter and confirmation agreement, which you will need to sign and return.

### No Sales policy

ECSTEM's stated policy is that presenters may not sell products in session rooms. Presenters are not permitted to sell products before, during or after their session at the Annual Conference. If you would like to purchase a booth in ECSTEM's Exhibit Hall, please visit the Exhibitors & Sponsor's page. More information will be posted in the coming months.

### Questions

Please e-mail ECSTEM's Conference Committee at [ecstem@caltech.edu](mailto:ecstem@caltech.edu) or call 626-395-6860.

## *Transitional Kindergarten Homework*

Numerous educators asked for examples of developmentally appropriate transitional kindergarten homework. CKA responds with [this example](#) from Deb Meng, TK teacher in Elk Grove, CA.

## *Wearing Many Hats, Or How Kindergarten Teachers Adorn Their Heads*

Early childhood education is guided by education theory that helps us understand children's development and learning. Candace Kaye offers an examination of theorists Jean-Jacques Rousseau, John Dewey, Jean Piaget, Lev Vygotsky, and Howard Gardner. View the article [here](#).

## *8 Characteristics of a Great Teacher*



What makes a teacher strong? What differentiates the best from the rest? There's no shortage of bodies (some dramatically misguided) attempting to solve this riddle. The answers are nebulous at best. Below is a list of traits, some of which may be familiar but many of which will never show up on any sort of performance review. Check them out and see what you think.

- 1. They Demonstrate Confidence**
- 2. They Have Life Experience**
- 3. They Understand Each Student's Motivation**
- 4. They're People, Not Heroes.**
- 5. They're Technologically Capable**
- 6. They Model Risk Taking**

[Click here to join!](#)

## [CKA on Facebook!](#)

Have a comment? Want to chat about early childhood issues? Wondering what we've been up to? Come join us on Facebook and connect with other CKA members!

Be sure to check out our "Tuesday Teaching Tips" every week on Facebook!

## **Art Really Teaches (4th Edition)**

Present curriculum to your students using hands-on art experiences! Art Really Teaches includes color photos of art projects by 4, 5 and 6 year old artists, tips for framing art work, a project title index as well as over 400 activities to help you teach the standards!



The cost is \$35 plus shipping and handling. To order a copy, contact First Stage Publishing at (707)664-0164 or email them at [firststageco@aol.com](mailto:firststageco@aol.com)!

**7. They Focus On Important Stuff**  
**8. They Don't Worry Too Much About What Administrators Think**

From TeachThought.com, Friday, April 26, 2013.  
See <http://www.teachthought.com/teaching/8-characteristics-of-a-great-teacher/>  
for the full article.

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