

First Greater Chicago Chapter Workshop speaker: Past ECMMA president, Jan Vidruk

The initial workshop of the Greater Chicago Area Chapter of the Early Childhood Music and Movement Association was held on Saturday, May 7, 2011 from 10:00am to Noon, at the Skokie, IL campus of National-Louis University.

The workshop began with a brief presentation from *Dr. Rekha Rajan, President/Founder of the Greater Chicago Area Chapter*. In her session, Rekha described the *Top Ten Issues in Early Childhood Music and Movement Education*. She challenged the workshop



attendees with facts and questions, asking them to reflect on their own understandings of the field and their practice in classroom settings. Some of the challenges we face today include our ability to integrate the arts, engage students, develop age-appropriate activities, and simply find the time to include music and movement in our classrooms.



For our first meeting we were thrilled to have over 30 attendees, including graduate and undergraduate students in early childhood teacher education, music teachers and specialists, and classroom teachers from early childhood and elementary settings.



Chapter Notes

The main session was presented by Jan Vidruk, Past President of ECMMA and our guest speaker for the workshop. Jan presented a 90-minute session entitled *Basic Sensory Integration for Teachers of Young Children*.



Through the workshop, Jan engaged the workshop attendees in background research and theories on sensory integration and engaged participants with hands



-on activities that included creating choreography, collaborating as a large and small group, and making music.

Summer 2011

EARLY CHILDHOOD
MUSIC & MOVEMENT
ASSOCIATION



Attendees reflected on their experience at the workshop and provided valuable feedback and comments:

- ~ I liked everything and wished it had been longer.
- ~ I thought the workshop was exciting and helpful to keep our 2's and 3's moving.
- ~ Very much enjoyed this seminar and the hands-on experience.
- ~ I loved working and learning with the fun people today.
- ~ The scarves and drums activities were amazing and definitely something I will in a classroom.
- ~ We have a lot of energy in our room and I think it helps to use their energy to focus
- ~ I will use some of the tools that were taught.
- ~ I have noticed not many teachers are aware of the SI difficulties in children and how they impact their learning
- ~ Where is the CD so I can reuse the songs or DVD so I can recall the moments!!!!
- ~ Very useful for my teaching career.

Our Vice President, Monica Corbett, and Secretary/Treasurer, Linda Giammanco, enjoyed participating in all



of the activities.

**Please join us for our Fall Workshop:
Celebrate Cultural Diversity through Music**
Guest Speaker, Brigid Finucane, Merit School of Music, Chicago

**Saturday October 1st
10:00am to Noon
Campus of National-Louis University
5202 Old Orchard Rd. Skokie, IL**

*Admission is free for Chapter Members and \$12 for new attendees.
It is \$20 to join for a year (12-month-period)*

For questions, comments, and to RSVP, please email: Rekha.Rajan@nl.edu