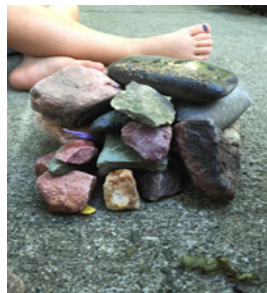


Satellite Family Child Care System
Mini-Conference
Saturday, September 29th, 2018
8:00 am – 3:00 pm
RISE Building (2120 Fordem Avenue) – Community Room
Please join us for a day of learning, networking and fun!
Six hours of Registry credits available
All sessions in English and Spanish

***** Featuring Presenter: Diann Gano, M.Ed.*****



Diann Gano—who opened her family child care program, [Under the Ginkgo Tree](#), in 1986—has long believed that “the earth gives us what we need to learn” and that nature is “the perfect environment for little brains to grow and learn in every day.” While conducting research for her master’s thesis on [outdoor learning in early childhood settings](#), she learned about the Nature Explore Classroom Certification, which recognizes schools and other organizations that have made a commitment to providing outdoor classrooms and comprehensive programming to help children use the natural world as an integral part of learning. After completing her master’s degree in 2010, she pursued [Nature Explore Classroom certification](#) for her family child care program. In 2011, Under the Ginkgo Tree was one of the first family child care programs in the U.S. to be certified as a Nature Explore Certified Outdoor Classroom. Gano, an [Erikson Institute Town Square Advisory Board](#) member, has also participated in the Erikson Institute’s Early Childhood Leadership Summit and served as a webinar panelist for Town Square Illinois, an online resource and professional development tool for home-based providers. She has presented at the local, state and national levels on topics ranging from indoor and outdoor learning environments to math and science education in family child care settings. In 2016, Gano was honored as a recipient of First Lady Michelle Obama’s *Let’s Move Child Care Innovator Award*. She received her B.S. in liberal arts from Western Illinois University and her M.Ed. in education from St. Mary of the Woods College in Indiana.



Session 1: Trees, Bees and Skinned Knees; Natures Impact on the Brain: Reconnect with Mother Earth! Discover how nature provides cognitive benefits and why playing outdoors is so important to brain development. Useful strategies and resources will be shared to effectively integrate nature play into your outdoor classroom. We will discuss risky play, schemas, and what the research reports children look for and want in outdoor classrooms.

Session 2: Stumps and Pumps; Creating Outdoor Learning Environments in Family Childcare:

Diann will share her journey of taking our own family childcare curriculum outdoors. Conversations will include branded products, scripted play, risk taking, loose parts and how very small changes in environmental spaces can add intentionality and focus to natural investigation and learning. Let’s create environments that allow children to become thinkers, problem solvers, and risk-takers! Yes! You can create that environment in your own backyard!

Session 3: Home Sweet, Sweet Home; Bringing Natural Materials Into Your Home: Learn the secrets of softening your environment with natural materials while still meeting state licensing and rating system guidelines. Yes, it can be done! We will create calming environments and increase the learning and social skills along the way. When we remove the clutter and excess, everyone slows down and play becomes deeper, engaging and inviting for more group investigation.

Session 4: Snips and Snails, What’s in Our Pails? Open Ended Learning Through Loose Parts: If the term loose parts is new to you, we will get busy “messaging about” to see what all the excitement is about. With no specific set of directions and powered only by a child imagination; nature’s loose parts create infinite play possibilities. Intentional learning happens when we follow the direction of the children and the world around them. Learn how you can set up beautiful learning environments without a lot of money. The supplies are all around you, many of which are free. We discuss how many, what kind, and storage of the pieces.

Please mail registration form and check payment of \$20.00 to:

Reach Dane
Att: Satellite Family Child Care System
2096 Red Arrow Trail
Fitchburg, WI 53711

Satellite Mini-Conference Registration Form:

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email address: _____

Phone number: _____

For questions please contact: Amy Christianson, Satellite Director
email: achristianson@reachdane.org or phone: (608) 469-1199

*Conference registrations will be confirmed by email once registration form and payment is received.