



Ron Mohl holds a B.A. from Florida Atlantic University and brings over 19 years of experience in the education industry to his position of Lead Educational Presenter



for Lakeshore Learning Materials. Ron is a CLASS certified classroom observer for both Toddler and Pre-K classrooms. Ron has also studied at the Environmental Rating Scale Institute for ECERS-3 and ITERS. In this role, Ron has collaborated with school districts to enrich their scope of instruction and summer programs as well as public and private institutions to provide professional development related to curriculum including Creative Curriculum and High Scope. Ron's experience with Head Start programs spans across the country with keynotes in State, Regional and National conferences and Ron has contributed to military child development centers around the world including London, Italy, South Korea, and Japan. By focusing on the importance of play in the learning process, Ron's interactive trainings help educators enrich curricula that relates to being a partner in play through authentic experiences with children.

Becky Tickle is an Infant and Toddler Specialist with Smart Beginnings Danville / Pittsylvania, mentoring infant and toddler programs and Family Day Homes, also providing training to child care providers. Becky has a B.S. in Early Childhood Education from Mount Olive University, N.C.

Leigh Laughorn is an Infant and Toddler Specialist with Smart Beginnings Danville / Pittsylvania. She works to meet the regional training and support needs of individuals working with infants and toddlers. She received her Bachelors in Elementary Education, and a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction from Averett University. Leigh has over 20 years of teaching

experience with Caswell County Schools. Most recently she was a Director with Trinity Childcare in Danville.

Kathy Banks considers herself a strong advocate for high quality early learning for all children. In fact, she believes in this purpose so much that she has committed to becoming a continual learner in the subject of early care and education. Currently working on her Ed.D. in Early Childhood Education, Kathy has a long history of working in the field of early care and education in the state of Virginia. She started her career as a child care assistant at the Children's Hospital of the Kings Daughter's in Norfolk Virginia when she was just 18. Now, 30 years later, she can say she has held just about every position in the field, and has lived all over Virginia. Kathy recently accepted the position of site director for the brand new Early Child Development Lab at Longwood University in Farmville. Kathy teaches early childhood courses at both Blue Ridge Community College in Weyers Cave and Patrick Henry Community College in Martinsville.

Scott Secor serves as Director of Social Enterprise for First in Families of NC, a nonprofit organization supporting over 2,500 individuals with developmental disabilities and their families throughout North Carolina. He has overseen the Lifetime Connections program since 2012. Lifetime Connections operates as a Social Enterprise and offers unique supports and future planning services to people with all types of disabilities and their families. He oversees the facilitation of personal networks to promote active inclusion of members in the community. Scott frequently speaks on the importance of future planning for family caregivers. Scott continues to promote Supported Decision Making throughout the state as a natural complement to future planning and a practical alternative to guardianship.

Cynthia Hutchison is completing her doctoral degree in Reading Development at the University of Virginia. She is the Director of the Excellence in Children's Early Language and Literacy program and an adjunct professor for Virginia Commonwealth University. Much of her work focuses on professional development for preschool teacher who serve the needs of children from low-income urban communities. .

Kimberly Hughes is a Conscious Discipline Master Instructor and national keynote speaker and trainer. She discovered the power of Conscious Discipline while serving as an early childhood educator in an inclusive mental health setting. It soon became her passion to share its transformative and empowering message with as many children, parents and educators as possible. Kim has supported school-wide implementation in both early childcare and elementary settings, mentored administrators, conducted both large and small group trainings and worked directly with teachers of children infant through elementary age. She holds a M.S. in Elementary Education and School Leadership/Administration.

Gerin Martin has served in the early childhood profession for 23 years. She has been a pre-kindergarten teacher, early childhood special education teacher, and is currently the Early Childhood Education Coordinator for Campbell County Schools. She received a M.ED in Special Education and endorsement in Early Childhood Special Education from Lynchburg College as well as a M.ED in Educational Leadership from Lynchburg College. Gerin has presented to early childhood professionals at the local, state, national, and international level. She is co-author of the book *Make Room for Boys! Helping Boys Thrive in Preschool*.

Cherie Daniels is currently working as the VPI Family Service Worker in Bedford County Public Schools. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education from Longwood College in 1989. She began her career in Education as a kindergarten teacher in Bedford County, Virginia. She helped launch a Title I Preschool program at Thaxton Elementary in 2003. She followed this passion for 15 years as a classroom teacher of preschool students. Her love for teaching has fueled the desire to research and share knowledge that can support families and teachers of young children.

Jane Ruehle is certified to teach Pre-K through grade six and has a Master's in Counseling with a certification in Elementary School Counseling. After working in group homes and prevention services with adolescents, Jane began a career with Lynchburg City Schools and has been teaching in a VPI classroom for the last 13 years. Her passion is to help children begin school with enthusiasm and joy.

Geralyn Gulino is a facilitator and board member for Kids' Haven, a non-profit organization that serves grieving children and their families through support and education. She is a licensed counselor with a Master's Degree from the University of Lynchburg. She will serve as a Bereavement Counselor for Centra Hospice.

Talitha Kirby is a Virginia Quality Technical Assistance Specialist and an Early Childhood Education Instructor at Patrick Henry Community College. She has been in the field of early childhood for over 10 years now working as an intern, teacher, director, and specialist. She has a Masters in Teaching & Learning in Early Childhood Education.