Welcome to the United States of America and to Washington D.C.
Welcome to Washington, DC

About OMEP

The aim of the World Organization for Early Childhood Education (OMEP) is to promote for all children the optimum conditions to ensure their well-being, development, learning, and happiness in their families and the institutions that serve them. OMEP champions children’s rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. It supports research which may influence the conditions in which children live, develop, learn, and play, and helps in undertakings that will improve early childhood education. OMEP also carries out projects which contribute to an understanding between peoples and to peace in the world. It convenes an annual Assembly and Conference in various locations around the world.

About OMEP-USA

OMEP-USA is one of over 70 national committees that belong to World OMEP and share its goals and objectives. Its membership is divided among eight regions that cover the 50 states and the District of Columbia (Washington, DC). Its Board of Directors, composed of voting and non-voting members, meets twice a year. The fall meeting occurs during the annual conference of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The spring meeting occurs during the annual Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI) conference. OMEP-USA works cooperatively with these and many other organizations for which international early childhood education is of primary interest.

Our City: Washington, DC

The District of Columbia, formed by the Constitution of the United States in 1787, became the seat of the federal government soon after. President John Adams, the second U.S. president, was the first president to occupy the White House, initially called the President’s House. Over the intervening years, the city of Washington, D.C., has been not only the center of the federal government, but has also become home to over 600,000 residents. Many federal workers live in and commute from the neighboring states of Maryland and Virginia. The city is home to many national monuments and memorials and has become a city of neighborhoods such as Georgetown, Adams Morgan, Anacostia, Chinatown/Penn Quarter, Southwest Waterfront, Dupont Circle, and especially the National Mall with its spectacular views of the nation’s Capitol and the Washington Monument, both visible from approaching airplanes that land at Washington Reagan National Airport. Washington is a 61-square mile plot of land situated between the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers. Its Metro system of underground trains and buses provide inexpensive and frequent transportation within DC and into Maryland and Virginia.
Conference Themes

Theme: Early Childhood Pathways to Sustainability

Sub-themes for Sustainability through:

1. A Highly Effective Workforce
2. Comprehensive, Engaging, Play-based Curriculum Models
3. STEAM Education (Science, Technology/Media, Engineering, Art & Mathematics)
4. Facility Design and Responsive Classrooms
5. Systems of Comprehensive Health and Wellness
6. Family Engagement, Cultural and Linguistic Diversity
7. Systems Building, Partnerships, Financing, Advocacy and Public Policy
8. Peace Education and Environmental Stewardship
9. Sensible Assessment: Teacher, Environments, Children
10. Children’s Rights

Call for Papers

67th OMEP World Assembly and Conference

Submit your abstract of no more than 300 words online at www.omep-usa.org on or before 9 January 2015. Cite the theme or sub-theme for your abstract.

- Submit your proposal abstract in English, French, or Spanish. Presentations will be given in the language of the abstract unless otherwise noted.
- Submit your proposal abstract for one of the following methods of presentation; check the method:

  - Individual Paper Presentations: 20-minute papers, 10 minutes of Q & A.
  - Self-Organized Symposium: 1.5 hours for 3 papers around a common theme with a moderator.
  - Poster Presentation: 1.5 hours for a poster fitted on a 3’x3’ space with presenter/s available to discuss topic with delegates.
  - Short Paper Presentations for Post-graduate Presenters: 10-minute papers & 5 minutes of Q & A. Include school affiliation.
  - Workshop: 1.5 Hours. Specify maximum number of delegates & space requirement. Presenter/s must provide all workshop materials.
IMPORTANT DATES

Registration Opens: 1 January, 2015
Proposal Abstract Submission: 9 January 2015
Notification of Acceptance: 13 March 2015
Early Registration Deadline: 27 March 2015
Full Registration Deadline: 15 May 2015
EduTours & PlayDaze Activities: 29 July 2015
World Conference: 30 July – 1 August 2015

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

■ Mon & Tue, 27 & 28 July: World Assembly (Observers to the Assembly should register ahead of time with their national president. There is no extra fee to be an observer).

■ Tue-Sat, July 28-Aug 1: Conference Registration

■ Wed, 29 July: EduTours to early childhood programs in the District of Columbia and PlayDaze Activities. Opening Reception begins at 7pm.

■ Thu-Sat, July 30-August 1: 67th World Conference with morning plenaries, keynote speakers with simultaneous translations in English, French, and Spanish, opening and closing ceremonies, afternoon break-out sessions, and

■ Thu, July 30: Conference Banquet (Extra Fee Required)
REGISTRATION FEES

Early Registration $425.00 US
(Includes all conference sessions, visits to early childhood programs and transportation, coffee breaks, lunches on Thursday & Friday, Opening Reception)

Full Registration $485.00 US
(Includes all items listed under Early Registration)

Day Rate Registration $200.00 US
(Specify Thursday or Friday)

Student Rate $250.00 US
(Please include copy of current student ID)

Check website for additional information and updates at:
www.omep-usa.org

Contacts are:
Edna Ranck, Ed.D.; edna.ranck@verizon.net
and
Barbara Ferguson Kamara, M.S.; barbarakamara@yahoo.com

Partnerships, Volunteer and Vendor Opportunities are available.
What is PlayDaze?

PlayDaze is designed to get children outside; to be physically active, to make choices, have fun, form friendships, and engage in creative play! PlayDaze offers opportunities for supervised unstructured time where children are free to explore and use materials provided or found.

Why PlayDaze?

We believe play helps children develop physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially. Play, along with the basic needs of nutrition, health, shelter and education, is vital to develop the full potential in all children. Today's children, like the generations before them, can reap the many benefits of free play. Children experience health benefits, pleasure and enjoyment, stress relief, and develop confidence as a result of playing freely. With the reduction of recess in schools, the limited engagement in community activities, and an increase in sedentary options, children are not engaged in active play as much as needed to stay healthy and develop.

Be Sure to Register Early!

We are very excited to be able to offer our 67th OMEP World Assembly and Conference attendees the opportunity to see this amazing school, experience a PlayDaze event, learn how to bring PlayDaze back to their hometown, and visit our National Cathedral - all on the morning of July 29, 2015! Be sure to register early as we have to limit this event to 120 individuals.

For more information, to download the 2014 PlayDaze Planner or, to view PlayDaze video clips, visit the North Carolina Early Childhood Active Play Alliance Website: http://beactivekids.org/bak/Front/PlayAlliance.aspx

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Linda Kinney, linda.kinney@nczoo.org
Rich Rairigh, richard@beactivekids.org
WORLD GAMES WORKSHOP

Participants will explore ways to transform traditional games from around the world into opportunities to learn, reinforce or master literacy and numeracy skills. The games come from North America, South America, Caribbean, Asia, Europe and Africa. Participants are asked to shed their adult life and re-enter the realm of childhood. The World Games Workshop has three phases. Phase 1: OMEP – student members stationed at each game introduce participants in the game as it is reported to have been played. Phase 2: Each game transforms into a learning opportunity to practice literacy and numeracy skills while retaining playful elements. The requirements for this workshop are comfortable clothing and a playful heart. Phase 3: Participants are arranged in groups and choose a game from their childhood to modify in order to build academic skills. A great time will be had by all!

Call for Films

For more than a decade, OMEP-USA has been organizing an annual film/video program. The goal of the event is to provide early childhood audiences with opportunities to view and talk about films produced for children and about children, families and teachers. Typically, films selected for screening are “non-commercial” short films (not to exceed 30 minutes), so that there is time for audience responses and dialogue.

The OMEP World 2015 Conference Media Committee invites OMEP members worldwide, to submit films, for possible screening during the conference. There are two (2) essential criteria that must be met in order for the committee members to review the submission for possible screening. DVDs submitted must:

1. Reflect and fit within one of the sub-conference themes, and
2. Be NTSC formatted.

A full list of submission criteria is available on the conference website or by request to Media Chair, Carol R. Darcy: <carolrdarcy@gmail.com>

DEADLINE: Film submission forms and DVDs must be received by the Media Committee by December 31, 2014.
INFORMATION ABOUT TOURS & OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THE WASHINGTON, DC, AREA WILL BE AVAILABLE AT REGISTRATION IN DC. YOU CAN ALSO CHECK WITH YOUR TRAVEL AGENT.

Washington City tours, tours on the Potomac River, other tours in nearby Baltimore & Annapolis, Maryland, in Richmond, Virginia, and travel to New York City

Tours available to visit federal buildings – the U.S. Capitol, the Supreme Court, the White House, the Library of Congress, the Pentagon, etc.

Bus tours to national monuments during the day or evening

Film and live theatres are in and near Washington DC

Walking and hiking venues along the Potomac and the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal

Restaurants – A list of multi-ethnic restaurants with a range of prices will be available with registration materials

Major Museums – Smithsonian Institution is the world’s largest museum and research complex with 19 museums, 9 research centers and more. (Some free and others with a charge)