

# Early Learning Fall Institute 2023

**Pre-Institute Workshop:**  
Thursday, October 5 | 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

## **Don't Give Up On Engaged Learning: Implementing the Project Approach in Early Childhood Classrooms**

*Sponsored by the Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children*

The Project Approach gives teachers a way to develop in-depth thinking while engaging the hearts and minds of young children. Projects build on children's natural curiosity, enabling them to interact, question, connect, problem-solve, communicate and reflect. It is authentic learning where children are active participants in studying topics with purpose and flexibility; all while learning needs are met. The course is based on the books *Young Investigators: The Project Approach in the Early Years* (4th edition) by Judy Harris Helm and Lilian G. Katz and *Becoming Young Thinkers: Deep Project Work in the Classroom* by Judy Harris Helm.

**Featuring a guest lecture by Judy Harris Helm, lead author, on October 5th!**

The best way for teachers to learn how to facilitate project work is to learn how to do projects while they are guiding a project in their own classrooms. Teachers read *Young Investigators* while they are experiencing a first project in their classrooms. After the full day training, three units are spaced over the semester to allow teachers to pursue a project in their programs and then come back for the final session to share and celebrate the work of their children. *Young Investigators: The Project Approach in the Early Years*, provides the foundation for implementation of project work. Participants learn how to use the *Project Planning Journal* and to facilitate a project from first topic identification to culminating experiences. This course format is especially meaningful because it involves constant feedback and interaction with other teachers also doing projects as well as the course instructor.

This is a hybrid course with one in-person full day training, two follow-up Zoom meetings to guide participants through a project, and one final Zoom celebration day to share completed Project Work. To earn teacher renewal credit through AEA you will need to register for and attend the Pre-Institute workshop along with the three follow-up sessions. To earn HHS credit through I-PoWeR, you can register for and attend the pre-institute workshop or the complete course with three follow-up workshops as well \$79 registration includes the new book and lunch.

In Person Session 1: October 5th Iowa AEYC Preconference Session 8:30 AM-4:00 PM – 7 hours

ZOOM Session 2: October 19th 5:30-8:00 PM

ZOOM Session 3: November 9th 5:30-8:00 PM

Zoom Session 4: November 30th 5:30 - 8:00 PM Project Sharing Celebration

*Rebecca Wilson, Preschool Teacher, Van Meter Community School District*

*Dawn Johnson, Preschool Teacher, AEA consultant, Kids World Daycare, Great Prairie AEA*