

Designing Your Learning Affirming Classroom
 Thursday, July 29 and Friday, July 30, 2010
 9AM-3PM (one hour lunch break)

Prerequisites: Experience as a classroom teacher or specialist
Number of credits and/or CEUs (clock hours): 1 credit/10 CEUs
Fee: \$109 to Instructor (includes course materials) \$40 to SPU
Where: Bellefield Conference Center Training Room, Bellevue, WA

Course Description

The influential educator John Dewey once stated: “The environment teaches.” Indeed, recent research continually demonstrates the role of our surroundings to either enhance or hinder our best selves. In this course, we will explore the elements of the environment that best support optimal physical health, cognitive receptivity to learning, emotional wellness, and social maturity based on the latest findings from brain and motivation research. Close attention will be paid to small adjustments within the classroom that can make significant positive changes, especially for different learners, leading to reduced behavior problems and increased appropriate classroom participation. The theoretical framework of “living systems” will be introduced to develop key principles for classroom teachers upon which, like the artists they are, they can design the best strategies unique to their individual classroom.

Course Objectives

- Examine the elements of the environment that best support optimal physical health, cognitive receptivity to learning, emotional wellness, and social maturity based on the latest findings from brain and motivation research.
- Introduce five concepts from living systems theory and how they apply to support both the child and the teacher in the classroom.
- Provide a framework in which teachers will design their unique plan to enhance classroom learning by adjusting the environment to include those components that work and reduce those that don't.

Registration deadline is July 16.

About the Instructor

Gloria DeGaetano is a long-time educator and worked as a classroom teacher, a reading specialist, and a school district director of Reading and Language Arts Programs, K-8. She taught both for the Univ. of Washington's and for Seattle Pacific Univ.'s undergraduate teacher training programs and has been an adjunct faculty member of SPU since 1985. Gloria is the founder and the current Director of the Parent Coaching Institute, a non-profit organization which offers a year-long graduate-level Parent Coach Certification® training program in collaboration with SPU. Gloria has spent much of her career (and still does!) helping parents and teachers proactively address the challenges of our screen and digital world. Her book, *Parenting Well in a Media Age*, won the i-parenting media award for 2007. Gloria is the mom of two grown sons—the great joys of her life. Another great joy is working with classroom teachers to help them affirm and use their highest creative expression in the noble work of educating children.



Register today by calling 425.401.1519 or by mailing the following information to:

Gloria DeGaetano, The Parent Coaching Institute, 1400 – 112th Ave SE, Bellevue, WA 98004

Payment is due on site the first day of the course by check or credit card. Directions will be provided upon registration.

Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____

Organization _____

City, State, Zip _____

Please check if you plan to register for clock hours.