

Growing Kids Teachers Improving Their Skills & Programs In Two Big Ways

In February several Growing Kids teachers traveled to Indianapolis to attend a conference at the Hoosier Dome Conference Center. They heard guest speaker, Lisa Murphy, aka "The Ooey, Gooley Lady," speak on subjects including Sensory Play, Making Time for Books and Stories, and Many Kinds of Smart (Understanding the Theory of Multiple Intelligences). Murphy is a highly sought early educator who has been involved with early childhood education for over 20 years. She has taught and worked with children in various environments including Head Start programs, kindergarten, private preschools, family childcare, park and rec centers, group homes and many child care centers.

Murphy is the founder and CEO of Ooey Gooley, Inc., where her mission is to assist in the transformation of the industry of early childhood education by offering three specific things: the best workshops and trainings; the most up to date materials and resources; and insightful conversations and connections through the power of social media.

Murphy has been featured in various publications including *Child Care Business Exchange*, *Parents and Pre-K Today* and has appeared on NBC with science guy Steve Spangler as a part of his "Science Mondays" program on 9NEWS in Denver. Murphy has authored four books, with plans for many more, and has produced dozens of teacher training DVDs.

Murphy also has become known for her ability to link hands-on activities to educational standards, her outspoken advocacy, and her commitment to creating child-centered, play-based early childhood environments. Her understanding of the importance of play is obvious in both her professional and personal life.

On the way to Indianapolis, the Growing Kids teachers stopped by the original Minds In Motion Lab in Carmel. There, they were given a 90-minute private tour of the most up to date, cutting edge programs to help children develop their focus, concentration, motor skills, handwriting and reading skills.

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Interesting Tidbits:

- A galactic year is 250 million Earth-years. This is the time it takes for our solar system to make one revolution around the Milky Way Galaxy.

- A meteor has only destroyed one satellite, which was the European Space Agency's Olympus in 1993.

- Hydrogen is the most common atom in the universe.

- In a study conducted regarding toilet paper usage, Americans are said to use the most toilet paper per trip to the bathroom, which was seven sheets of toilet paper per trip.

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