

Northwest Connection Family Resources

ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

It's a Beautiful Day for Learning with Teacher Tom

October 19, 2024

Registration begins 8:00 am

Morning coffee & Networking 8:00 – 9:00 am

Conference 9:00 am – 4:00 pm



Tom "Teacher Tom" Hobson is an early childhood educator, international speaker, education consultant, teacher of teachers, parent educator, and author. He is best known, however, for his namesake blog Teacher Tom's Blog, where he has posted daily since 2009, chronicling the life and times of his little preschool in the rain-soaked Pacific Northwest corner of the USA.

For nearly two decades, Teacher Tom was the sole employee of the Woodland Park Cooperative School, a parent-owned and operated school, knit together by Teacher Tom's democratic, progressive play-based pedagogy. Teacher Tom came into teaching through the backdoor, so to speak, having enrolled his own child in a cooperative preschool, where he began working daily in his daughter's classroom as an assistant teacher under the tutelage of veteran educators, although he'll be the first to tell you that most of what he learned came from the children themselves. When it was time for his daughter to move on, he "stayed behind."

Today, Teacher Tom shares his play-based pedagogy through online courses for early childhood educators; produces online early childhood conferences; consults with organizations about his "Family Schools" program; and inspires early years audiences around the world (Greece, UK, Iceland, Australia, China, Vietnam, New Zealand, Canada, and across the US) both virtually and in-person with his engaging views on early childhood education, play, and pedagogy; hosts Teacher Tom's Podcast.

He was pressured by his blog readers into authoring his first book, aptly named Teacher Tom's First Book, and is thrilled about the recent release of Teacher Tom's Second Book.

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Saturday, October 19, 2024

AGENDA

8:30 - 9:00 am: Registration - Morning Coffee and Networking

9:00 - 9:15 am: Welcome

9:15am - 10:30am

Session 1: Educating Citizens Through Play

Teacher Tom speaks about how children's play brings the habits and principles of democracy into 'early years' classrooms. He will start by discussing the purpose of education in modern societies and how and why we have managed to veer so far from the original intent, which is to educate humans capable of contributing to the grand experiment of self-governance. In this full-throated support for play-based education, he details through his illustrative classroom stories and examples exactly how his curriculum works.

10:30am - 10:45am Break

10:45am - 11:45am

Session 2: Speaking With Children So They Can Think

In a very real sense, the language we use creates reality. Tom speaks about how the specific words we use, and how and when we use them, shape reality for our young students for both good and bad.

11:45am - 12:45pm Lunch

12:45pm - 3:15pm

Session 3: Loose Parts Learning

Leverage the current excitement about loose parts learning to teach educators how they can take it beyond the stereotypical "bits and bobs," and use the Theory of Loose Parts to inform and enhance every aspect of their work with young children.

3:15pm - 3:45pm

Session 4: Circle Time with Teacher Tom

At the end of a full day long day, it's time for some self-directed learning for every participant! Teacher Tom will lead a free-form and robust discussion based upon the questions and interests of participants. There might even be some singing and dancing!

3:45pm - 4:00 pm: Doorprizes & Conclusion

Door Prizes - Final Announcements - Silent Auction Pick Up

It's A Beautiful Day for Learning with Teacher Tom

Hayward Wesleyan Church, 10655 Nyman Ave, Hayward, WI 54843

October 19, 2024 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Cost: \$35.00 before September 20, 2024

\$45.00 after September 20, 2024

(Payment can be made by PayPal or check)

(Registration will be accepted until October 12, 2023 or until the conference is full)

To Register online: <https://forms.gle/V9BAhXXCDLPI1C86>

To Registry by email: Email nwconnection@ncfrwi.net

To Register by phone: (800) 733-KIDS



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