



# Becoming Young Thinkers Institute

An exciting side-by-side training opportunity for those new to project approach and for those wanting advance project skills with Judy Harris Helm, Rebecca Wilson and Pam Scranton.

## Young Investigators

June 14, 15, & 16, 2016

Beginning Project Work

**3** day beginning training provides a solid foundation for implementing the project approach. Participants experience engagement and curiosity of true project work by identifying a topic of interest on the rich UPC Discovery campus and completing an adult investigation. Each small group has an experienced project teacher who serves as their coach through each step of the process and answers questions about implementation. Teachers and administrators learn how to facilitate project work AND how it feels to investigate. Teachers practice using the *Project Planning Journal* (hard copy and electronic versions), develop project questions, interview experts and integrate standards including Common Core. Participants are grouped according to age level taught including toddler, preschool, kindergarten and early primary.

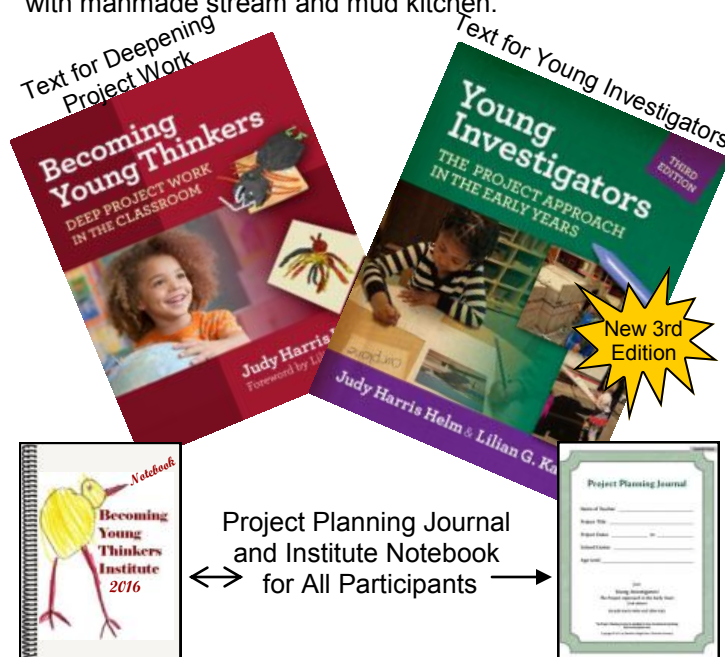
## Deepening Project Work

June 14, 15, & 16, 2016

Advanced Project Work

**3** day advanced training empowers teachers to facilitate deeper, more productive project investigations. Training begins with implications from neuroscience research then focuses on specific advanced facilitation skills such as helping children ask deeper questions, creating small and large provocations, supporting thought provoking representations (includes studio time), teaching on the fly; and integrating required curriculum & standards (including Common Core and STEM skills). Administrators and teacher educators are welcome! Participants must have previous training in project work.

Both sessions include textbooks, visits to classrooms set up for project work, hands-on studio time, networking events, a documentation gallery, resource room and observations of children in the Nature Explore Classroom with manmade stream and mud kitchen.



Project Planning Journal  
and Institute Notebook  
for All Participants

## PechaKucha Project Night!!

Share and See Project Work at the  
4th Annual PechaKucha on Project Work

PechaKucha (say "puh check' uh chah") nights are informal fun gatherings where creative people share their ideas, their work and their photos. At our **Pechakucha Night** teachers and administrators in Deepening Training share their passion about projects in the traditional PechaKucha format (20 slides, shown for 20 seconds each). In this required evening event all participants see project work by other teachers, relax, and informally connect over beverages and snacks. Instruction and coaching are provided for those who would like to present.

For detailed information email:  
judyhelm@bestpracticesinc.net  
pam.scranton@upcdiscovery.org

Music! Eats! Don't miss it!  
Back by popular demand, DJ Don Baker  
will keep the excitement going!!



# BECOMING YOUNG THINKERS

## SUMMER INSTITUTE SCHEDULE

Each session is based on professional development research to maximize implementation. Format for learning content and skills is **(PPR)** *Focused Presentation, Hands-on Coached Practice*, followed by **Reflective Processing**

| Institute Time   | Tuesday June 14<br>8:30—3:30   | Wednesday June 15<br>8:30 —3:30 & 7-9 PM  | Thursday June 16<br>8:30—3:00  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <b>Young Investigators Group</b>                         | <b>PPR plus</b><br>Classroom Visits<br>Documentation Gallery<br>(Bring cameras!)               | <b>PPR plus</b><br>Child Observation in Nature<br>Explore Classroom<br>Documentation Gallery                | <b>PPR plus</b><br>Studio Work<br>Create Documentation Display<br>Presentation of Projects       |
| <b>Deepening Project Work Group</b>                      | <b>PPR plus</b><br>Facilitated Classroom Analysis<br>Documentation Gallery<br>(Bring cameras!) | <b>PPR plus</b><br>Child Observation in Nature<br>Explore Classroom<br>Studio Work<br>Documentation Gallery | <b>PPR plus</b><br>Administrator Discussion Group<br>Group Analysis of a Project<br>Goal Setting |
| <b>Networking and Sharing Activities for both groups</b> | Optional evening networking opportunities available  | <b>Young Investigators and Deepening Groups all attend PechaKucha Project Night 7—9 PM</b>                  | Afternoon Critiques of all Summer Institute Participants' Work                                   |

### YOUNG INVESTIGATORS

During **PPR** for this level participants learn how to

- differentiate themes from project work
- support intellectual development
- identify children's interests & identify a topic
- create knowledge webs with children
- use an anticipatory planning web to incorporate required curriculum and standards
- incorporate project work in lesson plans
- follow children's lead
- identify & evaluate field sites and plan visits
- select and maximize contributions of experts
- take meaningful photographs
- teach observational drawing
- encourage child centered representation
- collect work for documentation and assessment
- evaluate and set goals for project work in their own classroom

Text: *Young Investigators: The Project Approach in the Early Years*; *Teacher's Project Planning Journal* and notebook of handouts.

90 minute *midday breaks* are self-paced: Gourmet lunch, visits to *Resource Library* or *Documentation Gallery*, visit outdoor classroom and mud kitchen, and optional session on planning an *Outdoor Nature Explore Classroom*. Tai Chi class is available on Tuesday at noon (beginners welcome)!

### DEEPENING PROJECT WORK

During **PPR** for this level participants learn

- deeper philosophical foundations of project work including the work of John Dewey
- insights from Mind Brain Education Science and how to apply to project work
- role of questioning in intellectual development, typical progression of questioning skills, and how to teach questioning
- 4 ways to teach drawing to children
- how to add meaningful provocations
- how to use digital photography in projects
- how to help children create awesome representations
- how to integrate required curriculum & standards (including STEM and Common Core)
- how to support second language learners
- How to evaluate project work for depth

Text: *Becoming Young Thinkers: Deep Project Work in the Classroom*; *Teacher's Project Planning Journal* and notebook of handouts.

### COMMENTS FROM PAST PARTICIPANT EVALUATIONS

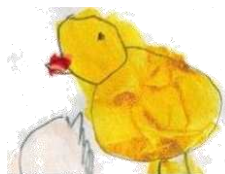
"I strongly believe that you can't improve on a conference that is so professional and executed so wonderfully. Just keep doing what you are doing because it works and is inspiring."

"I feel comfortable executing a project now, I was always uneasy about it"

"I really liked the hands on approach! I was very impressed with the entire training, the facility, the presenters, the coaches, and the lunches! Awesome training!!!"

"This was, hands down, the most amazing training I have ever been a part of!"

## FREQUENT QUESTIONS



## REGISTER NOW! ENROLLMENT IS STRICTLY LIMITED

### Which session is best for me?

*Young Investigators* is for teachers and administrators new to project work, who have completed less than two projects in a classroom.

*Deepening Your Project Work* is for teachers and administrators who have facilitated at least two projects in a classroom, attended the institute previously OR who are a coach or administrator.

An online questionnaire is completed by each participant to assure you are enrolled in the session that will be most helpful to you.

### Should I bring a team?

Attending as a team maximizes implementation. Team members can be in either session. Midday activities can be shared by all team members. Solo attendees, of course, are always welcome.

### Why onsite at UPC Discovery?

Participants can view classrooms (1/2 day preschool, full day, and toddler) to see materials, equipment, and documentation. Participants observe children in the outdoor classroom including the manmade stream and mud kitchen. A Library of Project Resources and a Gallery of Documentation Panels is open daily.

**When should I register?** ASAP! Registration is strictly limited to maintain quality. The limit is reached quickly. We have a waiting list every year. Registration requires payment of fee. Registration closes May 31.

### Fees: ( texts included)

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| 3 day <i>Young Investigators</i>         | \$495 |
| 3 day <i>Deepening Your Project Work</i> | \$495 |

All sessions are held at Discovery Preschool and include continental breakfast, lunch, and PechaKucha.

Reduced hotel rates are available at Hampton Inn (309-589-0001), Wingate by Wyndham (309-589-0033), Country Inn & Suites (309-589-0044) - code *UPC Discovery*. Hotel shuttles bring participants to and from Discovery Preschool and Peoria Airport as needed.

To register by mail, send one form below for each person with credit card information or a check made payable to *UPC Discovery, 2400 W Northmoor Road, Peoria, IL 61614*.

To register by phone with credit card. Call 309.693.2002

To register online with PayPal go to [bestpracticesinc.net](http://bestpracticesinc.net)

To request an invoice email [cesmith@upcdiscovery.org](mailto:cesmith@upcdiscovery.org).

Registration is not complete until payment received.

There are no refunds after May 31 but substitutes for the same session are welcome. Enrollment is strictly limited. Registration is only complete upon receipt of fees.

Name as you want it on your nametag:

Street Address:

City: State: Zip:

Email address:

Title/Position: Age Level:

School or Program:

How many projects have you guided with children?

Circle one 1 2 3 4 more

Attended a previous Summer Institute? yes no

Supervise or coach project work? yes no

Have your read...

*Young Investigators?* yes no

*Engaging Children's Minds?* yes no

*Becoming Young Thinkers* yes no

### Check Session

\_\_\_\_\_ \$495 **Young Investigators June 14, 15, 16, 2016**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$495 **Deepening Project Work June 14, 15, 16, 2016**

Payment Information:

\_\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed

\_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card

\_\_\_\_\_ Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

3 digit Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be flying to Peoria? yes no

Would you like a vegetarian lunch? yes no

Interested in a noontime Tai Chi class? yes no

Do you want to present at PechaKucha Night?

yes no I need more information



United Presbyterian Church  
2400 W Northmoor Road  
Peoria IL 61614

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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#### Facilitators:

**Judy Harris Helm, Ed.D.** Best Practices, Inc. Her work in documentation and project work includes *Windows on Learning: Documenting Young Children's Work*; *Building Support for Your School: Using Children's Work to Show Learning* and *Young Investigators: The Project Approach in the Early Years*. Her new book is *Becoming Young Thinkers: Deep Project Work in the Classroom*.

**Rebecca Wilson, M.S.** has taught in a variety of programs using the Project Approach including an elementary dual language program, a Head Start program, and the Iowa Statewide Voluntary Preschool program. She is the author of several publications, including a chapter on using the Project Approach with second language learners in *The Power of Projects* and co-author of *Teaching Parents to do Projects at home*.



Judy Harris Helm



Rebecca Wilson



Pam Scranton



UPC Discovery is a faith based Reggio inspired early childhood program serving toddlers and preschoolers. The Reggio-inspired classroom environment supports young children's natural curiosity and encourages development of academic skills through the natural context of their play. The facility has a Nature Explore Outdoor Classroom, Mud Kitchen, and a campus with a pond, woods trails, and a creek.

**Pam Scranton, M.Ed.** is the Director of UPC Discovery and adjunct professor at Bradley University in the teacher education department. Pam coaches teachers and undergraduate students in documentation and project work in addition to directing the program.. She is co-author with Dr. Helm of *Teaching Your Child to Love Learning* and *Teaching Parents to Do Projects at Home*.