Family Literacy Summit

November 8, 2002
Opryland Hotel
Nashville, Tennessee

Sponsored by
The Tennessee Family Literacy Consortium

With special assistance from
The Tennessee Department of Education, Office of Family Literacy Programs
NashvilleREAD, U.S. Department of Education
Tennessee Head Start State Collaboration Office
University of Tennessee, Center for Literacy Studies
**Summit at a Glance**

**Morning**

8:00  
Check-in  
Continental Breakfast

8:30  
**Welcome** by Nashville Mayor, Bill Purcell  
Remarks by Representative Harold E. Ford, 9th Congressional District of Tennessee  
**Poetry Reading**, Sylvia Pagano Lewis  
**Overview of Day**, Becky King, Facilitator

9:00  
**Keynote Address**: Dr. Sharon Ramey, Ph.D.  
*Building Foundations in Early Childhood for Success in School*

9:45-10:30  
**Panel Presentation** – Tennessee C  
*What’s Happening in Tennessee Family Literacy: Early Childhood*  
• Early Childhood Programs, Sandy Williamson  
• Head Start Programs, Joann Benson  
• Title I, Amy Wise  
• Even Start, Susan Doughty

10:30-10:45  
Break

10:45-11:45  
**Workshop I**  
Tennessee A – *Early Experience and Neurological Evidence*  
Tennessee B – *Connecting to Your Role in the Community*  
Tennessee D – *Family Literacy in Tennessee – Present and Future*  
Tennessee E – *Family Literacy Initiatives in Memphis City Schools*  
Hermitage B – *School, Family, and Community Partnerships*

**Afternoon**

12:00-12:30  
**Lunch** served in Center Ballroom – Tennessee C  
**Remarks** by Family Literacy Participant Angela Lynch  
**Musical Presentation** by Nashville School of the Arts

12:30-1:15  
**Presentation** by Hedda Sharapan of  
*“Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood”*  
*Let’s Put the TLC Back into Literacy – Talking, Listening, Caring*

1:30-2:30  
**Workshop II**  
Tennessee A – *Early Experience and Neurological Evidence (repeated)*  
Tennessee B – *Collaborating for Family Literacy Programs*  
Tennessee D – *Family Literacy Practices With Immigrant Populations*  
Tennessee E – *Corporate and Civic Involvement in Family Literacy*  
Hermitage B – *Parent Training Network: Workshops for Parent Involvement in Family Literacy*

2:30-2:45  
Break

2:45-3:30  
**Panel Presentation** – Tennessee C  
*What’s Happening in Tennessee Family Literacy: School and Community*  
• Adult Education, Marcia Robertson  
• Libraries, Nancy Weatherman  
• Family Resource Centers and REA Grants, Jim Herman  
• Community Based Programs, Christine Jackson

3:30  
**Closing Session**  
Susan Benner, Ed.D.  
*Design for the Future—Moving Forward*

4:00  
**Door Prize Winners Announced**  
Adjourn
Welcome to the Family Literacy Summit!

Almost 25% of Tennessee adults over 25 lack a high school diploma. One in four families may be affected…and many of those families include children.

Building the skills of adults for employment and providing support for them as parents, making sure children have appropriate early childhood educational experiences, encouraging literacy activities between parents and children—reading stories, helping with homework—all these are part of family literacy.

Parental involvement in schools and partnerships between schools, community organizations and their corporate supporters are important parts of the picture, too.

Policy makers increasingly recognize the value of early childhood education, family literacy and the importance of family partnerships in schools. Research shows that both children and adults learning basic skills do better in their educational activities when family learning efforts are integrated.

The Tennessee Family Literacy Consortium welcomes you to the Family Literacy Summit. Enjoy your day. We hope you leave having shared, having learned, and having made an even deeper commitment to family literacy and Tennessee families.

Susan Doughty
Director, Family Literacy Programs
Tennessee Department of Education

Sharon Landesman Ramey, Ph.D.
Georgetown University

Sharon Landesman Ramey is a professor in Child and Family Studies at Georgetown University, and is a Founding Director (with her husband, Craig Ramey, Ph.D.) of the Georgetown University Center on Health and Education (also known as CHERITH). Dr. Ramey earned a B.A. in psychology and comparative physiology at New College and a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from the University of Washington. She has held professorships in Psychiatry at the University of Washington, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (where she was Director of the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Center), and the University of Alabama at Birmingham (where she and her husband were the founding directors of the Civitan International Research Center).

Dr. Ramey’s research has focused on the effects of the environment upon behavior, including longitudinal studies of the effects of early experience on the development of children “at risk” for mental retardation and school failure; in-depth studies on the dynamic changes affecting today’s American families; and a recent landmark study on the transition to school, including 8,000 former Head Start children and families and 3,000 other classmates and their families. Dr. Ramey has published more than 175 scientific papers and four books. Her recent parenting books, Right from Birth: Building Your Child’s Foundation for Life and Going to School: How to Help Your Child Succeed have received National Parenting Book Gold Awards and are the basis for two highly acclaimed public television series titled after each of the books. Dr. Ramey is a frequent guest on television and radio programs, and serves as a consultant nationwide and internationally on projects that seek to improve the health and well-being of children and families.

Today’s presentation will review findings from a series of randomized, controlled trials that provide early educational programs to high risk children. The studies include the Abecedarian Project, which has followed children from birth through age 21; Project Care, which compared center-based and home-based interventions; the Infant Health and Development Program for premature, low birth weight infants; and interventions for toddlers in Romanian orphanages. Dr. Ramey will discuss the policy and practical implications of these scientific findings.
Hedda Sharapan
Associate Director of Public Relations, Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood

Hedda Sharapan, who holds an M.S. in Child Development, has been on the Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood staff since 1966. She is Associate Director of Public Relations and works with Fred Rogers on his books for children and adults, parent education writings, and training materials. She is also an “ambassador on the road” for the Neighborhood, keynoting conferences for teachers, child-care providers, parents, and religious leaders.

The title of Ms. Sharapan’s presentation is: “Let’s Put the TLC Back into Literacy – Talking, Listening, Caring.” Want your child to be a reader? It’s not rocket science and it’s not magic. Don’t overlook the basic, everyday ways that you can make reading and writing fun and interesting.

With humor, humanity, and the wisdom acquired while working for 35 years with Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood, Hedda Sharapan blends her education in Child Development with anecdotes from families, teachers, and fans to offer insight and practical ideas about reading and books. She’ll even share a program outtake or two!

Rebecca King
Senior Director of Knowledge Development and Innovation
National Center for Family Literacy

Rebecca King, Senior Director of Knowledge Development and Innovation at the National Center for Family Literacy, holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in education. As a member of NCFL’s senior staff, Ms. King combines six years experience as a consultant to the Indiana Department of Education with 11 years as a classroom teacher to provide leadership on the strategic issues addressed by the family literacy community. She began her career with NCFL in 1990 as coordinator of the Apple Partnership grant, exploring the use of computers in family literacy programs. The following year she became project manager for the Toyota Families for Learning program, a national initiative located in 20 major U.S. cities. This program has provided the impetus for several statewide family literacy initiatives, and its results have influenced state and federal policy. From 1995-2001, as Director of Program Development, Ms. King provided leadership for all of NCFL’s privately funded programs exploring family literacy’s role in welfare and school reform.

In her current role as NCFL’s liaison to the federal Even Start program Ms. King provides support for the network of state coordinators through a variety of activities. Her experiences in program development are summarized in a book she co-authored, Pathways: A Primer for Family Literacy Program Design and Development (NCFL, 2000).

Susan Benner, Ed.D.
University of Tennessee
College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences

Susan Benner is a professor in the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences at The University of Tennessee. She earned her B.A. in social sciences at Southern Methodist University, and an M.S. in special education at The University of Tennessee. After several years of teaching in the Memphis City Schools, she entered the doctoral program in special education at Teachers College, Columbia University. She began her career in higher education at Indiana University, Southeast. Since 1980 Dr. Benner has been on the faculty at The University of Tennessee, where she currently serves as coordinator of the urban multicultural teacher education program and teaches early childhood special education.

Dr. Benner has conducted research, written, and presented at conferences on topics related to special education, assessment of young children with special needs, teacher education, school collaboration, and family literacy. She has published three textbooks, including Issues in Special Education Within the Context of American Society, and Assessment of Young Children With Special Needs: A Context-Based Approach, due out this fall. She is currently writing another text on inclusion methods for children with disabilities. The teacher education program that Dr. Benner coordinates is included as an exemplary practice case study in a monograph on recommended practices in personnel preparation soon to be published by the Council for Exceptional Children, Division for Early Childhood.

Over the past two years Dr. Benner has served as a research consultant to the Tennessee Family Literacy Initiative. In this role, she completed a mapping project of family literacy practices in Tennessee and reviewed family literacy policies.
nationwide. Family Literacy in Tennessee: A Design for the Future, which was developed in collaboration with members of the Tennessee Family Literacy Consortium, summarizes her findings and presents recommended family literacy policy guidelines for the state.

Angela Lynch is a native of Nashville who currently resides in Franklin, Tennessee with her two sons four year old Koty, and three year old Kanan. She enrolled in the Williamson County Even Start Program in spring of 2002. Ms. Lynch progressed toward her own goals, earning her GED and moving on to higher education. She is now a student at Draughters Junior College in the Certified Pharmacist Program. Ms. Lynch was named the 2002 Star Learner in the Tennessee Even Start Program. She is here today to speak with us about the benefits of family literacy, and is accompanied by her two sons and her mother, Debra Corum.

Nashville School of the Arts is a public magnet high school dedicated to teaching young people about the arts. The program was instituted in 1993, but it has been at its current location since 1997. In that time, many students have passed through its halls, while moving on to the theatre as actors and dancers, into professional music performances, and into television and movies. Located in Bordeaux, NSA houses a thriving, quickly-growing student body. The school boasts a stage for theatre, dance and music performances, as well as three dance studios, spacious rooms for piano, vocal, orchestra, string, and band groups, a gym for the wellness and physical education classes, and even a playground for the young at heart.

The Nashville School of the Arts Choral Music Department has been a consistent leader in middle Tennessee in the Choral Arts. Their ensembles have taken first place in the four regional festival competitions held in Atlanta, St. Louis, Gatlinburg, and New Orleans. They are called upon for community events that need quality performance, and have been generous in performing for hospitals, nursing homes, and for other civic functions. The Madrigal Singers are one of four choral music ensembles from NSA. This and two other ensembles are selected by audition only. The NSA Madrigal Singers sing mostly acapella and their repertoire spans from 1575 to the 20th century.

Choral director for the NSA Music Department, Mr. Michael Graham has taught choral music in Metro Nashville inner-city schools for twenty years. He is a graduate of Trevecca University and the George Peabody College for Teachers at Vanderbilt University. In addition to his work at NSA, Mr. Graham is the music director/organist at Woodmont Christian Church in Green Hills. Mr. Graham enjoys composing, and his works have been published by eight major publishing firms in the United States.

Sylvia Lewis Pagano, also known as SimplySil, is an active writer and performer in Nashville. Originally from Rome, Italy, Ms. Pagano moved to Tennessee in 1994. For the past two years, Ms. Pagano has been writing and performing her own poetry in various Nashville venues, including Fisk University, National Kid Day, and the Heritage Festival. Ms. Pagano likes to think of her poetry as uplifting and motivating messages that can be felt by people of all cultures, races, and ages. As both a mother and an artist in words, she feels a special affinity to the cause of family literacy.
**Tennessee A**  
Sharon Ramey, Director, Georgetown University  
Center on Health and Education  

**Early Experience and Neurological Evidence**  
This workshop will focus on the scientific evidence related to the ten hallmarks of children who succeed in school. The relationship of early experience, brain development, and the school environment will be discussed interactively during the workshop. Come and find out more about the ten hallmarks of success, and how parents and schools support those hallmarks.

**Tennessee B**  
Rebecca King, Senior Director of Knowledge Development and Innovation, National Center for Family Literacy  

**Connecting to Your Role in the Community**  
Whether you are a civic or corporate leader, school administrator, legislator, or practitioner—in this session you will discover a solid connection between family literacy programs and the work that you do. Beginning with a basic description of family literacy program features, this session will offer participants an opportunity to explore links between community goals, national policy, and family outcomes.

**Tennessee D**  
Susan Benner, Professor, University of Tennessee  

**Family Literacy in Tennessee: Present and Future**  
Through an Even Start Initiative Grant, family literacy leaders in Tennessee have been exploring the nature of existing services and the need for expanded services. From a series of interviews, focus groups, surveys, and on-site observations, we have identified: 1) components of successful programs, 2) barriers and solutions, and 3) policies that foster family literacy programs. We will explore these data and policy recommendations for ways to strengthen and expand family literacy.

**Tennessee E**  
Willie Slate, Director, Division of Parental Involvement and Family Support, Memphis City Schools  
Beverly Johnson, Special Project Coordinator, Early Childhood Education, Memphis City Schools  
Carol Miller, Principal, Memphis Adult Education Center  
Peggy Johnson, Special Project Coordinator, Parent Education and Training, Memphis City Schools  
Brenda Taylor, Coordinator, Early Childhood Education, Memphis City Schools  

**Family Literacy Initiatives in Memphis City Schools**  
Strengthening the family/school/community partnership to support the academic, vocational, social, and emotional development of all students is one of the goals identified in the Memphis City Schools’ Strategic Plan.

This goal is strengthened and supported by the district’s Cooperative Family Learning System, which focuses on the family as a unit rather than the parent and child separately. This system integrates early childhood education, adult education, intergenerational activities, and parenting into a unified program which involves parents and children in a lifelong learning program. Attend this session to hear about collaboration among community agencies and organizations in an effort to provide family literacy services via a seamless service delivery process.

**Hermitage B**  
Marsha Pate, Director of Family Literacy, NashvilleREAD  
Jacque Johnson, Statewide Parent Education Specialist, NashvilleREAD  

**School, Family, and Community Partnerships**  
This seminar outlines a comprehensive framework for school, family, and community partnerships based on six types of involvement. Researched and supported by the U.S. Dept. of Education, this model offers a useful guide that enables teams to organize a comprehensive program of partnerships focusing on the following components: Parenting, Communicating, Volunteering, Learning at Home, Decision Making, and Partnering. This workshop will explain the model, offer suggestions for building excellent partnerships, and create opportunity for further technical support via the TN Parents First Center at NashvilleREAD.
Tennessee A
Sharon Ramey, Director, Georgetown University Center on Health and Education

**Early Experience and Neurological Evidence**
(*Repeat of morning session.*) This workshop will focus on the scientific evidence related to the ten hallmarks of children who succeed in school. The relationship of early experience, brain development, and the school environment will be discussed interactively during the workshop. Come and find out more about the ten hallmarks of success, and how parents and schools support those hallmarks.

Tennessee B
Linda Gilbert, Director of Instruction, Murfreesboro City Schools
Glenn Chrisman, Deputy Chief of Police, Murfreesboro
Lanny Goodwin, Deputy Director, Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation
Gail Drye, Parent Involvement Coordinator, Murfreesboro Schools

**Collaborating for Family Literacy Programs**
As we all have the best interests of children and families in our hearts and minds, let's pool our resources to provide the best possible family literacy programs available. Panel members will discuss the ways they have collaborated to build coalitions among officials of the school system, police, housing, and parks and recreation. Learn how to avoid battles over turf.

Tennessee D
Robbie Nash, ESL Director, Woodbine Community Center, Nashville
Steve Uria, President, Nashville Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

**Family Literacy Practices With Immigrant Populations and Cultures**
Tennessee has the third largest growth of Hispanic immigrants in the nation. How do we respond well to the needs and opportunities brought about by this change? This workshop is presented from the perspective of practitioners, community members, and business leaders.

Tennessee E
Carol Thigpen, AEL TN State Director
Richard Rhoda, Executive Director, TN Higher Education Commission, and Rotary Member
Vesia Wilson Hawkins, Education Program Coordinator, Nashville Chamber of Commerce
Denine Torr, Charitable Contributions Coordinator, Dollar General Stores
Samantha Wigand, Project Director, United Way of Middle Tennessee

**Corporate and Civic Involvement in Family Literacy**
This panel of representatives from corporate and civic organizations that have supported family literacy efforts will discuss what their organizations have done and ways that the work strengthened the organization, the company and the community. Panel participants represent Dollar General, Rotary, Nashville Chamber of Commerce, and the United Way.

Hermitage B
Marsha Pate, Director of Family Literacy, NashvilleREAD
Jacque Johnson, Statewide Parent Education Specialist, NashvilleREAD
Marci Nimick, Statewide Trainer for Parent Involvement, NashvilleREAD
Carla Hancock, Statewide Trainer for Parent Involvement, NashvilleREAD

**Parent Training Network: Workshops for Parent Involvement in Family Literacy**
This session will provide answers to the question of how we help parents to become actively involved in their children's academic success. Facilitators will feature free workshops that can be presented at your schools. Examples include “Right From The Start” (*birth to grade K*) and “Passport to Success” (*grades K-12*).
TENNESSEE FAMILY LITERACY CONSORTIUM

In January 2000 Tennessee was awarded a two-year grant to promote family literacy activities, to raise public awareness, and to strengthen and expand family literacy programs. The Tennessee Family Literacy Consortium was formed with more than fifty agencies, organizations and individuals committed to furthering those goals. Activities have included quarterly meetings to share information and strategies; a newsletter, a Website, training opportunities, creation of the Family Literacy Summit, development and implementation of assessment and evaluation methods and instruments for four-component family literacy model programs, and the publication of Design for the Future, a research and policy paper that includes recommendations for strengthening family literacy in Tennessee.

TENNESSEE FAMILY LITERACY CONSORTIUM Members

Nardine Aquadro, Literacy Initiative Program Manager, Assisi Foundation
Joan Archer, Executive Director, TN Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
Cresia Bailey, Program Coordinator, TN Dept. of Human Services
Janice Bridwell, Coordinator, Special Education Preschool Services, TN Dept. of Education
Jan Bushing, Director, School-Based Programs, TN Dept. of Education
Jean Carter, NCFL Consultant, National Center for Family Literacy
Connie Casha, Education Consultant, TN Dept. of Education
Janet Coscarelli, Director, TN Head Start Statewide Collaboration Office
Linda Creek, Primary Education Consultant, TN Dept. of Education
Nancy Duggin, Manager, Instruction and Professional Development, TN Education Association
Dale Farran, Director, Department of Teaching and Learning, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University
Joseph Fisher, Assistant Commissioner, Special Education, TN Dept. of Education
Debbie Gilliam, Director, Federal Programs, TN Dept of Education
Susan Greer, Executive Director, Tennessee Adult and Community Educators
Jim Herman, TN State Director, Reading Excellence Act
Betsy Houston, Executive Director, Education Edge, TN Dept. of Education
Carol Irwin, ESL Consultant, TN Dept. of Education
Rebecca Ishell, Director, Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Education, East Tennessee State University
Jacque Johnson, Parent Education Specialist, TN Dept. of Education/NashvilleREAD
Jane Knight, Literacy Coordinator, Knox County Schools
Sara Lovitt, Director, The Reading Bridge, Bridges – Memphis
Janice Lovell, TECTA State Academic Coordinator, Tennessee State University
Amy Lowery, Coordinator, Hawkins Co. Community Learning Center, East Tennessee State University
Yvette Mack, Program Director, Abstinence Only Education Program, TN Dept. of Health
Julie McCargar, Director, Title I Programs, TN Dept. of Education
Betsy McWhirt, Executive Director/CEO, NashvilleREAD
Mary Meador, Director of Education, Dept. of Children's Services, Hardison Hall/Tennessee Preparatory School
Terri NeSmith, Education Consultant, TN Dept. of Education
Meg Nugent, Nashville Adult Literacy Program Council
Barbara Nye, Director/TECTA State Chairperson, Tennessee State University
Robbi Nash, ESL Director, Woodbine Community Organization
Linda O'Neal, Executive Director, TN Commission on Children and Youth
Marsha Pate, Director of Family Literacy, NashvilleREAD
Donna Payne, Executive Director, TN Association of Housing and Redevelopment Authority

Jana Penna, Nashville Area Association for the Education of Young Children
Richard Rhoda, Executive Director, TN Higher Education Commission
Jeff Roberts, Deputy Commissioner, TN Dept. of Education
Kay Sapp, Federal Programs, TN Dept. of Education
Connie Smith, Executive Director, Office of Accountability & School Improvement, TN Dept. of Education
Brenda Staggs, Education Consultant, TN Dept. of Education
Nancy Stetten, Research Consultant, TN Dept. of Education
Veronica Stronach, Migrant Education/Federal Programs, TN Dept. of Education
Faye P. Taylor, Commissioner, TN Dept. of Education
Carol Thigpin, AEL TN State Director
George Thomas, Education Edge Coordinator, TN Dept. of Economic and Community Development
Fagan Thompson, Program Manager, Families First Contracts, TN Dept. of Human Services
Mary Ann Vlahos, Literacy Coordinator, It's Time to Read
Fredia Wadley, Commissioner, TN Dept. of Health
Barbara Wall, Director, Center of Excellence for Research & Policy on Basic Skills, Tennessee State University
Nancy Weatherman, Special Projects Coordinator, TN State Library & Archives
Sandy Williamson, Director, State Preschools, TN Dept. of Education
Phil White, Director, Office of Adult Education, TN Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development
Doug Wood, Executive Director, TN Board of Education
George Yowell, President, Tennessee Tomorrow, Inc.

TENNESSEE EVEN START STATEWIDE FAMILY LITERACY INITIATIVE STAFF

Susan Benner, Professor, University of Tennessee
Gail Cope, Independent Evaluator, UT Center for Literacy Studies
Reggie Curran, Research Associate, UT Center for Literacy Studies
Susan Doughty, Director, Family Literacy Programs, TN Dept. of Education
Rebecca Goldstein, Project Manager, Family Literacy Programs, TN Dept. of Education
Kelli Havens, Research Associate, UT Center for Literacy Studies
Kathryn LeLaurin, C-QIEM and Metrics Consultant
Tabatha Siddiqi, Administrative Secretary, TN Dept. of Education
Connie White, Associate Director, UT Center for Literacy Studies

Special thanks to the members of the Family Literacy Summit Planning Committee

Nardine Aquadro, Connie Casha, Reggie Curran, Janet Coscarelli, Susan Doughty
Rebecca Goldstein, Kelli Havens, Robbi Nash, Marsha Pate, Jana Penna
George Thomas, Mary Ann Vlahos, Nancy Weatherman, Sandy Williamson, Connie White