

## **SUBMISSION TYPE: WORKSHOP**

### **TITLE**

My First Media Adventures: Building Young Children's Early Literacy Skills with Meaningful Media Use in Early Education

### **ABSTRACT**

Many people are both excited by the possibilities for educational benefits from media and communication technologies that have developed over the past few years, and concerned for the potential negative effects from media (over)use, especially when it comes to the lives of young children. This session includes an overview of four activities aimed at fostering the development of young children's early literacy skills using media in meaningful ways. Activity stations include: *Digital Photography*, *Creating an Audiobook*, *Storytelling with Technology (using laptop and iPad)*, and *Exploring a Media Literacy Library*. These activities highlight opportunities where media can be used with parents of young children at home or in early education and child care settings to build early literacy skills and engage children in media creation. These activities are designed to increase students' communication and critical thinking skills using various media to stretch their minds in different ways. After reviewing the activities and student examples, participants will have an opportunity to ask questions and explore the tools. This is a hands-on opportunity for parents, early education and child care providers to learn ways to nurture screen savvy kids.

### **PRESENTED BY**

Jennifer Ladner, M.S. is a Communications/Media Consultant and co-founder of Screen Savvy Kids, a media literacy consulting company based in Massachusetts. Jennifer holds a Master's Degree in Applied Communication from Fitchburg State University, where she also worked as an adjunct instructor in the Communication and Media Department. Jennifer has delivered several presentations on children and the media as a guest lecturer at liberal arts colleges over the past few years and she has conducted corporate trainings on communication skills and teamwork. Additionally, Jennifer is an experienced photographer and videographer. She offers this workshop to parents and early childhood educators so that they may learn ways to nurture screen savvy kids and foster the development of children's early literacy skills using media in meaningful ways.

**KEYWORDS: media literacy, communication, children, education**