



Proposal for
Mother Goose on the Loose
Workshop

with
Dr. Betsy Diamant-Cohen

2022

The mission of Mother Goose on the Loose® is to engage and educate infants to three-year-olds, partnering with parents, caregivers, and the community, through an entertaining and creative strategic program designed to cultivate and foster early literacy and learning skills.

SUMMARY AND GOALS

Scientific findings regarding multiple aspects of child development will be presented, followed by a hands-on Mother Goose on the Loose® program. After participation in the sample program designed for children from birth to age three and their caregivers, workshop attendees will discuss ways in which scientific facts translate into a Mother Goose on the Loose® session that utilizes music, movement, language, art, repetition, ritual, and play. This workshop enables participants to:

- Understand the structure, formula, and principles of Mother Goose on the Loose®
- Discover new ways to educate and involve parents and caregivers
- Craft, use, and store flannel characters for their own programs
- Study techniques geared to programs for non-walking babies
- Learn easy ways to plan and execute high-quality early literacy programs
- Feel comfortable facilitating their own early literacy programs

TARGET AUDIENCE

Librarians, youth services staff, early literacy professionals, home visitors, Head Start staff and/or childcare providers who work with very young children and their caregivers.

OBJECTIVES

Participants will:

- Have a basic understanding of brain development, early childhood development, school readiness, and early literacy skills
- Learn key elements of Mother Goose on the Loose® and be able to create their own high-quality programs using the rhymes, structure, format, and programming worksheets
- Be able to incorporate developmental tips to parents and caregivers during programs
- Experience making and using flannel characters that promote early literacy skills
- Receive the resources necessary to create and implement an age-appropriate program for very young children and their caregivers on their own
- Understand ways in which the program can be individualized to reflect their particular interests and talents

WORKSHOP CONTENT

1. View presentation on current research on brain development, attachment, and play with implications for optimal learning in early childhood. **(Lecture and PowerPoint presentation)**
2. Hear about the development and theory behind Mother Goose on the Loose®. **(Lecture)**
3. Experience and participate in a Mother Goose on the Loose® program that integrates all the key elements used in an actual program. **(Hands-on participation)**
4. Learn about school readiness skills and how they relate to early literacy. **(Lecture and PowerPoint presentation)**
5. Play “Connect the Dots.” Participants describe the connection between the MGOL activities and the skills they help to develop and strengthen. **(Interactive group discussion)**

6. Use the programming packet to learn the MGOL program structure and discover how to creatively adapt it to specific libraries and audiences. **(Lecture)**
7. Create flannel board pieces to use as visual representations of rhymes and activities. **(Individual project work)**
8. Individual presentations – participants practice what they have learned by presenting an element of the program using their flannel piece in front of the group. **(Group work and then sharing with all participants)**
9. Q&A period, and Summary **(Group discussion and PowerPoint presentation)**
10. Closing and evaluation **(Hands-on activity that can be replicated in libraries)**

MATERIALS AND SERVICES NEEDED (to be supplied by host)

- Event management (registration, meeting space, catering, etc.)
- LED projector and screen
- Speakers or sound system that works with a PowerPoint
- Generate printed materials (see below)

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS NEEDED (for participants)

- Flannel squares in different colors (minimum of two sheets/participant)
- Tacky glue
- Scissors that can be used to cut felt
- Googly eyes (optional)
- 40-page workshop manual – step-by-step guide to creating your own Mother Goose on the Loose[®] program
- PowerPoint handouts for note-taking
- 1 program worksheet

TESTIMONIALS:

*“Betsy Diamant-Cohen’s Mother Goose on the Loose training was **the most transformational workshop** for our staff at the San Francisco Public Library.”*

-Christy Estrovitz, Early Literacy Specialist, San Francisco Public Library, San Francisco, CA

“Excellent in connecting early development in all domains through music, literacy, social, emotional, and cognitive development.”

-Barbara Scheer, Infant and Toddler Mentor, Child Development Center, PA

*Mother Goose on the Loose **is perfection**. It should be the benchmark/touchstone for baby and toddler programming...the practical advice you gave based on experience was priceless.”*

-Margaret Wells, Librarian, Orlando Public Library, Orlando, FL



Dr. Betsy Diamant-Cohen
Creator and Executive Director
Mother Goose on the Loose®

Dr. Betsy Diamant-Cohen developed the innovative Mother Goose on the Loose® (MGOL) program based on the work of music educator Barbara Cass Beggs. In 2002, it was chosen by the Godfrey Award for Excellence in Public Library Services for Families and Children; in 2004, Dr. Betsy was named a “Mover and Shaker” in the library world for developing Mother Goose on the Loose; in 2013, MGOL was chosen by New York State as one of three “national early literacy best practices” and Dr. Betsy became recipient of the 2013 ASCLA Leadership and Professional Achievement award for “revolutionizing the way librarians work with children from birth to age three”; in 2015, MGOL was highlighted as a “national replicated brain-building” early literacy program by the Families and Work Institute, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and School Readiness Consulting; in 2017, it was used as an example of best practices in the “Every Child Ready to Read” program evaluation; and in 2018, Dr. Betsy received the Vattermare Award for Creativity in Libraries for the evolving nature of MGOL. Dr. Betsy is the recipient of the ALA's 2022 Distinguished Member Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC) Award.

Holding a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from Rutgers University and a Doctorate from the University of Baltimore, this charismatic presenter is also an accomplished author of numerous books and articles, as well as editor of *Children and Libraries'* Research Roundup column. Known for combining research findings with practical implementation activities, Dr. Betsy provides exhilarating workshops that educate and empower early literacy professionals.

Selected Publications

Books

- Diamant-Cohen. *Mother Goose on the Loose:: Here, There, and Everywhere*. ALA Editions. 2019.
- Diamant-Cohen. *Mother Goose on the Loose:: Updated*. ALA Editions. 2019.
- Diamant-Cohen, B. & M. Hetrick. *Transforming Preschool Storytime: A modern vision and year of programs*. Neal-Schuman. 2013.
- Diamant-Cohen, B., ed. *Children's Services: Partnerships for success*. Chicago: ALA Editions. 2010.
- Diamant-Cohen, B., *Early Literacy Programming en Español: Mother Goose on the Loose programs for bilingual learners*. New York: Neal-Schuman, 2010.
- Diamant-Cohen, B. & S. Ghoting. *The Early Literacy Kit: A handbook and tip cards*. ALA Editions, 2009.
- Diamant-Cohen, B., & S. Levi. *Booktalking Bonanza: Ten ready-to-use multimedia sessions busy librarian*. ALA Editions, 2008.
- Diamant-Cohen, Betsy. *Mother Goose on the Loose: A handbook and CD-Rom kit with scripts, rhymes, songs, flannel-board patterns, and activities for promoting early childhood development*. New York: Neal-Schuman, 2006.

Articles

- Diamant-Cohen, B. & Payne, R. Value Babies' Babble: Encourage Conversational Duets Between Babies and Caregivers to Foster Language Skills. *School Library Journal*. (2022), 24.
- Diamant-Cohen, B. "Reimagining Infant and Toddler Preliteracy Programs: Mother Goose on the Loose." *YC Young Children* 75.3 (2020): 72-79.
- Diamant-Cohen, B., Sonnenschein, S., Sacks, D. Rosswog, S. & Hussey-Gardner, B. "Mother Goose in the NICU: Support for the Neediest Infants and Their Families." *Children and Libraries* 16:1(2018): 3-7.
- Diamant-Cohen, B. & Thompson, N. "Raising a Barn: Creating an Agricultural Exhibit in an Urban Children's Museum." *The Agricultural Education Magazine* 89:5 (2017): 23-24.
- Diamant-Cohen, B., Prendergast, T. & Estrovitz, C. "Repeat After Me! How Repetition and Multi-modal Representations of Stories Support Early Literacy Development." *Children and Libraries*, Summer/Fall 2013, 20-24.
- Moynihan, N. & Diamant-Cohen, B. "It's All Fun and Games in *Tiny's Diner*: Preschool Programming in Unusual Spaces." *Journal of Museum Education* 37:3 (2012): 91-98.
- Diamant-Cohen, B., Prendergast, T. Estrovitz, C., Banks, C., & Van der Veen, K. "We Play Here! Bringing the Power of Play into Children's Libraries." *Children and Libraries* 10:1 (2012): 3-10, 52.
- Diamant-Cohen, Betsy and Anne Caldéron. "A Warm Home at the Library: Baltimore's Outreach to Spanish-speaking Families." *American Libraries* 40:12 (2009): 41-43.
- Moynihan, Nora, and Betsy Diamant-Cohen. "Impacting Communities Through Museum Partnerships." *Hand to Hand: Association of Children's Museums* Summer (2009): 15-16..
- Diamant-Cohen, Betsy and Cherie Stellacio. "Do a Duet: Partnering for Programming." *Public Libraries* 47:6 (2008): 11-14.

Diamant-Cohen, Betsy and Dorothy Valakos. "Promoting Visual Literacy Through Mother Goose on the Loose." *Public Libraries* 46:2 (2007): 47-54.

Diamant-Cohen, B. "First Day of Class: The Public Library's Role in "School Readiness." *Children and Libraries* 5:1 (2007): 44-52.

Diamant-Cohen, B., Riordan, E. & Wade, R. "Make Way for Dendrites: Applying Recent Findings in Brain Research to Children's Programs in the Public Library." *Children and Libraries* 2:1 (2004): 12-20.

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