

DIANA E. SCHAFFTER

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Conducted early childhood education teacher training for Indian, Thai, Cambodian, Vietnamese, Lao and Korean teachers.
- Certified Elementary Teacher, New Jersey, and USA with Master's Degree in Education (MEd)
- Certified Montessori Teacher, London England
- Master's in Education and Master's Degree in Public Health (MPH) Focus: Health Education
- 20 years teaching experience in international and local schools (India, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodian refugee camps, and Romania)
- Founded two international preschools (Thailand and Vietnam)
- Trained in the Primary Years Programme (PYP) affiliated with the International Baccalaureate Programme (IB); involved in school certification process.
- Special Education: certified and experienced in use of counselling and assessment instruments
- Practical experience with children with special learning needs in mainstreamed classrooms (dyslexia, autism, Aspersers syndrome, processing disorders, ADHD)
- Trained in "Mediated Learning" - Feuerstein Instrumental Enrichment (FIE) Method
- Trained in Learning Propensity Assessment Device (LPAD)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Children Book Writer, 2006 – present

Have written a middle-grade novel and am working several picture books based now in various stages of development. (*Novel*: Amazing Animal Race *Picture books*: The Cookie Fairy, Zamira and the Snow Leopard; Five-star Fort; the Attic Princess; Red Crayons Only; If you are from Earth then I am from Mars; Boom-ba-la-dee; Where are you from?; My Grandma has Super Powers; Grandma's short shorts; Bobo's First Day at School, the Golden Turtle; Havoc to Harmony; Colorful Cathy; Traveling Cats; Mangos in Manhattan; Book under the Pillow; Where are you from?)

Early Childhood Education Material Development and Training, North Korea, May 2015

Ministry of Education, Government of DPR Korea (North Korea), in coordination with UNICEF

Assessed UNICEF's standard ECD kit for effective use in the country's school-based early childhood education; developed supplementary low-cost learning materials to be used with the key materials from the UNICEF ECD kit; conducted a one-day participatory training workshop for 40 teachers on: (a) qualities of effective child-centered learning materials and link to early childhood development concepts, (b) effective use of key ECD kit materials along with supplementary materials in order to support a progressive spiral curriculum, (c) strategy for effectively incorporating child centered learning materials into the ECD curriculum (d) material development principles to enable teachers to generate their own new ideas for using the ECD kit materials more effectively. (Note: as my husband is the UNICEF DPRK Representative, to avoid conflict of interest, my work was on a pro-bono basis).

Early Childhood Education Consultant, Lao PDR, August 2012 – Feb 2013

Ministry of Education, Government of Lao PDR Providing technical support and training to the Ministry of Education in support of their Community-Based School Readiness Program; advising on teaching-learning materials, and conducting training workshops for education officers and teachers.

Strengthening the Community-Based School Readiness Program, Lao PDR, May-August 2011

Save the Children International. Lao PDR.

As an Early Childhood Education Consultant, conducted a sixty-day consultancy on "Strengthening the Community-Based School Readiness Program" in support of the Ministry of Education; assessed

the current situation by review of the existing pre-school curriculum and materials in collaboration with the Pre-School Division of the Ministry of Education (MoE); conducted field assessment of school readiness programmes in three provinces; made recommendations needs to support the MoE Pre-School Division to develop the curriculum and associated teaching-learning materials for the Community-Based School Readiness Program focusing on a child-centered approach and appropriate for a rural environment; conducted three-day training for MoE staff on early childhood learning and the development and use of low cost teaching-learning material.

Technical Support to Children’s Television Programme “My Village”, Lao PDR, Feb-Dec 2013
Ministry of Communication (national television), Lao PDR.

Part-time support for the initial development of the early childhood development television programme, “My Village”. Conducted workshop on story-telling and effective presentation of books for children’s televisions; assisted with script design; assessed Lao language children’s books for potential use in the television programme.

Early Childhood Education Teacher Training, Lao PDR, 2013-2014

Santhisouk Montessori School, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Over a period of two years, worked as technical advisor on early childhood education and conducted a series of teacher trainings in early childhood development, child-centered teaching strategies, classroom management, curriculum development, and early childhood literacy.

Teacher Trainer - Day Care Center Teacher Training Project, India: 2004 - 2006 (part time)

Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India:

Initiated an on-going project entitled “The Butterfly Project” to support Day Care Centers (“Anganwadi” Centres) in fishing villages affected by the tsunami. Organized and conducted training programme in Early Childhood Development and educational methodologies for staff of six urban Day Care Centres focusing on teaching respect for children, child development, and developmentally appropriate teaching methodologies. Teachers were encouraged to self-evaluate and work towards achieving their own goals in becoming better teachers. Developed local educational materials and trained teacher on their use. The transformation of the teachers and children through the project was noted by government officials and the project model was adopted for expansion to other Day Care Centres in Chennai.

Special Education Teacher, Chennai, India: 2004 – 2006 (part time)

V-Excel Education Trust, in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India. Taught, assessed and developed individual learning strategies for children with special needs (dyslexia, ADHD, behavioural disorders etc).

Board Member, American International School, Chennai India: 2002- 2003

Appointed to the *American International School Chennai* Board of Directors by the US Consulate General, as the Consulate Representative and member with education background and experience.

Kindergarten Teacher, Romania, 1997- June 2002

American International School, Bucharest, Romania (Mr. Fred Wesson, Director): Taught in diverse classes (children from 12 countries); was fully involved in the process of introducing the Primary Years Programme (PYP) in Kindergarten from the initial concept through to official certification; my classroom was considered as an “inclusive” class and I was often placed with children with learning disabilities such as Asperger’s syndrome, autism, ADHD, processing disorders, dyslexia as well as gifted children.

Preschool Founder, Director & Teacher, Vietnam, 1995-1996

Daystar International School, Hanoi, Vietnam

Founded and taught in a pre-school, having two classes with 16 students in each, which informally fed into the United Nations International School (Hanoi). Trained and supervised two foreign teachers, two Vietnamese teachers, and two part-time specialist teachers. Conducted a teacher training development project with the Ministry of Education for Vietnamese teachers.

Kindergarten Teacher, Vietnam, 1994-1995

United Nations International School, Hanoi, Vietnam: (Mr. Jim Ambrose, Director); Full-time kindergarten teacher. Served on the Curriculum Committee.

Primary School Co-Founder, Teacher, Thailand, 1990 – 1993

Discovery School, Aranyaprathet, Thailand: Developed a co-operative parent run primary school; developed and integrated program based on the Calvert School curriculum and Montessori methods. Hired and supervised teacher and support staff.

Preschool Founder, Director & Teacher, Thailand, 1988 – 1993

Rainbow Montessori School, Aranyaprathet, Thailand: Founded / directed bi-lingual (Thai and English) international pre-school (three teachers) for children of United Nations staff and local children (two and a half to five years of age): taught, developed local teaching-learning materials, trained local teachers in the Montessori method; administered the school was turned over to a board of parents in 1993.

Director, Day Care Centre Staff Training Project, Thailand, 1989 – 1991

Aranyaprathet, Thailand. Co-founded local development project to train village child development centre staff in twelve districts in early childhood education, educational methods, and low-cost materials.

Health Education Advisor / Cambodian Border Coordinator, Thailand, 1985 – 1987

CARE International in Thailand. Cambodia Refugee Assistance Program: developed maternal and child health education curriculum and supporting teaching-learning materials for Cambodian women in refugee camps on Thai-Cambodian border; trained Thai health education teachers in teaching methodologies.

Refugee Case Worker, Thailand, 1984 – 1985

International Rescue Committee, Joint Voluntary Agency, Aranyaprathet, Thailand. Co-ordinated and conducted field work in preparing refugee cases for resettlement to the U.S.A.

Assistant to Director, Rural Population/Health Bureau, Thailand 1982 -1983

Population and Community Development Association, Bangkok, Thailand, Director: Mechai Viravaidya, (The largest Thai development NGO) Researched and wrote project proposals for health education and community based development projects.

Health Education Teacher, USA, 1981 -1982

*American Red Cross Association, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA
Developed educational materials and taught primary school students about basic health subjects.*

FORMAL EDUCATION

Master of Education, (with Elementary School Teaching Certification), June 2001

College of New Jersey, USA

Diploma in Montessori Education, August 1988

St. Nicholas College for the Montessori Method, London, England

Master of Public Health, Focus: Maternal Child Health and Health Education, May 1982

Tulane University, New Orleans, U.S.A. (Health Education, Maternal and Child Health)

Bachelor of Science Honours (Biology), May 1979,

Queens University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada

EXPERIENCE WITH STUDENT ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS

Trained and experienced in using the following assessment instruments:

- Raven Standard Progressive Matrices (SPM)
- Learning Propensity Assessment Device (LPAD) Both Basic and Advanced levels
- Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) Certified
- Free Word-Association Test (Jungian-based)
- Fundamental Interpersonal Relations Orientation-Behavior Instrument (FIRO B)
- Spielberger State Anger Expression Inventory (STAXI)
- Thurstone Interest Schedule (TILTE) and Strong Interest Inventory
- Wallach and Logan Test of Creativity
- PGI Memory Scale Test
- Schnoell Graded Reading and Spelling Tests, Running Reading records
- Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC)

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Prepare / Enrich Marriage Course Facilitator, Denver 2018

Virtues Project Facilitation Training (Level 1 and 2), July 2014

The Virtues Project International Association, Seattle Washington, USA

Certified Facilitator for “The Virtues Project” – a global grassroots initiative to inspire the practice of virtues in everyday life: in schools, families, community and in the workplace.

Training in Indian Sign Language, Ability Foundation, May 2006

Ability Foundation, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

One-week course on basic signing techniques given by deaf instructor with interpreter.

Myers-Briggs Type Indicator Facilitator Qualifying Course, April 2005

Association for Psychological Type International (APTi). One-week intensive training course for professionals conducted by qualified MBTI trainer from the USA.

Diploma in Counselling Skills for Professionals, May 2005-2006

I-Kan Centre for Learning, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

One-year course covering theories and applied techniques of Counselling (including Freud, Erickson, Behaviour Modification, Rational emotive behavior therapy (REBT), Beck’s Theory, Gestalt, Egan’s Model, Transactional Analysis, and Existential Theory), case studies were discussed and evaluated, peer counselling done with evaluations, practicum assigned (Emphasis placed on Egan’s Model), case conferences, practicum for administration of ten assessment instruments and report evaluations.

Diploma in Structural Cognitive Modifiability, May 2004

The International Centre for the Enhancement of Learning Potential (ICELP),

Hadassah-Wizo-Canada Research Institute (Jerusalem) at the Alpha Omega Institute in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India: a three-part training in the use and application of the “Learning Propensity Assessment Device” (LPAD) for children with learning disabilities based on the work of Prof. Reuven Feuerstein (Chairman, of ICELP). Two-week training in basic and advanced levels.

Certificate in Mediated Learning, October 2003

The International Centre for the Enhancement of Learning Potential (ICELP), Hadassah-Wizo-Canada Research Institute (Jerusalem) at the Alpha Omega Institute in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India: One-week training course and practicum in the Feuerstein Instrumental Enrichment Method.

Certified Tutor for Students with Learning Disabilities, May 2003

V-Excel Education Trust, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

Two-month intensive course and six-month follow-up practicum in theory and application.

Primary Years Programme (PYP) Training, February 2000

American International School of Amsterdam, Netherlands

In-service training by international trainers; Classroom training at the American International School of Amsterdam; sent as a team for establishing the programme at the American International School of Chennai.

In-Service Training / Early Childhood Education, 1997 & 1998

Early Child Development Conference – Stavanger, Norway 1998

European Council of International Schools (ECIS) Conference - Budapest, Hungary 1997.

Human Relations and Public Speaking Training, 1991

Dale Carnegie and Associates, Bangkok, Thailand

Six month long course, meeting once a month for intensive two-day training sessions.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING EXPERIENCE

Puppet Workshop for Day Care Teachers, Chennai, India March 2006

Organized and identified funding for two-day puppet workshop for 25 Aganwadi Day Care teachers from eight Day Care Centres. Teachers were taught how to make simple glove puppets, taught puppet manipulation skills, script development to focus on health and education messages to present to their classes. The use of traditional songs and music was incorporated. All teachers were presented with puppet making kits in order to be able to make more puppets on their own. Follow up showed that the teachers used the puppets extensively to promote cleanliness and basic language and math skills in their classrooms and had made additional puppets on their own.

Puppet Workshop, Chennai India, April 2006

Conducted two-day puppet workshop for 20 teachers and development workers in Chennai. Introduced basic puppet manipulation, story development and puppet making for basic glove and shadow puppetry. Participants used the puppets they made to perform in small groups for the workshop participants.

Puppet Workshop, New Delhi, Feb. 2006

Conducted half-day workshop for 25 participants in New Delhi. Introduced basic puppet manipulation, script development and very simple rod and shadow puppets were made in groups.

I-Kan Centre for Learning, Chennai, India: May 2005

Conducted a one-day workshop for special education teachers on using Myer Briggs type indicator (MBTI) in the classroom.

Peace Education for Teachers and School Administrators, Romania 2000

Cluj and Covasna, Romania.

Conducted full day workshops on integration of peace education into school curriculum. Prepared Manual on Peace Education for Teachers which was distributed to all participants for use in their schools.

Santitham School, Yasothorn, Thailand: 1991

Early childhood education consultant for developing the Nursery and Pre-school programs in a school, which was awarded the King's Education prize for quality education.

United Nations Border Relief Operation (UNBRO), Thailand: 1990

Contracted to conduct five-day workshop for Cambodian primary school teachers in Montessori methods, developing human potential, and global awareness.

Provincial Day Care Center Staff Training Workshop, Prachinburi Thailand: 1990

Conducted provincial level training for forty government day care workers in the Montessori method of education and local low-cost teaching-learning material development.

SPECIAL INTERESTS

- Low cost teaching-learning material development
- Music in early childhood education: basic guitar, piano skills used in the classroom daily
- Puppetry in early childhood education: have used puppets (glove, rod and shadow puppets) to teach a wide range of topics including conflict resolution, academics, social issues, story-telling, sharing of cultures, and health issues, etc.
- Moral and Life Skills Development
- Writing children's books

PERSONAL DATA

Citizenship: American.
Languages: English (Native); Thai (fluent speaking)
Marital Status: Married (since 1980)
Memberships: Society of Children's; Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI)
Write Away Critique Group