

Here's what I think ...

By Ty Ankrom

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There's no shortage of reasons that it's important for educators to continue to return to the classroom as learners.

And the Pickaway County speech and language pathologists are making it easy for you by presenting a one-day professional development program.

Teaching Social Thinking through Stories and Play for Early Learners (4- to 7-year-olds) will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 7, at Emmett Chapel United Methodist Church in Circleville.

Early bird registration

If registering before Sept. 26:

- General staff — \$149
- Two or more attendees* — \$129 per person
- Parents or students — \$99

*Price per person when registering at the same time.

Presenter Nancy Tarshis of Social Thinking is a speech-language pathologist who has extensive experience working with children and their parents.

The seminar will teach participants the key components of social cognitive development from birth to 5 years of age. Social-emotional growth, executive functioning/self-regulation and their interactive impact on socio-communicative abilities will be discussed.

Additionally, the roots of collaborative, cooperative imaginative play and its connections to pre-academic function will be addressed, as well as a focus on putting into action the research and best practices of teaching social thinking.

As tablets, iPads and smartphones are so much a part of children's lives, they are missing opportunities for face-to-face experiences, failing to learn how to relate to others. The seminar will teach parents and educators how to teach social skills to children in a developmentally friendly format.

Registration is open now, with early-bird registration fees available through Sept. 26. For more information or to download a registration form, go to www.pickawayesc.org/.

Questions can be sent by e-mail to lgribler@tvsd.us.

Ankrom is the superintendent of the Pickaway County Educational Service Center.

