

 Nebraska Center for the
Education of Children who are
Blind or Visually Impaired

FALL FOLIAGE CONFERENCE

Thursday, October 19, 2023

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

NCECBVI, Nebraska City

We are excited to announce that this year's Fall Foliage Conference will be part one of our two-part conference series this year, *Active Learning: Promoting Independence and Learning in Children with Multiple Special Needs*. The conference will be on **October 19, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**, at NCECBVI. Due to construction in the dorm, there will not be any lodging available at NCECBVI (please see lodging information below for other options).

Given the opportunity, any child can learn! Active Learning, an innovative approach developed by Dr. Lilli Nielsen, has reshaped educational programming. Motivating and empowering those with multiple special needs to be engaged by their environment, instead of being controlled by it.

Join Ms. Patricia Obrzut, M.S., O.T.R/L., as she provides you with this fresh and pioneering approach. Learn how to increase functional independence and developmental skills while reducing stereotypical, self-injurious or aggressive behaviors. This exciting conference will feature lecture, videos, and demonstrations. Active Learning equipment and materials will be on display throughout this conference.

Registrations for Fall Foliage are due by **Friday, October 6, 2023**. Registration fee is \$50, which includes a light breakfast and lunch. ACVREP CEU's will be available for O&M Instructors. [Register Here!](#)

Personalized Active Learning Consultation Sessions:

Interested in continuing your learning or putting your learning from the conference into action? Have a student in mind that would benefit from incorporating Active Learning into their classroom? Gather your team and collaborate with Patty Obrzut, M.S., O.T.R. to bring Active Learning to life in your classroom or school! Two teams will be selected to participate in three one-hour, *free* online opportunities for ongoing assistance with Patty Obrzut. See the options below for the consultation session and be sure to select which your team is interested in on the entry link. Teams will be selected and notified following the registration deadline of **October 6, 2023**. [Personalized Active Learning Consultation Entry Link](#)

Option 1 – Select a student and present videos, review assessments, develop goals, and receive feedback on how to implement active learning strategies. Engage in problem solving discussions as your team's develops active learning skills.

Option 2 – Select daily activities or programming already used in your curriculum, present videos, and through problem solving discussion and feedback, discover Active Learning environments, techniques and materials to encourage greater student involvement.

Patricia Obrzut is the Executive Director of Penrickton Center for Blind Children, a private, non-profit organization serving blind, special needs children ages 1-12 years. Located in Taylor, Michigan, Penrickton Center offers residential, daycare, and consultative programs at no charge to families. Ms. Obrzut has a master's degree in occupational therapy and received the permission of Dr. Lilli Nielsen in 2002 to provide Active Learning educational training. She is considered an expert in the use Active Learning strategies, equipment, techniques, assessment tool and curriculum, implementing programming for special needs children since 1992.



Lodging: As noted above, there will not be any lodging available this fall due to construction. The Lied Lodge has shared that their availability is full as of now for Wednesday, October 18th. Other hotel options in Nebraska City include Holiday Inn Express & Suites Nebraska City (402-417-0820), and Best Western Nebraska City (402-873-7000).

We're excited to see the AER auction return for the Fall Foliage Conference! It's so fun to see the variety of items that people donate for the auction, and we hope you will consider bringing an item(s), basket, or gift card to support the Nebraska Chapter of AER, which in turn supports students and members statewide. Anything appropriate for school is welcome! If you have any questions about the AER Auction or information about what you plan to donate, please contact Audrey Graves, agraves@esu4.net.

Questions?
Contact Kelly Juilfs
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