

Early – In Preschool Program

**Cumberland County Schools
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Kathy Poelker of *Look at Me Productions* provided a one-day staff development workshop in Cumberland County as part of the Southeast Emergent Literacy Grant Project of North Carolina. Approximately 150 teachers and teacher assistants who work with preschool children with disabilities, typically developing preschoolers, and those at-risk for delayed development were in attendance.

Reviews of the workshop have been glowing! Kathy's novel approaches to teaching language, literacy, and math skills through music and movement were eagerly embraced. Her ideas were simple to implement, yet profound in terms of their value to teach foundational skills to young children with and without disabilities. Kathy demonstrated how the teachers could modify songs and activities and use them as a basis to create their own songs suited for a variety of classroom themes and developmental levels. Applications of her materials and ideas for teaching young children are endless!

It has been gratifying to see the teachers' quick and enthusiastic response to their training and how they began using it in their classrooms immediately. Most encouraging of all are the bright looks on the children's faces as they move, sing and learn!

Jill Basnight and Linda Dalton, Program Specialists