



## Heather Shumaker

Ready to reexamine long-standing ideas about parenting?

Looking for a speaker who inspires and challenges audiences with fresh ideas about kids today?

Ready to get people talking?

Heather is an experienced speaker whose warm, engaging style connects with audiences. Her presentations touch on timely topics in early childhood – risk, safety, and toy weapons; big feelings and conflict mediation; homework and recess; screens and cultural pressures on childhood; and most of all, the unfettered glory of play.

Based on her renegade parenting books – *It's OK NOT to Share* and *It's OK to Go UP the Slide* – Heather's presentations lead audiences to confront deeply meaningful questions about early childhood and learning in today's world. *Parents* magazine called her first book "brilliant" and *Salon.com* called it "an insightful, sensible and compassionate book full of downright revolutionary ideas."

### Keynote topics

#### Why it's OK (and even Good) for Kids not to Share

An introduction to the counterintuitive world of "Renegade Parenting." This inspiring keynote examines common practices and attitudes towards raising children, and based on child development, turns them upside down. Topics covered typically include sharing, saying 'sorry,' coping with angry children, rough play, risk, toy weapons or other topics. Be prepared to change your mind.

#### Standing up for Children's Rights in a High-Pressure World

How can we meet children's needs in a world where kindergarten is the "new first grade?" In this thought-provoking keynote, Heather examines pressures young children face including early academics and overly scheduled days, even in child-centered programs. She shares her dynamic list of "Children's Rights" and challenges adults to realign our expectations to truly meet kids' needs.

### Workshop topics

#### Offering the Right Risks

When it comes to raising kids, it's always Safety First. Or is it? Childhood is also a time of risk. This program upends common adult fears and looks at risks kids need to thrive, such as social/emotional risks (getting into play; ideas of social inclusion and rejection) and physical risk (rough-and-tumble play). Take a risk, join us!

#### Wild Emotions

Kids can have explosive emotions. What to do with all those BIG feelings? Heather guides you through understanding attitudes toward negative feelings and gives a host of practical tools so you can help children understand, accept and express their big feelings appropriately. Key to this program: All Feelings are OK; All Behavior isn't.

## **Boys, Boys, and Tomboys**

Perplexed by the boys in your life? Learn power activities to help high-action kids channel energy, at home and in the classroom. This program covers topics including physical play, aggression, action, moral development, feelings, and friendships. Discover the benefits of rough-and-tumble play and leave with ideas to make daily life more boy-(and also girl) friendly.

## **Joyful & Meaningful Early Literacy**

Literacy lessons during a temper tantrum? Or during a wrestling match? What? Discover the wonders of integrating literacy into a child's play, from helping her express her deepest thoughts and feelings to setting limits on other kids. Meet the power of words for kids too young to read and write.

## **What's on your Walls?**

Maybe you've followed the example of most early childhood programs in the country and have behavior charts, calendars and weather charts on your walls. Think again. Heather tackles "the big three" and explains why these classroom standbys don't give children the skills and experiences they need. Discover an alternate style for better behavior and a more engaged class.

## **What audiences are saying**

"We knew she was a talented writer, but she speaks as well as well as she writes. Heather is such a gifted communicator. We've had constant positive feedback since her talk. It was fantastic!" – Clayton Mullins, Yew Chung International School, Hong Kong **Zoom event**

"One of the best keynotes I recall us hosting. She reaffirms your belief in the power of play and sends you back to work Monday morning armed with fresh ideas to put into practice." - Michelle Lewis-Barnes, Provider Resource Organization conference, Portland, OR

"Heather stood out as a major highlight of the event. Her sessions were packed and people lined up to talk to her afterwards. It was like rock star status. Even months after the event people are still talking about her!" - Sandra Fischer, Unplug & Play conference, San Jose, CA

"She's magical. Intelligent, absorbing, inspiring and full of heart." - Susan Odgers, professor, Grand Valley State University.

## **Meet Heather**

Heather Shumaker is the author of *It's OK Not to Share* and *It's OK to Go Up the Slide*, both published by Tarcher/ Penguin. She's a speaker, blogger, podcaster and advocate for free play and no homework for young children. She's been featured on *National Public Radio* "All Things Considered," *Huffington Post*, *New York Post*, *Parenting*, *Parents.com*, *USA Weekend*, *Wisconsin Public Radio* and other media. Heather is a graduate of Swarthmore College (BA) and University of Wisconsin-Madison (MS) and the mother of two children. She travels or Zooms from northern Michigan.

**To book Heather** (231) 313-8167 [heather@heathershumaker.com](mailto:heather@heathershumaker.com)