

Early Education Commission

A community leadership collaborative supporting the United Way's goal of ensuring children are ready for school



United Way of
Metropolitan Atlanta

Background on the Speaker

January 13, 2009 Meeting



Lilian G. Katz, Ph.D.
Professor Emerita &
Co-Director, Clearinghouse on Early Childhood & Parenting
University of Illinois

Dr. Katz is recognized worldwide as a leader in the field of early childhood education and is one of the most influential early childhood educators of this era. She has traveled to 54 countries and visited early education programs as a consultant, speaker and researcher. She is the author of more than 150 publications including articles, essays, chapters, and books about early childhood education, teacher education, child development and parenting.

She is a Past President of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and is Editor of the first online peer reviewed early childhood journal, *Early Childhood Research & Practice*. For 13 years she wrote a monthly column for parents of three- and four-year-olds for *Parents Magazine*. Dr. Katz was founding editor of the *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, and served as Editor-in-Chief during its first six years. She is currently Chair of the Editorial board of the *International Journal of the Early Years* published in the UK.

Her most recent book, "Talks with Teachers of Young Children" (1995), is a collection of her best known early essays and several recent ones. In 1989 she wrote "Engaging Children's Minds: The Project Approach" (with S. C. Chard). Dr. Katz has lectured in all 50 states and in 54 countries. She has held visiting posts at universities in Australia, Canada, England, Germany, India, Israel, the West Indies (Barbados campus) and many parts of the US.

As a professor at the University of Illinois for 32 years, Dr. Katz influenced a generation of early childhood professionals in the US. On her retirement from the University in 2000, the Lilian Katz Symposium was organized in her honor, drawing contributions from colleagues worldwide. Dr. Katz is the recipient of many other honors, including two Fulbright Awards (India & New Zealand), and an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree (D.Litt.) from Whittier College, Whittier, California. In 1997 she served as Nehru Professor at the University of Baroda in India. Her Ph.D. is in Child Development from Stanford University in 1968. Dr. Katz, was born and raised in England, emigrating in 1947 to the US with her family.