

Standards: The Voice of Quality

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS
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Dr Marilou Hyson is a consultant in early child development and education and an Affiliate Faculty member in Applied Developmental Psychology at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, USA. Formerly Associate Executive Director and Senior Consultant with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Marilou contributed to the development of many NAEYC position statements on issues including early learning standards, professional preparation standards, early childhood mathematics, and curriculum/assessment/program evaluation. She is the author of the recent book, *Enthusiastic and Engaged Learners: Approaches to Learning in the Early Childhood Classroom*, published by NAEYC and Teachers College Press. Internationally, Marilou has worked in Indonesia, Bangladesh and Bhutan through the World Bank and Save the Children, consulting on early childhood standards, practitioner training, program implementation, and other issues. She is co-editing a special issue of NAEYC's journal *Young Children* on "Lessons Learned from Early Childhood Educators around the Globe." In the US, Marilou consults with organizations including the Families and Work Institute, the Finance Project, the National Center for Children in Poverty, and the Society for Research in Child Development. Prior to joining NAEYC, Marilou was a policy fellow in the US Department of Education and Professor and Chair of the University of Delaware's Department of Individual and Family Studies. The former editor-in-chief of *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, Marilou's research and publications have emphasized young children's emotional development, parents' and teachers' beliefs and educational practices, issues in linking research with policy and practice, and early childhood teacher preparation. She holds a Ph.D. from Bryn Mawr College (USA) in Child Development and Early Childhood Education.

SYNOPSIS

In Singapore as in other places around the world, early childhood standards speak to teachers, parents, and government officials about what is important for young children. This keynote session will use video examples, dialogue, and practical suggestions to explore the purpose and power of standards. We will begin by looking together at the purposes of standards, thinking about how standards can either help or harm our early childhood field. Next, using real-life examples we will explore three kinds of standards: early learning standards (outcomes for children); program standards; and standards for teachers—and we will see how these fit together into a unified whole. Finally, standards can be the "voice of quality," but for that voice to be heard, strong support for standards implementation is needed. We will consider how teacher professional development, public information, and well-informed advocacy can support early childhood standards and multiply the voices for quality.