

“10 Easy Ways to be More LGBTQ-friendly—and Why it Matters”

Presenter Bio:



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Katie Slivovsky has been the Exhibit Development Director at Chicago Children’s Museum (CCM) for 10 years. In 2011, she founded the museum’s LGBTQ Access & Inclusion initiative, leading an interdepartmental team of 10 staff to ensure the museum actively welcomes and engages the LGBTQ community. CCM believes all children deserve to see their family configurations and gender expressions reflected in the world around them; it’s simply what’s best for kids.

Katie developed the workshop, “10 Easy Ways...” in 2012 and has delivered it around Chicago and across the country to museum professionals as well as classroom teachers. She wrote an article for the Alliance for Early Childhood called, “5 Easy Ways Parents can be More LGBTQ friendly” and she’s written three national posts for the American Association of Museums on the topic of LGBTQ Inclusion.

Though this topic can feel heavy, Katie’s approach includes a combination of humor, large group activities and small group reflection. Her goal is for participants to leave the session feeling inspired and empowered to take a few steps toward ensuring all children feel their support.

Testimonials:

“Katie is an amazing speaker and I was impressed with her ability to keep this topic fun, informative, and compact. She knows how to honor a time commitment and didn’t run long.” -Janet Anderson, Teacher Librarian, GSA, Barrington Community High School District 220

“Emotional, moving, inspiring... I just wish everyone at my museum could experience this workshop at least once. The most meaningful professional development I've attended in years!” -David Carrasquillo, Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum and 2016 Illinois Association of Museums Conference Attendee

“Katie embodies expertise, energy, and enthusiasm for this topic. This workshop helps us make our kids feel safe, confident, and accepted as part of a dynamic community.” -Ann McAuliffe, PFLAG Deerfield

- *“This was a much-needed reminder to make our values more visible to our visitors.”*
- *“This was so amazing. It’s so nice to be able to talk about ways to be more inclusive in general...this is a great place to start and so badly needed.”*

-Anonymous feedback from museum professionals attending a workshop in August 2017