



Instructor Biographies

Claire Wurtzel

Co-Educational Director, is the Director of Faculty Development for the Churchill School and Center in New York, working within and beyond the school to develop the Churchill Center for professional development. Prior to this position, Ms. Wurtzel was the Director of Faculty Development for the New York City Schools Attuned initiative for All Kinds of Minds, an institute co-founded by Dr. Mel Levine and Charles Schwab to help educators work effectively with struggling learners. In her capacity as Director, Ms. Wurtzel oversaw Schools Attuned courses, mentor training and facilitator training for over 400 New York City schools. She is also one of two educational directors for Hidden Sparks, providing training, supervision and ongoing mentoring to the Hidden Sparks teams of coaches, principals and Internal Coaches. To fulfill long-standing interest in Jewish education, Ms. Wurtzel has worked to adapt the Schools Attuned professional development program for Jewish day schools.

Karen Kruger

Karen Kruger, M.S, newly appointed Director of Education, received her master's degree from Bank Street College of Education. Karen comes with a wealth of experience in the field, having served as Hidden Sparks' ICP (Internal Coach Program) School-based mentor for the past year, where she mentored internal coaches, a regional facilitator, and the lead trainer for workshops funded through No Child Left Behind. Working with middle school teachers and administrators from New York City middle schools, Karen also served as a field facilitator and course instructor for 'Schools Attuned', teaching courses offered by "All Kinds of Minds", developing curricula for workshops, and mentoring and supervising teachers in grades K-12. Karen was an adjunct professor at Bank Street College of Education and has taught in elementary and middle schools from Kindergarten through 8th grade.

Andrea Rousso

Andrea Rousso taught in New York City public schools for 33 years. As an educator of emotionally fragile children with special needs, she enthusiastically taught grades K-6 for sixteen years at IHB Day Treatment Center (for children diagnosed with emotional disturbance), in collaboration with clinicians from the Jewish Board of Children and Family Services. Using the skills she acquired in those positions, she became a teacher-trainer for special education. In that role, she consulted with both new and experienced teachers of self-contained special education classes and general education classes and with collaborative teams in inclusive classrooms. During that time, Andrea also led workshops to help both new and experienced teachers understand emotional reactions to learning in the classroom. In addition, she was an instructor for graduate school courses in classroom management. She also tutored children with learning disabilities and emotional problems who were referred to her by psychologists working in private schools. After eight productive years as a teacher-trainer, Andrea decided to return to the classroom. She spent nine joyful years as a special education teacher in a kindergarten collaborative-team classroom. In 2004 Andrea and her teaching partner received a Bank Street Early Childhood Education award for their innovative and motivating curriculum and teaching style. Andrea became a certified facilitator for the Schools Attuned Program of All Kinds of Minds in 2001. Currently, as a part-time consultant in three NYC public schools, Andrea meets with teachers to assist them with curriculum adaptations and understanding classroom behaviors.