

Fun Facts From the Original Website  
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My first official workshop was in August of 1997 for about 15 teachers at a preschool in the Mira Mesa area of San Diego County. It was an hour-long presentation for the staff, but took two-hours to set up!!!

My first unofficial workshop was at the 1996 NAEYC Conference in Dallas, TX when the presenter of a morning session promising handouts and activity ideas didn't show up. After announcing to my new conference colleague sitting next to me, "I could do that" she looked at me and said, "I dare you." And the rest as they say, is history. I jumped on stage and did an impromptu session for over 700 participants. A spontaneous opportunity that was a life and career changing experience! I will be forever thankful.

The company's first leap into the vending/sales arena was in 1997 when I thought that kits to make all the Ooey Gooney® activities would be a big hit! You know - one stop shopping! Kits filled with all the stuff you'd need to make a batch of flubber, of ooblick, of playdough, a Knox gelatin mold, etc etc. all portioned out and ready to go! Well, they were NOT hits. Not. At. All. And I had a garage full of supplies for years. It all eventually got used up but for a long time my garage looked like a Teacher's Pantry! In fact, the stuff was there for so long I thought about opening a "teacher's pantry" type of store. Another idea up on that "good idea" board!

In 2001, while presenting my first keynote address, I slipped, lost my balance and almost fell off the stage while telling a very wild rendition of the popcorn story! The people in the front row had already jumped up and were ready to catch me! Love my groupies!!!!

The big tubs I travel with get security checked all the time when I fly but one time was kind of funny... I was heading to San Francisco for a gig and in my tubs were unmarked, unlabeled baggies of baking soda and cornstarch for the Ooey Gooney® session!!! Needless to say it was an interesting experience... and might be on my permanent record.

Similarly, once while I was still living in San Diego, I decided to *drive* to a gig in Nor Cal. Fast. When I got pulled over for speeding on the 5 freeway (I know I know) I reached to get my registration and insurance from the glove box and forgotten that - for whatever reason - I had put a baggie of cream of tartar in my glove box. THAT my friends, will ruin your day!

In 2002 while presenting The Apple Demo for a group of teachers I choked on a piece of the apple, coughed it up and casually announced to all the teachers in the room, "Don't worry, I knew you all knew what to do!"

For a long time my largest audience was about 5,000 people in the Arie Crown Theatre in Chicago at a NAEYC conference. That was surpassed the following year when we filled the arena in the Dallas Convention Center. You guys continue to amaze me!

In November of 2009 the company's trusty ooey mobile (the Suburban which was used for all the workshop road trips) got stolen out of a hotel parking lot. And set on fire. With everything in it. The workshop scheduled for that day in Miramichi, New Brunswick was pantomimed. And the joke of the day was, "I could show you what flubber looks like... BUT IT IS ENGULFED IN FLAMES!! I could have you paint with the plungers... BUT THEY ARE ENGULFED IN

FLAMES!" The audience was forgiving, compassionate and understanding. Thank goodness for their amazing imaginations! Tragedy that it was, and as cliché as it sounds, the show must go on. And that it did.

#funfacts #musings #posterity

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