

Ohio Early Childhood Conference | April 23-25 | Sandusky, OH Thursday, April 23rd

Note: Infant & Toddler Educators are the target audience for sessions indicated by an asterisk * in the title.

Sessions of Interest for Infant & Toddler Educators

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Early Childhood State and Federal Policy Update 2020 Featured Strand

Explore resources to ensure you stay up-to-date on the latest early childhood policy news to best advocate for state and federal investments and policies that impact those working in Ohio's child-serving systems and the families and children impacted by those systems.

CQ CommUNITY CQ=Cultural Intelligence an Ongoing Journey of Growth (Toddler – School Age)

This session looks at the journey of a district team as they commit to increasing the cultural intelligence (CQ) and equitable practices of the district staff, students and community. The CQ CommUNITY engages in ongoing work to ensure that all students' diverse experiences, backgrounds and talents are supported, valued and respected. During this session attendees will have the opportunity to engage in activities to reflect on their own cultural intelligence to consider areas for further exploration to support the children and families they work with in the early childhood setting.

Learn the Signs, Act Early: Supporting Children through Developmental Monitoring using Family Engagement

Learn the Signs, Act Early is an initiative from the Center for Disease Prevention and Control. Educators know from birth to 5 years, children should reach milestones in how they play, learn, speak, act and move. This program aims to improve early identification of children with autism and other developmental disabilities so children and families can get the services and support they need. Tracking a child's development and acting early if there is a concern are key to early identification. Participants will learn to use these resources in combination with family engagement to utilize developmental monitoring to celebrate milestones and help link children to the support they need.

Music, Movement and Science: Wow, this is Fun! Featured Speaker

Science experiences for young children should be and can be exciting and meaningful! Music, movement and science are perfect companions based on a young child's interest, curiosity and natural love to move. Discover how to integrate music and movement activities to promote meaningful experiences that will develop science concepts and vocabulary. Take back ideas to create neural pathways in young brains and foster interest in the world of science.

New Opioid Crisis: How Did We Get Here?

Participants in this session will examine the contributing factors to the current opiate epidemic. Not a day goes by in social media, television reporting or newsprint, which is not peppered by the impact of the opiate epidemic. Participants will be challenged to think about their systems of care and how to approach this issue from a transdisciplinary approach.

Supporting Children Who Color Outside of the Lines (Toddler – School Age) Featured Speaker

How do we ignite children's creativity? This presentation will discuss what discourages children from being creative and identify practices that support environmental and curriculum ingredients to nurture

creative development.

Young Learners who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing or Blind/Visually Impaired

In this session you will learn what a child who is blind/visually impaired or deaf/hard of hearing needs to fully participate at home, in school, and in the community. Discover specific evidence-based strategies and supports to increase access to learning, including educational and assistive technologies.

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM KEYNOTE

Power and Excellence through Resilience

Deshauna has made it her life goal to encourage, inspire, and strengthen the people around her! She will inspire you never to lose sight of the impact you have on the children in your care. Discover the influence one teacher had on her ability to develop resiliency strategies, tenacity, and to never give up while reaching for her goals. You will leave empowered to focus on developing your resilience to achieve balance in your professional and personal life.

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Essential Elements for Designing an Inclusive Classroom

Does your early childhood environment meet the needs of ALL children? Through engaging activities, discussion, and knowledge sharing, participants will explore the various components of a high-quality early learning environment, including characteristics of a high-quality inclusive environment, DAP, the importance of play, Universal Design, Universal Design for learning, and least restrictive environments. Additionally, participants will explore specific strategies and supports to enhance the classroom environment.

Exploring Gender and Gender Expression in Young Children (Part 1)

Participants in this session will explore the definitions and concepts of gender, gender identification and gender development, while examining the child's perspective in the development of gender identity. The concept of gender identity and expression from the perspective of parents, who may be having difficulty with their child's gender choices will also be addressed. Take back strategies to support children in the classroom in the area of gender identity and development.

Looking Through a STEM Lens (Toddler – School Age)

Learn ways to nurture curiosity and encourage children to develop problem solving skills, create and test hypotheses and learn STEM concepts through play and exploration. Participants will learn how to foster STEM as a mindset by focusing on the process not just outcomes. We will discuss the benefits of STEM for helping children develop skills across the content areas.

Hip-Hop to Rock and Literacy: That's Exciting! (Toddler – School Age)

Featured Speaker

In this interactive session participants will discover how to use songs, music and movement to support literacy development. By incorporating kinesthetic activities with sing-along songs children develop auditory discrimination, vocabulary, fluency, and coordination. Most important of all, it promotes the natural love for reading. Take back strategies to integrate text through song-card, chart tablet, or pocket-chart phrases to nurture confidence in your young readers.

Self-Care for Teachers: Techniques for Becoming the Best Version of Yourself

The Devereux Center for Resilient Children studies resiliency and protective factors in both young children and adults. This training looks at protective factors for teachers to help prepare them for stressful situations and anything that comes their way. Setting the foundations for good self-care can prevent teachers from experiencing burnout. The work that teachers do is very important and life changing but without taking proper care of themselves it can be draining and lead to stress. To take good care of others one must first take care of themselves.

State of Babies Yearbook 2020: Where do Ohio's Babies Stand?*

Where do babies across the nation and in Ohio stand? The new State of Babies Yearbook 2020, to be released in April by ZERO TO THREE, provides the answer. Expanded indicators of wellbeing and policy provide a richer picture, and new breakouts by subgroup allow an equity lens for how babies and families are faring. State and national profiles provide a starting point for advocates and policymakers.

Using Responsive Teaching and Caregiving within The Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers & Twos to Support Language Development*

Daily routines and experiences such as diapering or playing with toys offer opportunities to build positive relationships with young children that foster trust and security while promoting rich language development. In this session, participants will explore strategies within The Creative Curriculum® for Infants, Toddlers & Twos that they can use every day to create a language-rich environment, which helps children build language and literacy skills such as developing vocabulary, hearing the different sounds and rhythms of language, enjoying stories and books, and exploring writing.

Working Together for Benefit of our Children

This session will provide participants an opportunity to analyze and better understand the value of cultivating empathy for families and children they serve. Techniques to improve communication with families and promote healthy environments that support acceptance over tolerance will be discussed. Leave with an improved ability to understand and share the feelings of another.

3:00 PM -4:30 PM

Communication is a Two-Way Street: Helping Children Become Effective Communicators

Effective communication is one of the most important social skills. Communication is more than talking. Participants will discuss the three aspects of communication: talking, listening and body language. Interactive activities will be presented to help the participants understand their own communication style. A discussion on how to use strategies and specific activities when designing the temporal, physical and interpersonal environments and how they will support children in becoming effective communicators.

Featured Strand

Creating A Climate of Composure: Using the Five Steps of Self-Regulations and the Safe Place (Conscious Discipline©)

This session will help participants identify brain states, triggers and how to help children self-regulate using the five steps of self-regulation (I Feel, I Calm, I Choose, I Connect, I Solve) and the Safe Place. Leave with a plan to use these strategies in your classroom, with parents and coworkers.

Exploring Gender and Gender Expression in Young Children (Part 2)

Ohio Early Childhood Race & Rural Equity 2020

Featured Strand

Attendees will be given a briefing on the 2020 Ohio Early Childhood Race and Rural Equity follow-up report, "Drafting a New Blueprint for Success." This will include county-specific data on young children, new statewide data disaggregated by race and more. Participants will have the opportunity to share personal and community experiences reflected in the data and brainstorm program-level, community, and statewide solutions to address inequities for young children.

Featured Speaker

Sing and Sign: Bring Joy to Education!

Singing and signing engage young children in meaningful and exciting multi-language experiences. Singing songs is a powerful way to be introduced to a language while developing confidence and fluency. Signing (ASL) serves as the bridge that connects the three languages within our brain. Research findings state that integrating ASL into your literacy component accelerates letter and sound identification while promoting and motivating the natural love for reading. Music—and movement—bring JOY to education!

What are the Top 3 Reasons Early Childhood Teachers Leave the Profession in Ohio?

This is a face to face meeting designed from a qualitative research project to gain perspective on teacher turnover in early childhood educational settings. This training would benefit teachers, administrators, directors, and program coordinators. The atmosphere of this training will be a round table discussion with prompts from recent research completed in Ohio on teacher turnover in ECE classrooms and settings. Participants will be engaged with conversations, brainstorming and leave the training with a new vision for hiring novice teachers and developing individual training programs to meet all new teachers at their level of development and areas of opportunities.

3:00 PM -5:00 PM

Common Ground: A Bridges out of Poverty Workshop

Bridges out of Poverty is a nationally recognized program with the goal of helping agencies fight the long-term effects of poverty in a meaningful way. By building relationships based on understanding the real experiences of people in poverty, agencies can begin to address barriers in a manner that improves outcomes and sustained self-sufficiency. In this workshop, participants will examine how to make connections and build relationships with the families they serve in order to provide the best early care and learning experience possible.

Understanding Attachment and the Separation Process

Through role-play and case discussion, participants will explore the crucial role that attachment has in the learning process and how children and parents respond to separation. In addition, participants will identify strategies that they can use to help parents and children remain emotionally connected, especially when preparing children for care in an out-of-home program.

5:00 PM -6:30 PM

Preventing the Extinction of Childhood

Featured Speaker

Do you remember playing "hide go seek" as a young child? Did you take a class to learn how to play this

game? In this session we will identify the benefits of play and discuss why it is disappearing. Come and learn how to play again!

THE MAGIC OF MUSIC: Release the Stress, Calm the Room, Focus the Energy!

Featured Speaker

In this inspiring, hands-on, and fun workshop, award-winning musician, songwriter and music educator Kira Willey will teach you how to incorporate music, rhythm and song seamlessly into your classroom in order to completely engage (and keep!) children's attention, create predictable, calming structure, boost mindfulness, and help children focus and learn. Kira will demonstrate her teaching methods using original music from her five award-winning CDs of kids' yoga songs, as well as playing live. Attendees will have a blast while being guided to create their own rhythm games, call & response activities, and songs to use in their own classrooms! There's absolutely no musical experience necessary—Kira's an expert at making these techniques immediately accessible for everyone.