

Ohio Early Childhood Conference | April 23-25 | Sandusky, OH Friday, April 24th

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

Sessions of Interest for Infant - Toddler Educators

7:30 – 10:30 AM, 1:00 – 2:30 PM & 3:00 – 4:30 PM- (FULL DAY - 6 hours)

Trauma Informed Care in Early Childhood

Understanding the role of trauma informed care in early childhood is vital to children and families. By becoming “trauma-informed” professionals will recognize that people have often experienced many different types of trauma. Those who have been traumatized benefit from support and understanding from those around them. This professional development opportunity is focused on educating communities and professionals about the long-lasting impact of trauma.

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Building Resiliency with Joy: Evidence Based Training to Address ACEs in Early Childhood Care & Education

Joy experienced through play can lead to increased resiliency and insulation against long-term effects of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), trauma and toxic stress. Equipping early childhood educators and caregivers with tools to incorporate joyful play into daily routines can reduce caregiver and child stress, improve caregiver-child relationships, and support optimal social-emotional development and learning. Frequent interpersonal experiences of joy and play between an adult caregiver and child bolster protective factors which leads to enhanced childhood resiliency. This presentation will include an overview of the science behind attachment and play, and its ability to prevent the negative effects of childhood adversity and toxic stress. Participants will have opportunities to view and model joyful play applications as they are provided with evidence-based strategies to increase resiliency in early care environments. Participants will leave the session with an individualized joyful plan for infants, toddlers and preschool children to embed into their curriculum planning.

Conscious Discipline©- The Basics

Featured Strand

Need help with classroom management and teaching children the social-emotional skills they are missing? This is an introduction session on the Conscious Discipline classroom model. Learn the Conscious Discipline Brain State Model and how to become aware of children's' states and reasons behind their behaviors.

Creating a Natural Learning Environment in Early Childhood Settings: Ideas to Rethink your Outdoor Space

Featured Strand

During this session participants will walk through the process of redesigning their outdoor playground space into a natural outdoor learning environment. The benefits of these changes will be discussed, such as increased physical activity, higher child engagement, increased opportunities for social interactions, extending learning in the outdoors in all areas of development and reducing (yes..reducing!) chances of severe injury. Participants will go home with the start of an implementation plan.

Diversity: It's Not Black and White

Featured Speaker

Learn to enhance your multicultural communication skills by examining your view of the world, your classroom, your students, and families. Participants will take a journey into the world of diversity and realize it's not just black and white.

Dual Language Learners: Support Strategies for Birth to 5

Using the Planned Language Approach Model, participants will learn about evidence-based strategies that support Birth to five dual language learners and debunk myths related to DLL. Participants will acquire and apply new knowledge on how to transfer instructional strategies for Birth to 5 DLL children.

Essential Elements for Successful Inclusion

Have you ever struggled to include a child into the everyday routines of your classroom? To truly create an inclusive environment, a classroom must embrace children of varying abilities, delays, or who are medically fragile. Ingredients for a successful recipe include exploring your attitude, defining what true inclusion involves, resolving myths, and the realistic expectations regarding people with disabilities.

Finding Your Happy Place in and Out of the Classroom: Healthier for You and the Families and Children You Serve

Do you ever feel like you are stressed out just holding on to get through the day? We might have some great ideas to help you hold on. Come learn how to identify the physical and emotional reactions that children, families, and teachers display when they are on stress overload. Stress not handled well can have negative effects but stressed identified and minimized can energize your day.

I am Toddler What Do You Expect? *

Featured Speaker

Toddlers are at a very exciting, curious and creative stage of development. Conscious educators in the field of early childhood are aware of the individual needs and dreams of each of the children in their care. This presentation will discuss the developmental stages of toddlers and practices that help support toddler development.

Sing a Joyful Song: A Community-Building Musical Celebration

Featured Speaker

Join a totally unique experience of community-building through music! In a joyful, judgment-free atmosphere, award-winning songwriter and music educator Kira Willey will teach participants simple approaches to introducing music to children through fun arrangements of contemporary songs. This adult experience models' best practices to introducing young children to new songs and emphasizes the powerful effects that music has on the brain: increasing plasticity, forging new neural pathways, creating opportunities for mindfulness, and improving memory. Group singing has proven health benefits, creates meaningful social connections and a sense of belonging, and is ideal for community-building among children and adults alike. Come with an open mind and heart, and be prepared to learn, laugh, and experience the joy of singing with others. At the end of the session, you'll be invited to join the "conference choir" to share your experience!

This Child, Each Child Will Grow and Learn

Gaps in development tend to appear in children before the age of two which means as early childhood educators, we can influence positive outcomes for children. This session is designed to help attendees understand the importance of early identification through monitoring and screening which leads to connecting families with local, state, and national resources. Participants will be provided an overview of

developmental milestones and evidence-based approaches to communicate with families and professionals about concerns that may arise.

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM KEYNOTE

Personal Climate and Culture: The Key to Professional Success

Being an educator comes with a unique set of challenges- challenges that can be overwhelming at times. Gerry Brooks has a special way of humorously describing life inside his elementary school that is both therapeutic and enjoyable to literally hundreds of thousands of teachers and principals alike. It is vital for educators to be able to laugh (at themselves) on a very regular basis. Gerry highlights the importance of culture in creating a positive work environment, leading to improved outcomes for children.

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Advancing Equity in ECE: Words Into Action

Featured Speaker

"All children have the right to equitable learning opportunities that help them achieve their full potential as engaged learners and valued members of society. Thus, all early childhood educators have a professional obligation to advance equity." This newly released NAEYC position statement challenges all early childhood educators to look at their daily practices with children and their families. This session will give early childhood educators the opportunity to review the development of this relevant position statement and reflect on the implications it has on their work with young children and their families. Using the "Equity and Inclusion Reflection tool," attendees will have an opportunity to reflect on their daily practices and apply it to the recommendations set forth for the field through the position statement. As we consider how to implement the recommendations, we will discuss the assets we bring, the opportunities that exist, and potential obstacles that may hinder efforts. This session will bolster each teacher's desire to support every child and family who enters their classroom community and give them tools and resources to do so.

Bring "Farm to Early Care" to YOUR Program (Toddler through Preschool)

Whether or not you have a green thumb, this training is for you! Join this session to learn about Farm to Early Care and the many ways it can benefit your early care and education program. Participants will walk away with a completed work plan, evidence-informed resources, and action steps on how to get started on implementing all three key elements of Farm to Early Care: local purchasing, gardening, and food-based education. Those who attend will also be able to learn from programs that have already started this work and how to join the Farm to Early Care movement!

CALM YOUR CLASSROOM: The Magic of Music, Movement & Mindfulness for Kids

Featured Speaker

In this dynamic, inspiring, and FUN workshop--full of immediately actionable ideas--we'll try lots of techniques together (be ready to move)! Kids' yoga and mindfulness expert, author, TEDx speaker, and award-winning musician Kira Willey will teach attendees how to incorporate music, movement and mindfulness easily and seamlessly into the classroom in order to give children tools to calm themselves, empower them to release anxiety and stress, and create calming, predictable structure. Attendees will learn the critical role each of the "3 M's" - music, movement, and mindfulness - play in helping kids self-regulate and focus their energy, and in getting the frequent brain breaks they need to be ready to learn. Kira will teach an arsenal of practical, quick, and easy-to-use tips and techniques to calm your classroom (and yourself!), focus your children, and help them let go of anxiety. Kid-friendly breathing, focus and mindfulness exercises, and simple songs which incorporate movement will be included.

Conscious Discipline®- In Action (Part 1) Featured Strand

This session is for educators who are beginning to or have been implementing Conscious Discipline into their personal lives and classrooms. A variety of Conscious Discipline techniques will be discussed as well as implementation techniques including the Brain State Model and the Seven Powers.

Essential Elements for Family Conversations

Participants will explore and reflect on having quality conversations with families when there is a suspected delay or disability. Strategies on how to prepare for a difficult conversation and techniques to use to strengthen and support successful collaboration, without judgement of the families' various reactions or decisions will be provided. Participants will also be given tips to work with families and consider all cultures, backgrounds, and types of families.

Group Times for Infants and Toddlers- High Scope®* Featured Speaker

Participants will be provided with the elements of HighScope Group Time with Infants and Toddlers. Participants will gain adult-child interaction strategies to support infants and toddler during Group Time using materials and music & movement in a predictable; yet, flexible daily schedule.

Nurturing Nature: How One Preschool Program Shifted Attitudes about Outdoor Education (Toddler-Preschool)

In this session participants will explore nature-based education and the elements to look for in a quality nature-based program. We will discuss and share how participants are currently implementing nature-based learning in their classrooms or school program. Come discover how one typical preschool program has gradually transformed an overgrown area into a functioning outdoor classroom. Take back ideas on how to add more nature-based elements to your classroom or school program.

Recall and Retell: Painting Connections to Story Time (Toddler through Preschool)

This hands-on session connects story time to activities around the classroom that support language and early literacy development. Participants will tell and retell stories through movement, dramatization, props, playdough, Legos, and even paint.

Supporting Children Who Take Us to the End of Our Rope Featured Speaker

Challenging behaviors of children are often the most common discussions that occur between educators in early childhood settings. Are you an adult who is working with a child who takes you to the end of your rope? If you are, this session is for you. You will increase your awareness of why challenging behaviors occur and specific strategies that will assist in preventing these behaviors. Discover how to develop self-control in children who seem to need POWER.

Where the Boys Are Version 2.0 (Part 1)

This training explores the possibility that boys have different needs in the classroom than girls. Many of those differences can be related to the way that the different genders are socialized, as well as, differences in brain structure. Based on these differences and the fact that boys seem to be falling behind girls, academically, teachers are asked to examine current teaching methods and explore new methods that might be more engaging to males.

3:00 PM -4:30 PM

Conflict Resolution: It's not Personal It's Personality

Many times we believe that conflict is personal, but it is really a personality clash. By using the DISC Profile, we will identify and build on individual strengths and explore ways to improve communication skills.

Conscious Discipline©- In Action (Part 2)

"Creating The World You Want To Live In" - The Importance of Creating a School Family through the Use of 7 Skills, Powers and Structures! (Toddler through Preschool)

Featured Strand

During this session participants will be introduced to the social-emotional curriculum of Conscious Discipline© using the seven brain smart skills, powers and structures.

Infant/Toddler Language and Literacy*

Featured Speaker

Join Ron and take an in-depth look at the developmental progression of language and literacy of infants and toddlers. Develop specific strategies to nurture growth and identify milestones to better understand how to be intentional at different stages. We will see ourselves as a partner to a child's learning so we can make choices that connect to children where they are.

Let's Say it In Song! Adding Rhythm to Your Routine

This session is for everyone, both the talented and the "vocally challenged"! Our FIRST objective is to build your confidence and help you to believe in your ability to engage the children in learning through music. By the conclusion, we will have paved the way for everyone to return to the classroom with simple, tried and true, effective learning tools to use immediately based on rhythm, movement and singing. We will sing, clap and move throughout the session, and learn how, when and where to use the new ideas during your work day... in circle, transitions, clean up, hello/goodbye, special days, cheers and affirmations, and intentional times of learning.

Where the Boys Are Version 2.0 (Part 2)

7:00 PM -8:00 PM KEYNOTE

Music, Movement & Engaging Children

This high energy interactive, participatory musical keynote will provide attendees with quality educational music that will enhance the early childhood curriculum. Expect BIG FUN!