

Special Tracks Include



+

Nature-Based
Learning

+

Self-Care

+

Infant-Toddler

+ More!

A red heart with a white outline, containing the text "The Ohio" in a black, handwritten-style font.

The
Ohio

Early Childhood Conference

Fun, Magical & Unique...Just Like You!



Preliminary Session List

Subject to change.

There Is
Something
For Everyone!



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

7:00PM

KEYNOTE: Being More Than One Thing, Finding More Than One Way

Wednesday, April 27, 7:00 - 8:00

“What’s been important in my understanding of myself and others,” Fred Rogers said, “is the fact that each one of us is so much more than any one thing.” As helpers who serve children, families, and other helpers, what we do for the human beings around us – young or old – is often so much more than just our job descriptions and titles. When the conditions around us limit what we are accustomed to doing, we can all find our resilient and creative ways to be helpful. The ways we learn and grow are rooted in the human relationships we build around us.

Presented by: Junlei Li, Dana Winters

Main Topic: Family Engagement, Connection and Support
OA Approved

Presented by: Kenedria Thurman

Main Topic: Child Guidance and Behavior; Social-Emotional Development; Conscious Discipline
OA Approved

Creating Conditions for Success

Thursday, April 28, 8:00AM-9:00AM

This session will coach participants through a critical thinking methodology developed by The CAYL Institute on becoming advocates for themselves as early childhood education practitioners, and for the children and families served in their programs. Participants will focus on identifying and addressing challenges and moving towards timely, relevant, and immediately actionable solutions. Participants will come away with a solid understanding of how to apply this methodology in response to challenges facing them in their daily practice.

Presented by: Amanda Storth

Main Topic: Professionalism, Leadership and Ethics
OA Approved

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

8:00AM

Conflict Resolution in Preschool (Conscious Discipline)

Thursday, April 28, 8:00-9:30

This session will provide attendees with information on problem-solving strategies used with Conscious Discipline. Participants will gain insight and reflect on adult self-regulation skills. Content will introduce tools for conflict resolution in preschool settings. The session will provide steps on how to help children and staff manage their emotions to further learning outcomes.

Creative Strategies for Staff Retention

Thursday, April 28, 8:00AM-9:00AM

In this session the presenter will share the national research around staffing shortages in education in comparison to the current challenges at the Child Development Council of Franklin County. Specific strategies that have improved job satisfaction and retention at CDCFC will be provided. These include community building, wellness programs, recognition, tracking for promotions, tuition benefits, professional development, micro-trainings, utilizing technology, connecting through social media, coaching, supporting classrooms with challenging behaviors, honoring our diversity, and connecting to the

community.

Presented by: Staci Edwards, Monessa Bradford

Main Topic: Program Administration and

Evaluation

OA Approved

Get Down, Get Dirty & Get Moving!!

Supporting Infant and Toddler Development in the Outdoor Environment!

Thursday, April 28, 8:00-9:30

Young children learn through their senses and what better way than in the outdoors. Discover how to give our youngest the time, space, and opportunities to explore and investigate a wide variety of natural and creative materials that provide meaningful experiences. Learn how to design outdoor learning environments that create areas of curiosity, challenge, wonderment, and movement. Unique outdoor activities for babies will be shared. Celebrate the power of outdoor learning for young minds.

Presented by: Diann Gano, Sharron Krull

Main Topic: Child Development and Learning

through Play; Nature-Based Learning;

Infant/Toddler

OA Approved

Nurturing Children by Engaging Fathers in the Classroom (Part 1)

Thursday, April 28, 8:00-9:30

This session identifies the mutual benefits of involving fathers in the early childhood classroom. Participants will identify barriers to engaging fathers and learn tools and strategies for removing them. This interactive session is packed full of discussion opportunities and time to reflect on how to get fathers engaged!

Presented by: Heather Reister, Marie Economos

Main Topic: Family Engagement, Connection

and Support

OA Approved

Oops! What Happened?: the Beauty in Making a Mistake

Thursday, April 28, 8:00-9:00

Mistakes and mishaps are daily occurrences, especially in young children who are learning how their bodies and worlds around them work. Supporting young children to handle errors and even learn from from them is a huge opportunity for teachers. In this session, participants will explore types of mistakes often made then discuss the short- and long-term benefits. Participants will gain skills to reshape mistakes in to learning opportunities for all and to see the beauty in making a mistake.

Presented by: Vanessa Shrontz

Main Topic: Social-Emotional Development

OA Approved

Strategies for Incorporating Phonological Awareness in the Early Childhood Classroom

Thursday, April 28, 8:00-9:30

Using current research from the Science of Reading, providers will learn ways to implement purposeful phonological awareness skills in the early childhood classroom.

Presented by: Jennifer Ey

Main Topic: Literacy and Language

Development

OA Approved

FEATURED SESSION

The Significance of Affect On Sensorimotor Processing, Learning, and Development

Thursday, April 28, 8:00-9:30

Skills and so-called knowledge are often considered the thrust of any learning endeavor. However, skills and knowledge (including cognitive development and executive functions) are directly impacted by the affective nature of the presentation of information and the effective interpretation of information and

experiences. Opportunities and experiences, materials and goals, and presence and interaction are essential but not enough for optimal learning and development. Particularly for the very young child—infants and toddlers, specifically—the relationships, interactions, and associated affect related to the care offered significantly influence what the young brain and mind focus on and retain and ultimately the neural wiring and processing abilities of the child

Presented by: Keith Pentz

Main Topic: Child Development and Learning through Play; Social-Emotional Development
OA Approved

The Power and Mystery of Play: From Basic Support to Advanced Play-Based Intervention (Part 1)

Thursday, April 28, 8:00-9:30

This presentation will provide an overview of basic play principles and advanced play concepts based on brain research. Participants will learn how to expand poor play skills, increase focus and attention during play, transfer play to higher symbolic levels, and use play for advanced intervention. Targets will include functional academic skills, behavioral needs (i.e., teach impulse control, wait time, gentle hands, etc.), and specific child-related problems (i.e., remove perseverations in play, increase eye contact, etc.). Special issues such as reducing aggressive play themes, supporting children with social skills deficits, and enhancing literacy goals will also be addressed.

Presented by: Maria Sargent

Main Topic: Early Intervention and Inclusion; Child Development and Learning through Play
OA Approved

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

10:00AM

FEATURED SESSION

Appreciating the Power of Simple, Ordinary Interactions

Thursday, April 28, 10:00-11:30

In this workshop, we will be using the “Simple Interactions” approach to closely examine adult-child interactions in early childhood contexts. We will practice appreciative “noticing” and reflective “wondering” to understand the dynamics within even the simplest human interactions. We will discuss how these interactions weave together four basic dimensions of the human relationship – connection, reciprocity, inclusion, and opportunity to grow – to make positive developmental impacts. We will also extend these principles to reflect on the “parallel processes” of adult-adult interactions that support professionals and families.

Presented by: Junlei Li, Dana Winters

Main Topic: Family Engagement, Connection and Support; Social-Emotional Development
OA Approved

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

Thursday, April 28, 10:00-11:30

In this session we will explore the concept of gender in young children. We will examine the definitions and concepts of gender, gender identification and gender development, while exploring the child’s perspective in the development of gender identity. We will also look at the concept of gender identity and expression from the perspective of parents, who may be having difficulty with their child’s gender choices. Finally, we will discuss what we can do as teachers to support children in the

classroom in the area of gender identity and development.

Presented by: James Flynn

Main Topic: Child Development and Learning through Play; Gender Development and Expression

OA Approved

Hardiman's Brain-Targeted Teaching for Early Childhood

Thursday, April 28, 10:00-11:30

Dr. Mariale Hardiman, professor of education at Johns Hopkins University, created a framework for teachers to understand and implement the most effective strategies for increasing retention and improving student learning. The framework addresses how teachers can use brain science to maximize their efforts in the classroom. Having obtained permission from the author, I propose a framework specifically for the Early Childhood population, focusing on the six Brain Targets (The Emotional Climate, The Physical Environment, Big Picture Learning Design, Mastery of Content, Skills, and Concepts, Application of Knowledge, and Evaluation and Assessment) on ways teachers can build children's skills and knowledge in developmentally appropriate ways.

Participants will learn about how our brain remembers things and why best strategies work. For example, why does physical activity improve self-control? Why do emotionally charged moments create the longest-lasting memories? Educational neuroscience answers these questions and offers strategies to implement Brain Targets in classrooms every day.

Presented by: Leah Boley

Main Topic: Research; Child Development and

Learning through Play

OA Approved

FEATURED SESSION

Looking at Behavior Through the Lens of Development

Thursday, April 28, 10:00-11:30

Classroom management is often identified as the number one issue facing teachers. Due to various factors, children may or may not respond to expectations in a learning environment. If teachers understand that preventive strategies related to behaviors can be put in place to negate the need for interventions, the cause for "control" is no longer necessary. For preventive strategies to be effective, simple, and yet profound, guidelines must be taken into consideration: child development, brain/cognitive development, lighting, color, sensory stimuli, task assignment, choices/options, prior knowledge base, language proficiency, and vocabulary, number of items to comprehend, instructional design, and positive/negative influences. Establishing a learning environment that does not promote but prevents inappropriate behaviors, academic, social, and emotional expectations, curricular results, and other goals can be more readily achieved.

Presented by: Keith Pentz

Main Topic: Child Guidance and Behavior

OA Approved

Marketing Success for Childcare Leaders

Thursday, April 28, 10:00-11:30

This session will provide participants an overview of marketing with a focus on how to build and grow their child care business. Marketing has changed a lot recently, and a fresh perspective with the needed information will assist and support program leaders in their

marketing decisions.

Presented by: Garri Davis,
Main Topic: Program Administration and
Evaluation; Professionalism and Leadership
OA Approved

Nurturing Children by Engaging Fathers in the Classroom (Part 2)

Thursday, April 28, 10:00-11:30

This session identifies the mutual benefits of involving fathers in the early childhood classroom. Participants will identify barriers to engaging fathers and learn tools and strategies for removing them. This interactive session is packed full of discussion opportunities and time to reflect on how to get fathers engaged!

Presented by: Heather Reister, Marie Economos
Main Topic: Family Engagement, Connection
and Support
OA Approved

Setting the Stage for Learning: Intentional Environments

Thursday, April 28, 10:00-11:00

The classroom's environment, both indoor and outdoor, sets the stage for learning, sends strong messages to children and adults about what is valued, who is valued, and what learning can occur within the spaces designed. In this session, we will discuss how intentional environments can scaffold children's learning and become the other teacher in the classroom. Making modifications to your environment to reflect and support the children you currently serve can begin at any time during the year!

Presented by: Elizabeth Mills and Laura Delgado,
Main Topic: Early Learning Environments
OA Approved

So Much More than Sticks and Stones: An Introduction to Nature Based-Learning

Thursday, April 28, 10:00-11:30

During this session, participants will explore concepts of 'nature pedagogy' or nature based learning and how to incorporate more nature based activities into the daily curriculum. This session is for early childhood educators interested in incorporating more nature related play and experiences into their program, and especially for programs that have or are hoping to have a nature based outdoor space. Strategies shared apply to children of all ages.

Presented by: Katie Krause
Main Topic: Nature-Based Learning
OA Approved

The Importance of Visuals in Conscious Discipline

Thursday, April 28, 10:00-11:30

Visuals are elemental in providing clear structure for early childhood programs to enhance the learning, expectations, and social-emotional outcomes for children. Visual cues and supports can help guide children towards healthy school-family relationships. In this session, educators will gain specific strategies for scaffolding academics, social skills, and meet the needs of neuro-diverse learners.

Presented by: Megan Shea-Bates
Main Topic: Child Guidance and Behavior;
Social-Emotional Development; Conscious
Discipline
OA Approved

The Power and Mystery of Play: From Basic Support to Advanced Play-Based Intervention (Part 2)

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This presentation will provide an overview of basic play principles and advanced play concepts based on brain research. Participants will learn how to expand poor play skills, increase focus and attention during play, transfer play to higher symbolic levels, and use play for advanced intervention. Targets will include functional academic skills, behavioral needs (i.e., teach impulse control, wait time, gentle hands, etc.), and specific child-related problems (i.e., remove perseverations in play, increase eye contact, etc.). Special issues such as reducing aggressive play themes, supporting children with social skills deficits, and enhancing literacy goals will also be addressed.

Presented by: Maria Sargent,
Main Topic: Early Intervention and Inclusion;
Child Development and Learning through Play
OA Approved

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

12:00PM

Keeping Your Joy: Spiritual Strength for the Heart of the Teacher

Thursday, April 28, 12:00-1:00

Spiritual self-care may not be the first concern that comes to educators' minds when they are dealing with trauma. All of us as educators, first and foremost, think about the children and families we teach and support. Educators dedicate considerable time to professional responsibilities of others, and may not devote enough time to our spiritual needs and to ourselves. This workshop will define teacher-related stress and discuss how a positive growth mindset is necessary for teaching during post-COVID. Strategies for spiritual self-care will be introduced, and summarized, for personal mental-health needs and social/emotional needs that can focus on embracing joy, healing, and compassionate teaching so the professional can better meet the needs of the children and families they serve.

Presented by: Kathleen Harris, Melissa Tamburrino
Main Topic: Educator Self-Care and Mental Health
OA Approved

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

1:00PM

KEYNOTE: Power and Excellence through Resilience

Thursday, April 28, 1:00-2:00

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.

Presented by: Deshauna Barber

Main Topic: Professionalism, Leadership and Ethics

OA Approved

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

2:30PM

Advancing Quality Early Learning in Ohio Communications and Advocacy Training

Thursday, April 28, 2:30-3:30

Want to elevate your voice for young children in Ohio? The families you serve? The early education workforce? Join us for an interactive session to learn how you can advocate for improvements in Ohio's quality early learning system, where we will provide you with resources, tools, and tips on how to be an effective advocate. During the session, you will also learn why your advocacy is essential more now than ever and how to take action through Ohio AEYC's new Early Childhood Educator Coalition.

Presented by: Melissa Bacon,

Main Topic: Advocacy

Art Smarts With Loose Parts: Building Brains and Creativity Through Play

Thursday, April 28, 2:30-4:00

Gain insights on providing a stimulating art environment with loose parts that will spark children's creative energy and joy for art. When given the time, space, and opportunity to explore with loose parts, children's creations become intentional, more meaningful, and spontaneous throughout their play. Practical strategies and resources are paired with beautiful photos to inspire ideas you can take back to your classroom on Monday morning.

Presented by: Diann Gano

Main Topic: Child Development and Learning through Play

OA Approved

Building Social Emotional Foundations After Pandemic Trauma Panel

Thursday, April 28, 2:30-4:00

Participants will discuss the research around the increase and impacts of trauma for our students during the pandemic. The panel will discuss the justifications for focusing on social-emotional learning this year. We will share prevention strategies (ex. greeting aprons, intentionally shared readings of books with social-emotional themes, scaffolding book discussions, wish you well boards), and in-the-moment strategies (ex. notice technique, breathing strategies, safe place, safe person). We will share strategies for staff and parent education (ex. the CDCFC YouTube Channel, Classroom Dojo).

Presented by: Staci Edwards, Tiffany Williams

Main Topic: Social-Emotional Development; Trauma Informed Care

OA Approved

Business Acumen 2021

Thursday, April 28, 2:30-4:30

Business Acumen is all about seeing the big picture and recognizing that all decisions, no matter how small, can affect the bottom line. Participants in this workshop will explore how to increase their financial literacy and improve their business sense. We will discuss how to recognize learning events, manage risk better, and increase critical thinking skills to improve business practices and make decisions. Take back ideas that can influence your whole organization and provide that additional edge that will lead to success.

Presented by: Garri Davis

Main Topic: Program Administration and Evaluation; Professionalism and Leadership
OA Approved

Cultivating a Positive School Culture and Climate

Thursday, April 28, 2:30-4:00

Come hear about successful initiatives used in preschool and kindergarten to create a positive, inclusive, and equitable school climate for all. Discover ways to recognize staff effectively, support families and students, and care for educators in this challenging time.

Presented by: Julie Wilmer, Colleen Mudore

Main Topic: Family Connection, Engagement and Support
OA Approved

FEATURED SESSION

Different is Not Dangerous - A Musical Trip Around the World

Thursday, April 28, 2:30-4:00

Using simple songs, stories and games with age appropriate applications and variety for learning styles, this workshop provides teachers hands-on tools to help children build friendships and a welcoming community. Participants will take back a collection of songs from around the world that emphasize friendship, compassion, and inclusion of people from different backgrounds. Material presented is applicable for children in preschool and early elementary. IN OCCRRRA: Using simple songs and stories from around the world, Joanie provides teachers with tools to share with children in order to enhance the experience that being different, speaking a different language, dressing differently, having a different religion or skin color etc is not a reason not be friendly. This presentation has material applicable to children in preschool and early elementary.

Presented by: Joanie Calem

Main Topic: Arts and Music; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
OA Approved

Disconnected Families are Discouraged Families: Creating Ways to Empower Families, Increasing Success in your Programs Both in Person and Virtually (Conscious Discipline)

Thursday, April 28, 2:30-4:00

Help bridge the school and home gap. Participants will learn how to connect with families on a deeper level and develop strong relationships that will serve as a foundation for program success. We will discuss strategies that can be implemented from orientation, intake process to family partnership agreements. We'll identify family engagement strategies to promote parent knowledge & skills that work

hand in hand, strengthening families as partners and life-long leaders. Discover tools and tips for increasing sustained parent participation and skills to focus on the strengths and needs of the parents and families.

Presented by: Pamela Prasher

Main Topic: Child Guidance and Behavior;
Family Engagement, Connection and Support;
Conscious Discipline
OA Approved

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

Thursday, April 28, 2:30-4:00

In this session we will explore the concept of gender in young children. We will examine the definitions and concepts of gender, gender identification and gender development, while exploring the child's perspective in the development of gender identity. We will also look at the concept of gender identity and expression from the perspective of parents, who may be having difficulty with their child's gender choices. Finally, we will discuss what we can do as teachers to support children in the classroom in the area of gender identity and development.

Presented by: James Flynn

Main Topic: Child Development and Learning through Play; Gender Development and Expression
OA Approved

Identification of At Risk Students

Thursday, April 28, 2:30-4:00

Participants will learn ways to track, accommodate, and intervene with students who may be at risk for learning. We will discover ways to do interventions and methods to present the material collected to the ETR group.

Presented by: Laura Sanregret,

Main Topic: Early Intervention and Inclusion
OA Approved

FEATURED SESSION

Reboot! Strategies for Thriving in 2022

Thursday, April 28, 2:30-4:00

There's no denying that the ongoing stress and uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic has drained our energy and made bringing our best to our work challenging. Children and families need us to provide a nurturing, secure, and positive learning environment now more than ever. Small actions can support positive changes that will help you experience higher levels of engagement at work and boost your energy. This workshop provides well-researched and actionable strategies to guide you in finding meaningful ways for staying optimistic, productive, hopeful, and passionate. You will leave inspired to reconnect with the joy, wonder, and magic of being an early childhood educator!

Presented by: Susan MacDonald

Main Topic: Professionalism and Leadership;
Educator Self-Care and Mental Health
OA Approved

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

7:00PM

KEYNOTE: LET'S GO OUTSIDE! Outdoor Time is NOT Wasted Time

Thursday, April 28, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
In this session, Lisa will share outdoor play experiences and activities that can be implemented immediately in both family childcare and center based settings. Best of all, they are activities that use materials you probably already have in the garage or the shed! In her usual engaging style, Lisa uses the presentation as a springboard for discussions about issues related to outdoor play in our culture.

Presented by: Lisa Murphy
Main Topic: Child Development and Learning through Play; Nature-Based Learning
OA Approved

FRIDAY, APRIL 29

8:00AM

FEATURED SESSION

Conflict Resolution for Early Childhood Educators

Friday, April 29, 8:00-9:30
Does your team have moments of misunderstanding, hurt feelings, frustration, and challenging communication? Whenever we put together a dynamic group of passionate educators full of ideas, we are bound to have disagreements from time to time! In this session, we'll explore the situations that trigger conflict on teams and how to avoid them. We'll discuss principles for working through conflict with peers, administrators, and teachers.

Presented by: Cori Berg
Main Topic: Professionalism and Leadership
OA Approved

Creating an Anti-bias Culture in Early Childhood through Inquiry, Democracy, and Play

Friday, April 29, 8:00-9:30
In this session, participants will explore anti-bias work in early childhood through play. Participants will learn how democratic and play-based pedagogies can facilitate anti-bias learning and practices with young children (ages 3-8) and create opportunities for equitable engagement in small and whole-group learning. Participants will also have an opportunity to reflect on their current practices and develop an anti-bias action plan.

Presented by: Lindsay Meeker, Eduardo Perez
Main Topic: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
OA Approved

FEATURES SESSION

Creating Welcoming and Inclusive Environments for All Families

Friday, April 29, 8:00-9:30

Early childhood teachers wisely reflect on messages conveyed about family diversity in the resources and curriculum materials they use. Children's literature depicting all diversity, including LGBT families, and also inclusive families can contribute to a young child's development. This workshop will examine a variety of children's literature for welcoming all families into the early childhood classroom. The importance of diversity will be discussed along strategies for welcoming and creating an inclusive environment for LGBT families in early childhood settings.

Presented by: Kathleen Harris

Main Topic: Family Engagement, Connection and Support; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
OA Approved

How to use Mindfulness and Yoga to Help Preschoolers Regulate their Emotions

Friday, April 29, 8:00-9:30

Join Youth Yoga Project for a session to discover how evidence-based yoga and mindfulness tools can support the development of self-regulation skills in preschoolers. Participants will utilize breathing, movement and relaxation strategies to implement in the classroom setting and help regulate emotions.

Presented by: Lauren Greenspan,
Julia Handelman

Main Topic: Social-Emotional Development
OA Approved

Practical Applications of the Reggio Approach in an Early Childhood Program

Friday, April 29, 8:00-9:00

Did you know in the Reggio approach the parent is viewed as an essential resource to the child's learning? In this session, we will explore key principles of the Reggio Emilia philosophy and how to practically implement this approach in an early childhood program.

Presented by: Susie Clark-Maioriello

Main Topic: Early Learning Environments;
Reggio Inspired Practices
OA Approved

The Must Have Motor Kit- One Box, Big Fun!

Friday, April 29, 8:00-9:30

Practical, creative activities with simple props to motivate and engage children and their caregivers.....all in one box!

Presented by: Amy M Schlessman

Main Topic: Early Learning Environments; Child Development and Learning through Play
OA Approved

FEATURED SESSION

Using and Teaching the Assertive Voice! Conscious Discipline

Friday, April 29, 8:00-9:00

During this session, participants will review the foundations of Conscious Discipline while learning and practicing how to use and teach with assertiveness- the voice of no doubt!

Presented by: Rozlyn Grant

Main Topic: Child Guidance and Behavior;
Social-Emotional Development; Conscious Discipline
OA Approved

Using Heavy Work in Early Childhood for Self-Regulation

Friday, April 29, 8:00-9:00

Self-regulation is necessary for later academic achievement. Dysregulation in proprioception (your body's ability to sense movement, action and location) can make it difficult for children to self-regulate. Heavy work, or tasks that involve heavy resistance and input to the muscles and joints, can aid in regulating proprioception. When we participate in heavy work activities, messages are sent from proprioception receptors in our joints to receptors in our brainstem to remind the brain and body where they are in space. This session will introduce proprioception and heavy work and describe how a practitioner has used heavy work in their classroom to increase children's self-regulation.

Presented by: Jaclyn M. Dynia, Melanie Senter
Main Topic: Social-Emotional Development;
Early Intervention and Inclusion
OA Approved

FRIDAY, APRIL 29

10:00AM

FEATURED SESSION

Illuminating the Magic and Wonder in Each Child

Friday, April 29, 10:00-11:30

Explore the powerful impact that seeing the best in every child can have! This session will focus on strategies for using the principles of Appreciative Inquiry to illuminate each child's strengths. When children are viewed through their strengths, they become more resilient and confident. Finding new ways to acknowledge and validate the child's unique gifts will help you to build a more positive learning environment where children can thrive.

Presented by: Susan MacDonald,
Main Topic: Social-Emotional Development;
Child Guidance and Behavior
OA Approved

Keep Calm and Be Kind: Embracing Diversity and Acceptance with Children's Literature

Friday, April 29, 10:00-11:30

Children's literature has always been a vehicle for developing social skills among children. Now more than ever, children's literature intentionally promotes kindness to all groups of people, and more individuals see themselves represented in these books. This session will discuss ways to incorporate texts that promote themes of kindness, acceptance, and advocacy for others in developmentally appropriate ways.

Presented by: Kristin Farley
Main Topic: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion;
Literacy and Language Development
OA Approved

Learn through Play with PALS (Physical Activity Learning Session) with a Focus on Infants and Toddlers

Friday, April 29, 10:00-11:00

The goal is to increase knowledge of best practices for physical activity in children birth to five. PALS combines content learning with facility-level self-assessments, policy development opportunities, resources, and materials to support practice change in ECE programs, leading to healthier, more active children.

Presented by: Maria Jirousek

Main Topic: Child Development and Learning through Play; Infant/Toddler

OA Approved

FEATURED SESSION

May There Always Be Us

Friday, April 29, 10:00-11:00

For the past two years, Jim Gill has been engaging, virtually, with children, educators, care providers, librarians, and family members across the country in a series of projects. In this workshop, Jim will share some of the children's creations: handmade pages in which they shared their heartfelt wishes and inspiring illustrations. He will discuss how this project addresses children's social and emotional developmental needs while providing profound opportunities for literacy development for children of all ages, backgrounds, and ability levels. Most importantly, Jim will discuss how early childhood educators, librarians, and care providers can carry out similar projects in their own communities.....celebrating children's wishes, words, and artwork and their excitement about learning!

Presented by: Jim Gill

Main Topic: Arts and Music

OA Approved

Paper Planes: A Teacher Investigation of Project-Based Learning Within a Preschool Classroom

Friday, April 29, 10:00-11:30

This session will explore project-based learning within a mixed-age preschool classroom. Come join the presenter on an airplane study where a teacher leads an investigation on project-based learning in a preschool classroom originated by the children. Examine the activities during natural exploration within the classroom and discover how teacher furthered that exploration. Discover how project-based learning can meet Ohio's Early Learning standards and look at how to implement it within your own classroom.

Presented by: Alexis Snyder

Main Topic: Early Learning Environments;

Reggio Inspired Practices

OA Approved

STEAM Starts with Tinkering

Friday, April 29, 10:00-11:00

Young children are naturally curious. They love to explore and investigate as they encounter novel materials in their quest to become 21st century thinkers. In this session, we will examine strategies that you can use in your classroom to tinker with open-ended materials to spark wonder and foster curiosity as children begin their STEAM adventures.

Presented by: Kathy Trainor, Leslie Eslinger

Main Topic: STEAM

OA Approved

FEATURED SESSION

Using Classroom Management Practices to Plan for Conscious Discipline

Friday, April 29, 10:00-12:00

During this session, participants will analyze the basic strategies of the Brain Smart Start, 3 Brain

States and the School Family Structures. We will look at how to incorporate the strategies into daily planning to enhance practices and shape the classroom learning environment.

Presented by: Rozlyn Grant

Main Topic: Social-Emotional Development; Child Guidance and Behavior, Conscious Discipline
OA Approved

Working Together for the Benefit of Our Children

Friday, April 29, 10:00-11:30

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.

Presented by: Mandy Young

Main Topic: Family Engagement, Connection and Support
OA Approved

Worms, Shadows, and Whirlpools: Science is Everywhere

Friday, April 29, 10:00-11:30

Do you want to make your program an amazing place to enhance children's scientific spirit? In this training, you will learn how to implement the science domain throughout your entire classroom. You will engage in hands-on science inquiry activities that support and build science skills for young children.

Presented by: MaryBeth Bush

Main Topic: Early Learning Environments
OA Approved

FRIDAY, APRIL 29

11:30AM

FEATURED SESSION

Fill Your Cup: Self-Care for Educators

Friday, April 29, 11:30-1:00

Beyond massages and bubble baths, educators need culturally relevant self-care strategies to keep their nervous system balanced and available to respond to children, families, and colleagues. This sessions discusses obstacles to self care and principles for building a self-care foundation. We'll explore research on particular self-care activities that help reset the mind and body.

Presented by: Cori Berg

Main Topic: Educator Self-Care and Mental Health
OA Approved

FRIDAY, APRIL 29

1:00PM

KEYNOTE: Maintaining Hope in a Post-Pandemic World

Friday, April 29, 1:00-2:00

This empowering keynote encourages attendees to acknowledge the "new normal" of post-pandemic life, explore tools for honoring the humanity in everyone, and take up practices of grace and compassion as we find our way through this moment of uncertainty and unrest.

Presented by: Arianna Howard

Main Topic: Educator Self-Care and Mental Health; Leadership, Professionalism and Ethics
OA Approved

FRIDAY, APRIL 29

2:30PM

Conscious Discipline Baby Doll Circle Time

Friday, April 29, 2:30-4:00

Baby Doll Circle Time enhances the quality of relationships between caregivers and children by strengthening attachment, attunement, and social play. It does this through rituals where the caregivers conduct those with children in one on one play as well.

Presented by: Megan Shea-Bates

Main Topic: Child Guidance and Behavior;
Social-Emotional Development; Conscious Discipline

OA Approved

Counter-ACEs: The Teacher's Role in Reducing Trauma After COVID-19

Friday, April 29, 2:30-4:00

Counter-ACEs are our new armor against the trauma of Adverse Childhood Experiences. Typically, experts share that parents are the first stop for creating a resilient environment for children. After reviewing the eight identified Counter-ACEs, 7/8 can be influenced and cultivated in the classroom. Early childhood educators have an additional leg up, considering their extended amount of time with children and the structure of their relationship-focused schedules. Teachers enrolled will learn how their role in the classroom can improve a child's adult health outcomes.

Presented by: Lindsay Stormer

Main Topic: Trauma Informed Care
OA Approved

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

Friday, April 29, 2:30-4:00

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.

Presented by: Katie Krause

Main Topic: Nature-Based Learning
OA Approved

Dollar Store Finds with Standards in Mind

Friday, April 29, 2:30-4:30

This training engages participants to increase their knowledge about how Ohio's Early Learning & Development Standards can be supported with inexpensive from the dollar store. From post-it notes to pool noodles, the dollar store is often essential to the limited budgets that face today's teachers. Videos will be shared and demonstrations will assist participants in discovering how early learning standards can be addressed with inexpensive items in center-based activities and (large or small) group activities.

Presented by: Laurie Gombash

Main Topic: Early Learning Environments; Standards
OA Approved

Dual Language Learners and Inclusion

Friday, April 29, 2:30-3:30

This session will focus on family engagement

and its impact on the well-being of children who are dual language learners. It highlights two essential aspects: 1) Strong connections between DLL families and schools are associated with important benefits for babies, toddlers, and preschool-age children, and those impacts carry through school and beyond; 2) DLL families participate in their children's educational programs at lower rates than families whose members are not DLLs. We will focus on a program's roles in bridging itself to the new American communities and how to give that sense of inclusivity to our DLL families.

Presented by: Tika Adhikari
Main Topic: Dual Language Learners; Family Engagement, Connection and Support; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
OA Approved

Early Childhood Equity and Social Justice Challenge

Friday, April 29, 2:30-4:00
Join us for an overview of the 10-day Early Childhood Equity and Justice Challenge. Participants will discover how to foster an environment of awareness and empathy to create equitable practices that will dismantle systemic racism and advance social justice in Early Childhood.

Presented by: Sadie Bonifas, Krista Allison, Molly Hagkull, Liz Hibbs
Main Topic: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
OA Approved

Exploring Narratives in the 0-3 Space

Friday, April 29, 2:30-4:00

Within 36 months, babies go from no language at all to becoming storytellers. In this session, we will discuss how we can support students at each stage of development: young infants, older infants, toddlers, and early preschool. We will also discuss how we can encourage and engage parents by presenting parent resources to extend this learning in to the home.

Presented by: Hayley Venturino, Norma (Jeanne) Ames
Main Topic: Language and Literacy Development; Infant/Toddler
OA Approved

Intentional Programming: Lessons From a 3 Year Old

Friday, April 29, 2:30-3:30

Over time habits and routines are formed, and eventually, we can't remember why. We often do things the same way they have always been done, whether they make sense or not. This session will examine the age-old preschooler question "why?" and put it to use as a leadership tool. We will examine our practices and processes during a time of significant change in the field of early childhood education and discuss the importance of adapting and being intentional in our decision-making.

Presented by: Leah Anastasakis
Main Topic: Program Administration and Evaluation; Leadership, Professionalism and Ethics
OA Approved

FEATURED SESSION

Scrambled Eggs & Icebergs! Physical Activity That Promotes Self-Regulation

Friday, April 29, 2:30-4:00

The most important life skill to teach children is self-regulation! And the prime time for its development is between the ages of 3 to 5. Learn how to integrate movement and self-care activities that support the development of impulse control, focus, and well-being. Playing self-control games, such as "Scrambled Eggs & Icebergs," can help children learn the necessary skill to self-regulate while keeping it fun!

Presented by: Sharron Krull

Main Topic: Child Development and Learning through Play; Social-Emotional Development
OA Approved

*Made possible by the generous support of
Discount School Supply*

FEATURED SESSION

Teaching Growth Mindset

Friday, April 29, 2:30-3:30

A growth mindset is the belief that one's abilities, qualities and intelligence can be developed. This session is focused on the development of growth mindset in teachers and encouraging them to do the same with their children. This will help equip children with the resiliency skills needed to put in the effort and dedication required to overcome the many challenges they will face in school or in life.

Presented by: Ron Mohl

Main Topic: Social-Emotional Development
OA Approved

*Made possible by the generous support of
Lakeshore Learning*

Using Play to Transform Challenging Behaviors

Friday, April 29, 2:30-4:00

Dr. Peter Gray says "Play is nature's way of teaching children how to solve their own problems, control their impulses, modulate their emotions, see from others' perspectives, negotiate differences, and get along with others as equals." This session will explore the definition of play and its characteristics. We will analyze who owns play, and how what we sometimes think of as "Free Play" is really teacher directed and invites more challenging behaviors. Come discover the developmental benefits of play and how they translate into helping challenging behaviors in your classroom.

Presented by: Michele Tyler

Main Topic: Child Guidance and Behavior
OA Approved

FRIDAY, APRIL 29

7:00PM

KEYNOTE: Giggles & Wiggles! It's Circle Time

Friday, April 29, 7:00-8:00

Join this energetic and participatory workshop demonstrating various techniques and props for presenting music, movement, songs, fingerplays, name games, stories, puppets, and creative activities. Learn about the benefits of group time and discover tips for conducting a successful circle time. Have fun, get inspired, and acquire lots of new ideas to make your group time more active and enjoyable for the children and you!

Presented by: Sharron Krull

Main Topic: Arts and Music

OA Approved

*Made possible by the generous support of
Discount School Supply*

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

8:00AM

10 Hands-On Activities to Help Children Develop Their Fine Motor and Self-Help Skills

Saturday, April 30, 8:00-9:00

The session will present 10 activities for preschoolers to develop their concentration, coordination, and independence. The lessons are all hands-on, therefore; providing children with concrete learning experiences. The session will give teachers new ideas of fine motor activities using materials that they probably already have in their classroom. All lessons are independently done by the children with the focus on the process and not the final result. The attendees will receive copies of all lessons.

Presented by: Regiane Schigner

Main Topic: Child Development and Learning through Play

OA Approved

FEATURED SESSION

An Exploration of How Children Articulate Their Emotions Through Play

Saturday, April 30, 8:00-9:30

This session will be from a theoretical and practitioners perspective. Presenting with a multimedia power point presentation, including YouTube Videos, and visual representation of presenters photographs from previous classroom experience, play etc. Audience will also experience hands on play materials to utilize best practices to apply with young children from the presentation. What Pam Had to Submit to get it approved: Play is critical for a child's cognitive and emotional development. Join us for a discussion and reflection on how circle time, outdoor play, small and large group experiences encourage social and emotional development in young children. Examine the latest research supporting the integral role that play has on fostering learning and improving a

child's self-identity. Play that is purposeful and age-appropriate encourages autonomy and risk-taking in articulating emotions through play.

Presented by: Brandon Gilbert
Main Topic: Social-Emotional Development;
Child Development and Learning through Play
OA Approved

Anxiety Accommodations: How to Support Anxious Children in Your Care

Saturday, April 30, 8:00-9:00
Research around child anxiety addresses the ways that accommodations meant to support anxious children perpetuate the problem. This session offers caregivers an understanding of what accommodations are, why they can be harmful, and what caregivers can do instead. It also provides a brief introduction to childhood anxiety and what it looks like, and appropriate treatments, including when to refer children to mental health providers.

Presented by: Dawn Friedman
Main Topic: Social-Emotional Development;
Trauma-Informed Care
OA Approved

FEATURED SESSION

But First Do No Harm - Disability Awareness and Inclusion through Music and Movement 2.0

Saturday, April 30, 8:00-9:30
Instead of a lecture and PowerPoint, Joanie uses songs, stories, and conversations to support teachers who now need to integrate multiple learning styles to address challenges such as Autism, Sensory Processing Disorder, ADD, ADHD, etc., in their classroom. This session will look at combining practical tools, classroom strategies and activities, along with a musical conversation to support teachers in building a community of diverse learners. This

presentation applies to children of all ages! Take back information and ideas to help all children become compassionate classmates.

Presented by: Joanie Calem
Main Topic: Arts and Music; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
OA Approved

Elevating Questions: Techniques That Take Children's Thinking Higher

Saturday, April 30, 8:00-9:30
Questioning is an important part of communicating with children as it instigates thinking and responding. Questioning provides access to children's knowledge, interests and thought processes and is one of the ways we assess their learning. This session will focus on techniques for elevating the questions we ask young children in order to stretch their thinking, scaffold their learning, guide their behaviors and ignite higher order thinking skills.

Presented by: Cheryl S Turner
Main Topic: Cognitive Development
OA Approved

FEATURED SESSION

Embracing Hope Through Resilience Lessons from Nature

Saturday, April 30, 8:00-9:30
The work of early childhood education can be challenging both personally and professionally. Educators play a key role in the lives of families and communities. Our children count on us! This session uses examples of phenomena from the natural world to teach strategies for coping with adversity, connecting to others under stress, managing a professional mindset, and protecting your passion.

Presented by: Cori Berg
Main Topic: Leadership, Professionalism and

Ethics; Educator Self-Care and Mental Health
OA Approved

FEATURED SESSION

Intentional Outdoor Play

Friday, April 29, 8:00-9:00

Outdoor play can contribute to a child's overall development by providing them opportunities to explore their physical capabilities in new ways without restrictions of indoor play. Outdoor play allows for fine/gross-motor development, language and social skills. We will review the benefits of outdoor play and how the environment offers unique stimulus that capture children's attention and interest. We will learn how to effectively plan intentional outdoor learning activities to engage children in play to spark their curiosity and engage their senses.

Presented by: Ron Mohl

Main Topic: Nature-Based Learning
OA Approved

*Made possible by the generous support of
Lakeshore Learning*

Live Like a Toddler: Encouraging the Educator Explorer in You (Part 1)

Saturday, April 30, 8:00-9:30

Toddlers are exploratory, risk takers, and imaginative. This is an encouraging and uplifting session for all educators and administrators alike. As adults sometimes forget the importance of play, laughter, and risk taking, toddlers are the masters of these practices. During this session, educators are encouraged to reimagine their dreams, dare to create something new and exciting in their classrooms, and tap into a new zeal of joy for the field of early childhood education and more.

Presented by: Tatiana Wells

Main Topic: Leadership, Professionalism and Ethics
OA Approved

Motivating Your ECE Staff to be Their Best!

Saturday, April 30, 8:00-9:00

Come discover how to engage and motivate your staff to be their best! It's never been more essential for early childhood educators to feel supported from the top. Participants will explore what a "Champion ECE Management" model looks like and why it begins from the top. Leave the session realizing the importance of putting your best foot forward each day and how to inspire educators around you!

Presented by: Ashley Rhodes

Main Topic: Leadership, Professionalism and Ethics; Program Administration and Evaluation
OA Approved

Overview of Attachment, Attunement, and Social Play with Infant and Toddlers (Conscious Discipline)

Saturday, April 30, 8:00-9:30

The First Three years are important in the child's development. This session is an overview of attachment, attunement, and social play. Caregivers will use skills from responsive caregiving to increase connections and build strong relationships with infants and toddlers.

Presented by: Tonya Byous

Main Topic: Child Guidance and Behavior; Social-Emotional Development; Conscious Discipline; Infant/Toddler
OA Approved

Stretching in a Chair or Anywhere and Other Self-Care Strategies for Educators

Saturday, April 30, 8:00-9:00

This session will provide educators with resources and strategies to enhance their self-care. This will include a series of easy-to-

implement and modifiable stretches that can be done in a variety of places, including a chair in the teacher lounge! Self-care is more critical for educators than ever before, and this session will support teachers in self-care strategies so they can support the children and families they work with.

Presented by: Kristi Kirinch

Main Topic: Educator Self-Care and Mental Health

OA Approved

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

10:00AM

FEATURED SESSION

Curiosity, Imagination, and Wonder: Inspiring Learning and Development

Saturday, April 30, 10:00-11:30

Humans are born to be curious. Babies want to explore their world. Toddlers and twos find everything new and exciting. Preschoolers celebrate discoveries and create fanciful personal worlds. Unfortunately, the sense of wonder and questioning are frequently deemed inappropriate or, at the very least inconsequential. Our brains were designed to be stimulated with experiences, interactions, and options that promote extensive neural firing and wiring—thus leading to cognitive development and learning. Wonder, curiosity, and imagination support higher-order thought processing and lead to self-satisfaction, meaning-making, and a sense of relevance. Let's explore together how to bring back the joy, excitement, and wonder of learning.

Presented by: Keith Pentz

Main Topic: Child Development and Learning through Play

OA Approved

Gender Development and Identity in Young Children: The Role of the Early Childhood Professional (Part 1)

Saturday, April 30, 10:00-11:30

Participants in this session will analyze their role as an educator in helping families and children during gender development and identity stages. We will review theories of gender development, the stages of gender development, and how to provide support to children as they explore their gender choices. Participants will recognize that this is a time for children's exploration, and children have many questions about who is a boy and who is a girl, which is developmentally appropriate. Take back information to share with families and provide support through this stage of development.

Presented by: Pamela Millar

Main Topic: Gender Development and Expression; Family Engagement, Connection and Support

OA Approved

Live Like a Toddler: Encouraging the Educator Explorer in You (Part 2)

Saturday, April 30, 10:00-11:30

Toddlers are exploratory, risk takers, and imaginative. This is an encouraging and uplifting session for all educators and administrators alike. As adults sometimes forget the importance of play, laughter, and risk taking, toddlers are the masters of these practices. During this session, educators are encouraged to reimagine their dreams, dare to create something new and exciting in their classrooms, and tap into a new zeal of joy for the field of early childhood education and more.

Presented by: Tatiana Wells

Main Topic: Leadership, Professionalism and Ethics

OA Approved

Risk and Challenge in the Outdoors

Saturday, April 30, 10:00-11:00

Outdoor environments afford children many opportunities to challenge themselves and engage in risk-taking behaviors. These experiences can be very beneficial for young children, but often make teachers anxious. In this session, we will discuss the difference between hazard and risk, share methods for assessing risk, and help participants to better support young children's (safe) risky play!

Presented by: Katie Krause

Main Topic: Nature-Based Learning

OA Approved

Say, Sing & Sign! How ASL, Combines with Music Benefits Infants and Toddlers

Saturday, April 30, 10:00-11:30

This fun hands-on ASL workshop will provide participants with powerful concepts and insights on using American Sign Language combined with songs and activities to foster early communication and strengthen early learning for babies and toddlers. American Sign Language is used across the U.S. to provide hearing children with a way to communicate, increase their vocabulary, and stimulate brain development. No previous signing or singing ability is necessary. This workshop offers practical information based on research and real-life experience.

Presented by: Georgia and Ken Frawley

Main Topic: Arts and Music; Language and Literacy Development; Infant/Toddler

OA Approved

Sensory as a Trauma Informed Strategy

Saturday, April 30, 10:00-11:30

Participants will discover the benefit of embedding multimodal sensory experiences in the environment to help children feel safe, connected, and ready to learn. The session will review the impact of trauma on brain development, overview sensory pathways, and highlight strategies for building resilience.

Presented by: Melissa Smith,

Main Topic: Social-Emotional Development;

Trauma Informed Care

OA Approved

FEATURED SESSION

Unlock the Power of Positivity!

Saturday, April 30, 10:00-11:30

Positive thinking leads to positive outcomes! Positive strengths-based energy is essential for creating vibrant learning communities where children, families, and educators can thrive. This workshop is designed to support early childhood educators as they move through this period of stress and uncertainty due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Presented by: Susan MacDonald

Main Topic: Educator Self-Care and Mental Health; Leadership, Professionalism and Ethics

OA Approved

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

11:30AM

FEATURED SESSION

The Passion & Pain During the Pandemic: Taking Care of YOU!

Saturday, April 30, 11:30-1:00

I love my job, but... Each day across America, this sentiment echoed from the mouths of hundreds - if not thousands of early care and education professionals. How can we re-spark the passion, even when pain and the pandemic have taken such a toll on each of us? You are invited to join Dr. Nefertiti B. Poyner in a research-informed, strength-based discussion of strategies to support early childhood educators to be and feel their best. You do your best even as the pain runs deep and a global pandemic continues to loom.

Presented by: Nefertiti Poyner

Main Topic: Educator Self-Care and Mental Health
OA Approved

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

1:00PM

KEYNOTE: Music Play is Learning Play: A Joyous Way to Learn

Saturday, April 30, 1:00-2:00

In this energizing and JOYFUL session, Jim Gill will share examples of his ACTIVE musical games that early education and care professionals can bring back to their classrooms, playrooms and family rooms. Most importantly, Jim will discuss how music play inspires young children not only to move, but to regulate their movements....not only to sing, but to make connections between the words they sing and the printed word and the world of numbers

Presented by: Jim Gill

Main Topic: Arts and Music
OA Approved

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

2:30PM

FEATURED SESSION

Again! Again! (Still Teaching in the 'Key of Life')

Saturday, April 30, 2:30-3:30

Join Mimi and celebrate the simple, accessible, delightful ways children love to explore and want to do it again and again. The session will encourage participants to evaluate and explore ways to extend and add to children's learning experiences. Strategies such as music, movement, stories, visual arts, and oral language will be introduced as tools to extend children's opportunities to explore experiences over and over again while adding layers of knowledge and purposeful, joyful play.

Presented by: Mimi Brodsky Chenfeld

Main Topic: Arts and Music; Child Development

and Learning through Play
OA Approved

Bringing Farm to Early Care to YOUR Program

Saturday, April 30, 2:30-4:00

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 learn from programs that have already started this work and how to join the Farm to Early Care movement!

Presented by: Carol Smathers, Ali Segna
Main Topic: Child Health and Nutrition
OA Approved

Communicating Professionalism: Walking the Walk and Talking the Talk as an Early Childhood Educator

Saturday, April 30, 2:30-3:30

You never get a second chance to make an outstanding first impression. This session will take a deep dive into communicating professionalism as outlined in NAEYC's Professional Standards and Competencies for Early Childhood Educators: A Position Statement Held on Behalf of the Early Childhood Education Profession. Participants will engage in visiting topics including specific strategies on how to raise the bar on how we can best communicate professionalism. Particular focus will include: formal and informal verbal and nonverbal communication competencies, identifying appropriate (and inappropriate) comfortable yet professional attire, and using technology to help ensure that

you are viewed and respected as the polished early childhood professional that you are!

Presented by: Christina Mirtes

Main Topic: Leadership, Professionalism and Ethics

OA Approved

Creating an Outdoor Nature Play- Based Classroom

Saturday, April 30, 2:30-4:00

Take a tour through our outdoor nature play-based classroom. See how you can transform your outdoor space into an oasis for your preschoolers while recycling to keep costs down. Fun, creativity, discovery, exploration, challenges, and diversity are included while incorporating learning standards.

Presented by: Rochelle Barchick

Main Topic: Nature-Based Learning

Emergent Writing in ECE

Saturday, April 30, 2:30-3:30

This session provides a hands-on look at emergent writing featuring simulation and hands-on activities starting with an overview of the reading rope, what is it, how is it learned, and how we can support emergent writers during the day.

Presented by: Hayley Venturino

Main Topic: Language and Literacy Development

OA Approved

**Focus, Self-Control and Self-Regulation:
Helping Children Manage Emotions and
Behavior**

Saturday, April 30, 2:30-4:00

Controlling impulses, managing emotional upset and exercising self-discipline are all essential skills that when promoted, develop over time. These life skills help children to pause, think and respond appropriately, reducing the likelihood of reactive, impulsive, inappropriate behavior. Based on principles of positive discipline and emotional intelligence, this session will guide teachers in recognizing and strengthening the necessary skills needed to coach children toward greater social and behavioral self-discipline.

Presented by: Cheryl S Turner

Main Topic: Social-Emotional Development;
Child Guidance and Behavior
OA Approved

**Gender Development and Identity in Young
Children: The Role of the Early Childhood
Professional (Part 2)**

Saturday, April 30, 2:30-4:00

Participants in this session will analyze their role as an educator in helping families and children during gender development and identity stages. We will review theories of gender development, the stages of gender development, and how to provide support to children as they explore their gender choices. Participants will recognize that this is a time for children's exploration, and children have many questions about who is a boy and who is a girl, which is developmentally appropriate. Take back information to share with families and provide support through this stage of development.

Presented by: Pamela Millar

Main Topic: Gender Development and
Expression; Family Engagement, Connection
and Support
OA Approved

FEATURED SESSION

**It's Cool to be Kind, Teaching Compassion
Through Songs, Stories, and Music Games**

Saturday, April 30, 2:30-4:00

Using songs, games and dramatized musical stories, participants will actively explore ways to expose children to the beauty and challenge of kind, compassionate communities. Take back resources to build an inclusive classroom where kindness is cool.

Presented by: Joanie Calem

Main Topic: Arts and Music; Diversity, Equity
and Inclusion
OA Approved

FEATURED SESSION

Lessons from the Sandbox: The Gift of Play

Saturday, April 30, 2:30-4:00

Leadership development is a critical component of professional development for all educators. Using the gifts of childhood (including play, energy, focus, wonder, curiosity, questioning, creativity and innovation) educators will recognize their own teacher identity and passion for teaching. Educators will rediscover how to think and act more like a young child by mastering children's innate abilities to play, learn, lead, innovate and create meaningful learning experiences that can empower their own career path as a professional educator and leader. Educators will examine leadership styles and their strengths for creating a caring, equitable community of engaged learners for all young children and families.

Presented by: Kathleen Harris
Main Topic: Child Development and Learning
through Play
OA Approved

ENLIGHTENING SESSIONS

Enjoy these brief, “TED-Talk” style on-demand presentations. Available Thursday, April 28th at 8AM. Credit is not available for enlightening sessions. Enlightening Sessions are **NOT** eligible for Ohio Approved Credit.

Free Family Engagement Strategies

Spend 15 minutes exploring 10 FREE tools to boost family engagement in your program encouraging the extension of learning from the classroom in to the home featuring literacy kits themed around the free Imagination Library books, 50 before 5 activities, Make the First 5 Count from EasterSeals, and more!

Presented by: Hayley Venturino

Transitioning to Administration from Teaching

This session will focus on the transition from being a teacher to an administrator. Alicia will share her personal journey and four essential tips she has discovered for becoming an administrator.

Presented by: Jaclyn M. Dynia, Alicia Wiggins

Socio-Emotional Skills and Circle Time

Developing socio-emotional skills, such as self-regulation, are necessary for academic achievement (McClelland, Cameron, Wanless, & Murray, 2007; Valiente, LemeryChalfant, & Castro, 2007). Circle time is an essential part of the daily routines in an early childhood classroom, and it is one of the best places to work on social and emotional learning. In this session, we will review research-based strategies for targeting socio-emotional skills during circle time. Such as reading high-quality children’s literature that focuses on emotions,

allow children to share their experiences, model reflective listening, and sing songs.

Presented by: Jaclyn M. Dynia
Caroline Steward

ADHD & Me- My Journey

We will be going in-depth into the diagnosis and treatment of ADHD. Every single person has a story and it should be told in order to give more insight into this mental health treasure. There is such a stigma against ADHD, but it is so misunderstood and sometimes not taken seriously. Let's dive deeper into what ADHD really is and how it truly is to live with it.

Presented by: Molly Martin

The Social Validity of an Expository Reading Book Intervention with Preschool Children with Language Impairments.

A key factor to successful research is not only having an intervention that shows effectiveness, but also social validity—thoughts about the intervention from those who directly implemented or received it. This session will focus on a study that included a social validity measure given to teachers and Speech Language Pathologists that implemented an expository book reading intervention for preschoolers with language impairments. The data from the social validity is currently being analyzed, and results of the social validity questionnaire will be shared, as well as a description of what social validity is, its importance, and ways to include it in research studies.

Presented by: Hayley Lantz

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® OHIO Scholarships and POWER Ohio Wage Supplements Overview

Learn about these scholarship and wage supplement opportunities that are available to assistant teachers, lead teachers and administrators. The session topics include program benefits, eligibility and how to apply.

Presented by: Judith Santmire, Shamell Hutchins, Belinda Kitsos, Marla Tiano and Jennifer Wuerstl



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