

The 2024 Ohio

**EARLY
CHILDHOOD
CONFERENCE**

ohioaeyc

Featured Presenter



Maya Payne Smart

Author and literacy advocate Maya Payne Smart argues that to attain the consciousness, solidarity, and equity our society so desperately needs, we must be informed and deliberate in raising a nation of readers.

Smart speaks to audiences about the educational challenges facing our society's children and how to overcome these obstacles. She focuses on research-based strategies for fostering literacy from birth and how to support families to raise thriving readers. She also addresses educational equality, learning loss, curriculum reform, and related topics. Her takes have been featured in numerous media outlets, including TIME, CBS Mornings, Forbes, and the Los Angeles Times.

In her book, *Reading for Our Lives: A Literacy Action Plan from Birth to Six*, Smart outlines what it takes for children to become thriving readers, and how we can all invest in improving the learning, literacy, and life trajectories of the next generation. She focuses on making academic research about literacy accessible and easy to implement for parents, grandparents, teachers, librarians, and other caregivers and concerned citizens. To help, she publishes new reading lists and family literacy activities weekly.

Smart holds a Master's degree in Journalism from the Medill School at Northwestern University and a Bachelor's in Social Studies with honors from Harvard University. She now serves as affiliated faculty in Educational Policy and Leadership in the College of Education at Marquette University.



Conference Sessions

Thursday, April 25

1:00-2:30 PM

How to Give a Child a Smart Start

BONUS SESSION

5:00-6:30 PM

Inside America's Reading Crisis: How You Can Help and Why You Should