

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

Sessions of Interest for K, K-3 & School Age Educators

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Advancing Quality Early Learning in Ohio: Communications and Advocacy Training 2020

Featured Strand

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.

Brains! Hearts! Porridge! (Still Teaching in the 'Key of Life')

Featured Speaker

Total participation, active, interactive celebration of accessible, practical, successful ways young children BEST learn- through music, movement, story, play, and joy! Reduce stress over academic standards by reaffirming your belief in how the arts, fun, DAP connect to all meaningful learning. Reclaim the creativity, spontaneity, and delight of teaching and loving children. "Before I teach others, I must teach myself." This session is for YOU to enjoy! "The lesson that is not enjoyed is not learned." (Talmud)

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 Inspiring Classroom Environments for Young Children by Utilizing Seven Principles of Design

There are seven principles of design that have been identified to help create and evaluate inspiring classroom environments for children. they address the aesthetic concepts of color, focal point, texture, exhibits, lighting, displays, and use of space. This workshop will open participant's eyes to another way of viewing and evaluating their classrooms. Photos of specific classrooms and a newly developed rating scale will be used to help conferees in evaluating their classrooms and transforming them into inspiring environments that honor all who occupy the space.

"Everybody Here Has A Bucket!" – Singing Our Way to Kinder, Happier Classrooms With Bucket Filling

Featured Speaker

In this session participants will be introduced Bucketfilling, a simple but profound model for positive social development. Red will use music, drama, and stories to inspire and empower educators to use Bucketfilling to enhance the social learning in their classrooms. Participants will leave with a treasure trove of related classroom tested activities. No musical talent required.

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

Featured Speaker

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.

Laugh the Stress Away

Featured Speaker

How stressed are you? This session will explore various techniques to reduce and manage stress including laughter.

Math Around the Room

Participants will be able to identify and discuss the importance of incorporating math through everyday activities. Participants will also gain the knowledge to implement strategies for creating a math rich environment. Participants will engage in hands on activities to support and build math skills for young children.

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

Featured Strand

During this hands-on 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.

Zen & the Art of Early Childhood Education

Featured Speaker

Many of us think of "early childhood" as more than a stage of development or a career choice. Join Richard as he shares his story and elicits the stories of session participants. Laugh, cry and cheer as we reflect together on why we choose play, why we choose anti-bias work and why we choose to give young children meaningful learning experiences. What does it mean to place ourselves in positions of service? How do we balance our humanity and our professionalism in an ever-changing world? How are we community builders? This session will provoke your thinking, engage your emotions and nourish your spirit!

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM KEYNOTE

The Power of Optimism

Optimism matters. An optimistic disposition enables us—through every day and extraordinary struggles—to look for the goodness in ourselves, in others, and in the world around us. For educators working with our most valuable resource, children and youth, optimism is a critical tool and a pathway to healing. This inspiring keynote helps educators discover the power of optimism to create safe, joyful, engaging environments where kids can grow, heal and learn. Using research, humor and personal stories from the Playmakers 25+ years of work with kids and their caregivers worldwide, Steve shares how optimistic individuals can bring out the best in all they serve.

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Art That's From the Heart!- Activities That Promote Creativity and Thinking

Featured Speaker

Are you tired of doing the same art projects every year? When chosen carefully, art activities can promote and generate creative and critical thinking. Learn the many uses of paper, paint, crayons, tools, hands, feet, and partners to inspire engagement in young children. Participants will participate in activities and apply principles to determine the thinking skills involved. This workshop will explore the relevancy of 'thinking outside the box' and how art activities can be used in every academic domain.

Bouncing Back: How Resilient Are You?

In this interactive session, you will learn the meaning of resilience, calculate your own resiliency score and understand why self-awareness is vital to your role as an early childhood educator! You will also explore five ways to nurture your resilience to improve yourself personally and professionally.

Every Teacher's Best Friend: MUSIC! Featured Speaker

In this session Red Grammer will engage teachers in discovering how music can joyfully uplift and improve the functioning of most every aspect of their classrooms: Setting classroom standards of behavior; building classroom community; adding excitement to curriculum; aiding content retention; building vocabulary; helping challenged readers; offering brain breaks/transitions; reducing stress; deepening relationships with parents. No musical talent required.

Family Engagement: A Five Protective Factor Approach

The Strengthening Families framework is a research-informed approach to increase family strengths, enhance child development, and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. This session explores the protective factors of the framework and how to implement them in an early childhood program. We know family engagement is important but how do we do it? Participants will discover how to build meaningful family engagement and how to ensure each family event aligns to the five protective factors from the framework.

Looking through the Eyes of Boys Featured Speaker

"What about those boys?" rings out around the country. Many early childhood educators and parents are asking these questions and more. This session will increase your awareness of boys, how they learn, and how to educate them based on brain science research. Discover how to create the ultimate environment that supports boy's needs.

Relationships are Key!

This interactive session will present the most important aspect of our classroom teaching; relationships. The presentation will begin with a call to understand, appreciate and ignite/rejuvenate our passion for building healthy relationships with the children, teachers and parents, which we have the privilege of interacting with each day. We will interactively discuss a working definition of "connecting" and then use that definition to begin understanding the essential components of an environment where connecting becomes the foundation of our teaching. Discover the powerful connection between healthy relationships and effective discipline. Take back practical tools that can be incorporated into the classroom which will help to facilitate healthy relationships between the teacher and a child, between children and between teachers.

The Psychology Behind Challenging Behaviors (Part 1)

This unique workshop blends the worlds of psychology and early childhood to help participants understand why children (and adults) behave the way they do. We'll take a deep dive into classroom behavior and look at how the brain develops and influences behavior. We'll address how children develop negative core beliefs, the self-protecting behaviors that develop, and the typical reasons children misbehave.

3:00 PM -4:30 PM

Bouncing Back: How do you Build Resilience?

In this session, participants will learn why building resiliency in children is vital to their success! We will examine the 7 C's of Resilience (competence, confidence, connection, character, contribution, coping and control) and how to build intentional resiliency activities into your daily routines to positively impact children in your classroom. We will also discuss several read aloud books that promote resiliency.

Different is Not Dangerous - A Musical Trip Around the World Featured Speaker

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.

Early Childhood Professionals: Heroes of Our Time Featured Speaker

This powerful, fun, thought-provoking session includes music, opportunities for reflection, interactive discussions about the stresses and triumphs of the early childhood educator. Be ready for singing, poetry and (believe it or not) dancing in the aisles! Attendees leave cheering, energized and filled with honor for the unique contribution they are to society.

Essential Elements for Supporting Teachers in Play

Participants will explore the different forms of play and why some children struggle to engage in cooperative purposeful play. Developmentally appropriate strategies will be shared that you can use with your children to successfully engage them in play with their peers.

Faster Than a Speeding Bullet: Supporting Superhero Play Featured Speaker

What superhero character did you play as a child? This presentation will discuss why children need to play superhero characters and the benefits of superhero play. Take back positive strategies to support children attaining POWER.

"Hello World!" –Embracing and Celebrating Diversity through Music and Movement Featured Speaker

All children have a need to be seen and have their self-concept nourished. In our increasingly interconnected world our students come from a broader range of cultural backgrounds than ever before, presenting students and teachers with the opportunity of developing an open hearted and embracing stance to those different than themselves and skills that enrich, expand and nourish the lives of all involved. Participants will discover how to use music and movement, humor and play to orient their classrooms into a lively, resilient posture of lifelong cultural learning and awareness.

The "Art" of Effective Discipline

Effective discipline is truly an art! Creativity and ingenuity are needed to discipline children effectively. This session is designed to give you practical tools of handling classroom disruptions, inappropriate behavior and keeping children focused on the task at hand. It is essential to focus on creating a positive environment and using positive communication techniques. This interactive session

provides participants the necessary tools to think creatively and establish an environment where learning is fun and exciting for children.

The Elephant in the Room: Trauma in the Workplace

Whether from tragic life events, trying to survive on a next-to-nothing salary, or compassion fatigue many early childhood educators are silently suffering from trauma. It doesn't have to be this way! This session equips participants with the tools to identify trauma in adults and create "trauma-informed workplaces", resulting in lower staff turnover and greater job satisfaction.

The Psychology Behind Challenging Behaviors (Part 2)

What's Love got to do with Teaching Early Childhood?

In this session we will answer the question "what's love got to do with teaching early childhood?" by discussing the concepts of the Five Love Languages of Children by Gary Chapman, I Love You Rituals by Becky Bailey and Have you Filled a Bucket Today? by Carol McCloud. With a brief introduction of each author's concept, participants will look at how these ideas impact children's development and learning, as well as classroom interactions, relationships with families and relationships with co-workers. Participants will take back ideas on how to implement each of these concepts in their classroom.