



Conference Preview

www.oaeyc.org/conference

make it happen

Earn Ohio Approved Credit!



Featuring 100+ Sessions!

Plus Dedicated Tracks Including

Music & Movement
Leadership Development
Challenging Behaviors
Conscious Discipline
and more!

ohioaeyc

Thank You To The Following For Their Sponsorship + Support Of Early Childhood Teducators!

Partner Level

For real...The conference wouldn't be possible without their support!



Platinum Level







Gold Level















Help Me Grow

Silver Level









Who Should Attend?

If your work impacts the lives of children ages 0-8, you don't want to miss this opportunity!

Join thousands of fellow educators from across the great state of Ohio, the country, and even as far away as Europe and Africa for strategies, support, and solutions!

- Center Directors
- Teachers/Assistant Teachers
- State Agency Staff
- Family Care Providers
- School Principals
- Early Intervention Specialists
- College Faculty/Students
- Social Workers
- R+R Staff



- Earning your professional development and Ohio Approved Credit hours
- Increasing your productivity and effectiveness
- Motivating you to set goals that achieve positive results
- Getting up-to-date on the latest trends and developments in the field
- Brainstorming opportunities to generate better solutions and decisions
- Boosting your confidence, recognition, and visibility
- Improving your job satisfaction and employee retention
- Connecting with a statewide network of likeminded professionals
- Learning from world-class, knowledgeable, and motivating subject matter experts





Break free from the silos of your day-to-day routine and engage with educators, leaders, and experts from diverse backgrounds.

Discover fresh perspectives, innovative strategies, and new opportunities to enhance your practice—all while having fun in a supportive, energizing atmosphere!



150 Sessions + 50 Topic Areas

Up to 21+ Hours of Credit

Ohio Approved + DODD credit

Learn,
Laugh,
Connect,
Be Inspired!

Every 6th Registration is FREE!



Keynote Speakers

Made possible by the generous support of





Creator of Conscious Discipline
Thursday, April 24, 10:45AM

Burn Bright, Not Out: The Art of Resilient Living





Social Media Influencer and Culture Expert Friday, April 25, 10:45AM

Plays Well with Others: How to Connect with Your Colleagues, Families, and Children





Play and Social-Emotional Expert Saturday, April 26, 10:45AM

The Healing Power of Play and Optimism



Leadership Retreat

An empowering experience for experienced and emerging leaders

Featuring Leadership Expert
Susan MacDonald

Ticketed Add-On Only \$40

Thursday, April 24, 2025
Includes 5 hours of Ohio Approyed Credit.

900 700





Featured Speakers

We are excited to welcome the very best presenters in the country to the Ohio Early Childhood Conference!



Gerry Brooks
Social Media Influencer and
Culture Expert



Michelle Kang CEO, NAEYC



Mallory Mbalia
Curriculum Developer
& Inspirational Speaker



Lance Reed
Behavior Expert



Pam Perrino
Curriculum Creator
and Inspirational Speaker



Dr. Meghan Salas Atwell Senior Director, Applied Research, NAEYC



Kathleen Bryan
Nature-Based Learning
Expert, Professor,
University of Cincinnati



Joe FrenchBehavior and Joy Expert



Daniel Hains
Managing Director of
Policy and
Professional
Advancement, NAEYC



Amanda Batts
Director, Quality
Assurance and
Assessment Early
Learning Programs,
NAEYC



Susan MacDonald
Leadership Expert



Camille Catlett Scientist, Professor & Early Childhood Expert



Dr. Laurie Dinnebeil Expert on Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)



Conscious Discipline Featured Speakers



Rozlyn Grant
Certified Conscious
Discipline Instructor



Tonya Byous
Certified Conscious
Discipline Instructor



Yvonne Watkins
Certified Conscious
Discipline Instructor



Megan Shea-Bates
Certified Conscious
Discipline Instructor



www.oaeyc.org/conference

Featured Speakers Continued

+ ° · · ·

The Importance of Play Featured Speakers



Rachel Giannini Content Creator, and Founder, Show & Tell Me More



Kisa Marx Scientist, Professor & Early Childhood Expert



Mimi Brodsky Chenfeld
"Queen of Fun"



Ron Mohl
Lead Educational
Presenter at Lakeshore
Learning Materials



Sharron KrullPlay Expert

Music & Movement Featured Speakers



Mister B
Dr. Anthony Broughton
Musician and Educator



Jim Gill
Musician, Author &
Child Development
Specialist



Joanie Calem Songwriter, and Disability Awareness Advocate



Vincent Nunes
Interactive Children's
Music Creator



Ken & Georgia Frawley
Pioneers of Combining
Music, Movement and



Risa Beth Cohen
Educator,
Singer/Songwriter,
Speaker, and Storyteller



David Kisor Singer/Songwriter



Elisa Huss-Hage and Chuck Hage Children's Music Entertainers

Full list of
150 sessions
will be
released by
early March!







Thanks to our dedicated, and wonderful attendees...

The Ohio Early Childhood Conference has been named as the *BEST association event in the country!*



By embracing the collective wisdom at the conference, you can return to your program invigorated, equipped with transformative insights and renewed passion.

Join Us at the Ohio Early Childhood Conference!

Ohio AEYC brings educators together in a dynamic, inspiring environment designed for learning, sharing, and growth.



The conference fosters collaboration and creativity, offering a space where early childhood professionals can connect, exchange ideas, and build lasting relationships.



Before February 15: Discounted Early Bird Rates

Ohio AEYC/NAEYC Member: Standard or Premium

1 Day Registration: \$145 2 or 3 Day Registration: \$225 Ohio AEYC/NAEYC Member: Entry-Level

1 Day Registration: \$209 2 or 3 Day Registration: \$289 **Non-Member**

1 Day Registration: \$2092 or 3 Day Registration: \$289

Before April 1

Ohio AEYC/NAEYC Member: Standard or Premium

1 Day Registration: \$1552 or 3 Day Registration: \$235

Ohio AEYC/NAEYC Member: Entry-Level

1 Day Registration: \$225 2 or 3 Day Registration: \$299 **Non-Member**

1 Day Registration: \$2252 or 3 Day Registration: \$299

After April 1 - Late Registration

Ohio AEYC/NAEYC Member: Standard or Premium

1 Day Registration: \$1752 or 3 Day Registration: \$255

Ohio AEYC/NAEYC Member: Entry-Level

1 Day Registration: \$245 2 or 3 Day Registration: \$325 **Non-Member**

1 Day Registration: \$245 2 or 3 Day Registration: \$325

> Helpful Tip: Not a member? Become a member when you register and save!

Bring your entire team for an unforgettable experience!

Every 6th Registration FREE!



res, seriously.



"Just what my team needed!"

-Conference Attendee

"Before going to the OAEYC conference year, I was contemplating leaving the education field. The conference re-ignited my fire for education and affirmed that I am in the right field. I'm excited to change lives with all the takeaways from the conference!"

-Katie T. Attendee

"The BEST professional development conference I've ever attended!"

-Conference Attendee

"I was able to bring my staff of 27 this year and it was a fabulous learning and team building experience!"

-Natalie L, Attendee

"The best
3 days
in education!"

-James D., Attendee

"You will leave feeling inspired, empowered and ready for a fresh start in the job you love! "

-Lauren L, Attendee

" We laughed, We cried, We learned "

-Heather S. Attendee

I've been in the field over 25+ years and the conference is something you have to experience for yourself!! The energy it brings is unbelievable, and it's rejuvenating to be in a space with so many like minded early childhood professionals!"

-Brandy T. Attendee

"We left with full hearts and minds!"
-Emma s, Attendee

"It's a one stop shop! Our center becomes inspired, team builds, and gets in professional development hours all in one weekend!"

> -Conference Attendee

"So much fun! The energy is amazing!"

-Olivia G,

"Attending the conference was an enriching experience that seamlessly blended insightful discussions, networking opportunities, and moments of inspiration against the backdrop of a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere. It was truly a gathering where ideas converged, connections were forged, and possibilities felt limitless."

-Zandra P. Attendee

"Walked in an exhausted teacher and came out excited to get back in my classroom! The enthusiasm for this profession is contagious"

-Conference Attended

"Lifechanging in so many ways!"

-Conference Attendee

The conference is always amazing and I look forward to it every year. I went once in 2007 when sent by my employer. Then started going every year on my own since around 2013. I haven't missed a conference since, because it truly is the best experience!

-Conference Attendee

"The conference is our annual 'professional development time' as a team and we love being able to socialize outside of work as well!"

-Conference Attendee

"We will be back for all three days in 2025!"

-Shawna D. Attendee

"It felt like a party for educators! It was a great fun learning experience!"

Recognized Training Organization

-Conference Attendee



Wednesday April 23

Registration

6:00pm-8:00pm

Thursday April 24

Registration

7:00am-5:00pm

Leadership Retreat

8:30am-5:00pm

Breakout Session #1

8:00am-10:00am

8:30am-9:30am

8:30am-10:00am

Exhibit Hall

10:00am-5:00pm

Keynote: Dr. Becky Bailey

10:45am-11:45am

Lunch On Own/Exhibits

11:45am-1:00pm

Breakout Session #2

1:00pm-2:00pm

1:00pm-2:30pm

Breakout Session #3

3:00pm-4:30pm

3:00pm-5:00pm

3:00pm-6:00pm

Bonus Sessions

5:00pm-6:00pm

5:00pm-6:30pm

A Magical Night with **Comedy Magician**

Michael Kent

7:00pm

\$15

Friday April 25

Registration

7:00am-5:00pm

Breakout Session #1

8:30am-9:30am

8:30am-10:00am

Exhibit Hall

8:00am-5:00pm

Keynote: Gerry Brooks

10:45am-11:45am

Lunch On Own/Exhibits

11:45am-1:00pm

Breakout Session #2

1:00pm-2:00pm

1:00pm-2:30pm

Breakout Session #3

3:00pm-4:00pm

3:00pm-4:30pm

3:00pm-5:00pm

3:00pm-5:30pm

3:00pm-6:00pm

Bonus Session

5:00pm-6:00pm

5:00pm-6:30pm

Night of a Thousand

Laughs: A Comedy

Show for Early Childhood

Educators

7:00pm

\$15

Party! A Night of Fun

(Karaoke with a live band, Dancing, Cash

Bar, Prizes)

FREE

8:00pm-10:30pm

8 Possible Credit Hours

Saturday April 26

Registration

7:00am-5:00pm

Breakout Session #1

8:00am-10:00am

8:30am-9:30am

8:30am-10:00am

Exhibit Hall

9:30am-1:00pm

Keynote: Ant Toombs

10:45am-11:45am

Lunch On Own/Exhibits

11:45am-1:00pm

Breakout Session #2

1:00pm-2:30pm

1:00pm-3:00pm

Breakout Session #3

3:00pm-4:00pm

3:00pm-4:30pm

6 Possible Credit Hours



Total **Possible** Ohio Approved Hours: 21+

More info on credit, including Ohio Approved, College and DODD credit, visit: www.oaeyc.org/professional-credit

Kalahari + Hotels

Learn, Relax, & Enhance Your Skills For The Children You Serve!

All meetings and events will take place at:

Kalahari Resort & Convention Center 700 Kalahari Drive Sandusky, OH 44870

Join us at the beautiful and fun Kalahari Resort, home of America's largest indoor waterpark!

- Free Parking
- Free Wi-Fi
- Limited Discounted Water Park Passes will be available!



Bring your family and friends to Kalahari!













www.oaeyc.org/travel--hotel

Exhibit Hall

Be sure to set aside time to visit more than 50 friendly and helpful exhibitors offering useful tools and resources to help implement the new skills you will learn at the conference!

- Check out the latest learning materials
- Build your professional library
- Visit the photo booth
- Network with the nation's leading educational consultants
- Relax in the Ohio AEYC Booth and more!





Comedian. Magician. Smart@\$\$.

Thursday, April 24, 2025 | 7:00PM Tickets Only \$15!

Hurry, Space Is Limited!









A Hilarious Evening for Early Childhood Educators

Friday, April 25, 2025 | 7:00PM Tickets Only \$15! Hurry, Space Is Limited!





Tons of FUN!

Friday, April 25th 8:00PM-10:30PM

Hosted by John French!



Proudly sponsored by

Lakeshore®



Special Conference Tracks

The conference features over 50 topic areas plus entire topic tracks!

Tracks are dedicated topics presented throughout the conference in great detail.

Conscious Discipline & Challenging Behaviors









Language & Literacy

Self-Care & Mental Health









Leadership & Professionalism

Learning Through Play









Music & Movement

Inclusion









Infant & Toddler

And much more!

THE





conference April 24-26

Sessions List



ohioaeyc



Registration Begins in Mid-March!

More details will be emailed to all current registrants.

7:00AM + 8:00AM + 8:30A jursday, April 24

Gentle Yoga with Crystal **Singing Bowls (Not for Credit)**

Session Code: TYOGA

Session Time: 7:00 AM-7:45 AM

Begin your day with a movement practice enhanced by the soothing vibrations of crystal singing bowls. This class combines slow and gentle stretches, and breathwork with sound healing to promote deep relaxation and balance. No prior yoga experience needed. A yoga mat is recommended, and any yoga props you wish to bring to aid in your practice.

Presenter: Nancy Fisher

Age Focus: All Main Topic: Self-Care Ohio Approved Credit: 0



My Role is Important: A Teacher's Guide to Special Needs

Session Code: T101

Session Time: 8:00 AM-10:00 AM

The transition from early intervention services for children birth-3 to an IEP can be a difficult process for families to navigate. This session will help early educators identify their role in this process when supporting families and children. Participants will discover how to empower themselves and the families they serve, while providing the best outcomes for children.

Presenter: Catrina Conley-Brookover

Age Focus: I, T, PRE

Instructional Level: Back to the Basics Main Topic: Children with Disabilities/

Early Intervention

Ohio Approved Credit: 2 Hours

I/T=Infant/Toddler | K=Kindergarten PRE=Preschool | SA=School-Age



*Note: Attendees must pre-register for this all-day session at an additional cost.

An Overview of NAEYC's New Quality Assessment and Accreditation System and Revised Early Childhood **Program Standards**

Session Code: T102

Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

The new NAEYC Early Childhood Program Quality Assessment and Accreditation system just launched in March 2025. Join NAEYC staff and discover revisions to the Early Childhood Program Standards Position Statement and walk through the exciting changes to the Quality Assessment and Accreditation system.

Presenters: Dr. Meghan Salas Atwell, Amanda Batts

Age Focus: I/T, PRE

Instructional Level: Relevant

Main Topic: NAEYC Accreditation of Early Learning Programs Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Leadership Retreat Creating a Culture of Appreciation! Part 1

Session Code: T103

Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

Discover how to cultivate a culture where everyone feels valued. respected, and recognized for their unique strengths. This interactive session will equip you with strategies for building positive relationships and bringing renewed joy to your school community. We will explore positive communication techniques, the Appreciative Inquiry model, impactful frameworks, reflective exercises, and interactive staff meeting activities. You will leave with a clear path for establishing resilient relationships and a positive, supportive, respectful work environment.

Presenter: Susan MacDonald

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Professionalism,

Leadership & Ethics

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Guiding Growth: Empowering Early Childhood Educators Through Mentorship

Session Code: T104

Featured

Session

Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

In this interactive session, participants will explore the transformative power of mentorship in early education settings. Discover effective strategies for establishing supportive mentormentee relationships that foster collaboration, build confidence, and enhance teaching practices. Through engaging discussions and hands-on activities, you'll leave with practical tools and actionable insights to not only enhance your own teaching journey but also to empower your colleagues. Join us to ignite your passion for mentorship and enrich the early childhood education community!

Presenter: Melissa Adipietro

Age Focus: I/T, PRE

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Professionalism, Leadership &

Featured

Session

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Is That Supposed to Happen!? **Supporting Young Children Exhibiting Challenging Behavior**

Session Code: T105

Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

"Is that supposed to happen!?"- a phrase we all can relate to in the classroom, especially when working with children exhibiting challenging behaviors. This session will cover the basic understanding of how behavior serves as a form of communication and the difference between knowledge, skill and ability and how that impacts behaviors. Participants will leave the session with a set of trauma-informed perspectives and tools to support behavior management in the classroom.

Presenter: Patrick McKelvey

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All

Main Topic:

Guidance/Discipline/Challenging

Behaviors

Play Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours



"Lifting as We Climb": Advocating for Black Males in Early Childhood Settings

Session Code: T106

Session Time: 8:30 AM-9:30 AM

Black male teachers and higher education professionals remain underrepresented in early childhood settings. In these spaces, the rewards of teaching can also be bidirectional, as teachers point to the relationships they can establish with students as one of the most important reasons for remaining in the field of education. In this session, participants will gain insight from male teachers regarding their experiences as early childhood educators and their impact on Black children in the classroom.

Presenters: Troy Hunter, Brian Johnson

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Diversity & Equity Ohio Approved Credit: 1 Hour

Music-Rocking with Routines: The Power of Music and Classroom Transitions and Bopping

Session Code: T107

Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

Discover how music can transform classroom transitions and routines into engaging, structured, and joyful experiences! In this interactive session, Dr. Anthony Broughton (or Mister B to his students) will guide participants through evidence-based music strategies to promote smooth transitions, improve time management, and foster classroom community. Attendees will leave with practical tools and strategies they can immediately apply to their classrooms to create harmonious routines.

Presenter: Dr. Anthony Broughton (Mister B)

Age Focus: PRE, SA

Instructional Level: Relevant to ALL

Main Topic: Music

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Nurturing Healthy Sleep Routines: Making the Home to School Connection

Session Code: T108

Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

What are some sleep challenges you experience with children in your program? In this session, participants will discover the benefits of utilizing sleep coaches, sleep training, and the various methods. Attendees will take back strategies for non-sleepers in their care and how to promote family engagement that supports safe sleep in all environments.

Presenters: Heather Reister, Erin Ruggiero

Age Focus: I/T, PRE

Instructional Level: Intermediate Main Topic: Family Connections &

Support

Featured

Session

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Reggio-Inspired Practice: What is it and How Can it Inspire My Early Childhood Setting

Session Code: T109

Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

Reggio Emilia is a child-centered approach to early childhood education that was developed in a northern Italian town of the same name shortly after World War II, and Reggio-inspired practice is a teacher's and/or school's interpretation of the Reggio Emilia approach. In this session, we will review 7 Reggio Emilia principles that can be implemented into your early childhood setting.

Presenter: Abby Bucher

Age Focus: T, PRE, SA Instructional Level: Relevant to ALL Main Topic: Reggio Emilia Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours



I/T=Infant/Toddler | K=Kindergarten PRE=Preschool | SA=School-Age

Shared Services in ECE: A Collaborative Approach to Building Capacity and Increasing Sustainability

Session Code: T110

Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

A shared service alliance is a strategy for building stronger systems among early care and education providers. Join this panel as they discuss how they work with providers to strengthen business operations, reduce workload and increase the capacity of center directors to support high quality programming, provide resources (i.e. back office, technical assistance, business services, sub pool, work force development). increase parent and community engagement, and improve fiscal health to make them more selfsufficient and financially stable.

Presenters: Elisa Huss-Hage, Rev. John C. Jones

Age Focus: ALL

Instruction Level: Relevant to ALL Main Topic: Community Partnerships Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Strategies to Support a More Qualified Staff in Early Childhood Education with Job-Embedded Professional Development

Session Code: T111

Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

The current workforce does not possess the necessary expertise, abilities, and background required to deliver the high-quality care and education. However, through the use of LearnERS, we have developed unique strategies to tackle these challenges and ensure that early childhood educators receive professional development opportunities that are designed to provide stability and support for our vulnerable early childhood workforce all while earning CDA hours.

Presenter: Keri Anderson

Age Focus: I/T, PRE Instructional Level: Back to Basics Main Topic: Professional Development-Training & Technical Assistance Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Thursday, April 24 | 8:30AM + Keynote

The Brain Science of Belonging

Session Code: T112

Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

This session explores the brain science of belonging by taking participants through the history of belonging and how feeling excluded or lacking in relationships impacts overall wellbeing. Participants will learn how to create systems and structures that support belonging in their early learning setting to better serve their children and families.

Presenters: Joanna Malachowsky, Farheen Kapra

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to ALL Main Topic: Social/Emotional

Development

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Using Assessment and Reflective Practice to Reduce the Risk of Expulsion for Children Experiencing Behaviors that Challenge

Session Code: T113

Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

This session provides teachers, early learning professionals, and infant and mental health consultants with tools and resources to help reduce the risk of expulsion for preschool aged children who are exhibiting challenging behaviors. We will look at reflective tools (ex. PERM Scale, Devereux Reflective Checklists, Behavior trackers, TPOT, ABC Forms, etc.) in order to determine a child's risk for expulsion within the early learning setting. Information about free Ohio statewide consultation and prevention resources will be provided.

Presenters: Katlin Carpenter, Colleen Wallace

Age Focus: T, PRE

Instructional Level: Intermediate Main Topic: Guidance/Discipline/

Challenging Behaviors

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

I/T=Infant/Toddler | K=Kindergarten PRE=Preschool | SA=School-Age

Whispers of Wonder: How Play Ignites the Soul

Session Code: T114

Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

Join us for an engaging and interactive session designed to unlock the power of play. This training will explore the importance of play as a vital component of healthy relationships and personal well-being. Participants will learn how to integrate playful activities into their everyday lives, fostering deeper connections, reducing stress, and enhancing creativity.

Presenters: Malori McCloskey, Annette Tille

Age Focus: ALL

instructional Level: Relevant to ALL Main Topic: Health & Mental Health Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Why Documentation of Children: Where to Start, Where to Go?

Session Code: T115

Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

The practice of documentation is a dynamic way to show children's growth and abilities. This session involves a short presentation and discussion on documentation followed by interactive activities with critical reflections. Early childhood and elementary teachers will take back ideas on how to use documentation in their classrooms.

Presenters: Laurie Katz, Mindi Rhoades

Age Focus: ALL

instructional Level: Intermediate
Main Topic: Assessment of Young Children
Ohio Assessment Condito 1 5 House

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours



WORDLESS

Session Code: T116

Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

This session will focus on wordless books and the positive impact they can have on the children and families we serve. We will look at the Child Development Council of Franklin County's Wordless Book Project data, and discuss how to set up a family engagement project and how to utilize wordless books to increase vocabulary, early literacy skills, creativity and parent comfort. Come discover how wordless books provide endless possibilities for learners of all ages.

Presenter: Carla Adams

Age Focus: I/T, PRE

instructional Level: Relevant to ALL Main Topic: Language & Literacy Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Burn Bright, Not Out: The Art of Resilient Living

Session Code: KEYNOTE1 Session Time: 10:45 AM- 11:45 AM

Discover the transformative power of resilient living with this groundbreaking keynote that will help you thrive without burning out. Rooted in the principles of Conscious Discipline, this keynote empowers you to unlock your inner strength and create meaningful, positive changes in your life. Guided by Dr. Becky Bailey, attendees will be equipped to build a culture of resilience and intention at both home and work. Not only will you transform your own life, but you'll also model and pass on healthy habits and beliefs to future generations. Start living in harmony with your vision and ignite lasting change today.

Presenter: Dr. Becky Bailey

Age Focus: ALL

instructional Level: Relevant to ALL Main Topic: Self-Care & Mental Health Ohio Approved Credit: 1 Hour

Made possible by



Thursday, April 24 | 1:00 PM



Be Gone Pesky Ghosts! Decreasing Rumination and Thought Traps (Part 1)

Session Code: T201

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

As helpers, we naturally carry the stories of others with us. For some, these experiences replay in our minds long after they occur, especially emotionally intense events in early childhood work. This cycle of rumination can impact our ability to function. In this session, we'll explore how rumination happens, identify common "thought traps," and practice strategies to break the cycle and ease our minds.

Presenter: Patrick McKelvey

Instructional Level: Relevant to All

Age Focus: ALL

Main Topic: Health & Mental Health Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Note: This is a multi-part session. In order to receive Ohio Approved credit,

you must attend all parts.

Bringing the Baggage: Responding to Adult and Child Trauma in Early Childhood Settings

Session Code: T202

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

This session provides an understanding of trauma and its effects on young children and adults in an early learning environment. We will explore common sources of trauma, risk factors and protective factors that impact trauma responses for the child and the adult. We will also review evidence-based approaches and practical strategies for creating trauma-informed early childhood learning environments. Discussion and activities will be included in the training, so come prepared to actively engage.

Presenter: Colleen Wallace

Age Focus: I/T, PRE

Instructional Level: Back to the Basics

Main Topic: Guidance/Discipline

/Challenging Behaviors

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Culturally Inclusive Environments: Creating Welcoming Spaces for All Children

Session Code: T203

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:00 PM

In today's diverse world, fostering culturally inclusive environments is essential in promoting respect, empathy and a sense of belonging among children and families. This session will explore practical strategies for creating learning spaces that celebrate each child's unique culture background and build community. Participants will gain insight into how children's identities are shaped by their cultural experiences and learn effective and authentic ways to incorporate multiculturalism into classroom design and materials selection.

Presenter: Bethene Edwards

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Intermediate Main Topic: Diversity & Equity Ohio Approved Credit: 1 Hour

Empowering Change: Tools to Evaluate and Adapt Inclusive Environments

Session Code: T204

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:00 PM

This session will equip participants with foundational knowledge of inclusion from the lens of the physical, temporal, and social environment. Utilizing various tools, participants will be able to analyze quality inclusive practices within all settings and explore a continuum of adaptations that can be made to create inclusive environments, so all children have full access to meaningful participation where they live, play, and spend their day

Presenters: Katie DeSmith, Alexa Nunnari

Age Focus: I/T, PRE

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Children with Disabilities/

Early Intervention

Ohio Approved Credit: 1 Hour

Exploring Nature-Based Programs Around the World

Featured

Session

Session Code: T205

Session Time: 1:00-2:30 PM

This session aims to explore the remarkable surge in Nature-Based Early Learning (NBEL) programs across the United States over the past decade. With a nearly 25-fold increase, these programs have become a transformative force in Child Care and Early Education. The session will delve into the trends, benefits, and challenges associated with integrating nature into early learning environments, especially since the influential publication of Richard Louv's "Last Child in the Woods."

Presenter: Kathleen Bryan

Age Focus: T, PRE, SA

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Nature Play & Outdoor Spaces

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Grant Writing 101: Finding Funds to Meet Your Needs

Session Code: T206

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

This session will help participants review their organizations' objectives, evaluate their program's needs and identify and pursue grant opportunities to meet those needs. Join us for an interactive session designed to help you get excited to write grants, gain basic grant-writing skills, and utilize tools to help organize grant writing. To gain the most out of the session, please bring a device (such as a laptop or tablet) to research grant opportunities and participate in various activities.

Presenter: Lisa Frasure

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Back to the Basics Main Topic: Program Administration, Evaluation & Financial Management Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

I/T=Infant/Toddler | K=Kindergarten PRE=Preschool | SA=School-Age

Thursday, April 24 | 1:00 PM

How Developmentally Appropriate Practice Impacts You

Session Code: T207

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

Participants will explore the research behind developmentally appropriate practice and review the three core considerations, 12 guiding principles, five guidelines for effective teaching, and ten teaching strategies that support developmentally appropriate practice.

Presenters: Marie Diniaco Economos, Heather Reister

Age Focus: I/T, PRE, SA

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Developmentally

Appropriate Practices

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours



It Starts at the Top: How to Implement a School Family with Your Staff (Conscious Discipline®)

Session Code: T208

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

If your current efforts to connect with your team are not working as well as you'd like, it may be time to try a more collaborative approach. Discover how to incorporate the Conscious Discipline school family model into your program and how the Powers and Skills of Conscious Discipline can be viewed alongside best practices in leadership. Experience the Power of Unity and identify practical ways to create a School Family with your team.

Presenter: Yvonne Watkins



Featured

Session

Age Focus: I/T, PRE

Instructional Level: Relevant to All

Main Topic: Professionalism, Leadership & Ethics

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

I/T=Infant/Toddler | K=Kindergarten PRE=Preschool | SA=School-Age

Let's Read: Best New Children's Books on DEI, Social-Emotional Learning, STEAM and More!

Session Code: T209

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

This session for all will review the best new picture books of the year, incorporating read-aloud techniques. The presentation will guide teachers in conducting follow-up conversations in which children connect more deeply with the material, promoting comprehension and love of reading. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), Social-Emotional Learning (SEL), and diverse STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) titles will receive special emphasis.

Presenter: Amy Vandament

Age Focus: I/T, PRE

Instructional Level: Intermediate Main Topic: Language & Literacy Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Let's Say It In Song! Adding Rhythm To Your Routine

Session Code: T210

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

This session is for everyone, both the talented and the "vocally timid". Our first objective is to build each participant's confidence and help them believe in their ability to engage children using music as a means to "teach". Participants will examine a wide variety of ways to enhance their planned daily activities by adapting them to incorporate more music, movement, chants, rhythm, and rhymes in a natural, comfortable way. We will sing, clap, and move throughout the session, and discover how, when and where to use the ideas we have shared... in circle time, transitions, clean up, hellos/goodbyes, special days, cheers and affirmations.

Presenters: Elisa Huss-Hage, Chuck Hage



Age Focus: PRE Instructional Level: Relevant to All

Main Topic: Music

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Leadership Retreat

Micro-Moments of Connection: Moving Beyond Negativity and Judgment to Strengthen Relationships
Part 2

Session

Session Code: T211

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

Effective communication is at the heart of successful leadership. Without it. inspiring and motivating educators becomes an ongoing challenge. In this transformative session, you will learn how to engage educators in meaningful dialogues that will positively impact program quality. You will also develop crucial skills for effective communication aligned with individual and program goals to foster a culture of growth and collaboration. Participants will leave with innovative ideas for overcoming "That's The Way We've Always Done It" (TTWWADI) habits and embracing fresh approaches to leadership.

Presenter: Susan MacDonald

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Professionalism, Leadership

& Ethics

Featured

Session

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

*Note: Attendees must pre-register for this all-day session at an additional cost.

Phonological Awareness: The Literacy Umbrella

Session Code: T212

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

Phonological awareness is an important precursor to reading and spelling skills, as it helps children to understand that spoken language is made up of smaller sounds that can be manipulated. Come join this session and learn about the Phonological Awareness umbrella!

Presenters: Lori Kowit, Kristen Crnkovich

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Back to the Basics Main Topic: Language & Literacy Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours



Thursday, April 24 | 1:00 PM

Purposeful Play in Early Childhood Education

Session Code: T213

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:00 PM

Play is a powerful learning tool for children across all backgrounds and abilities. For preschool educators, it can be a challenge to balance standard-driven benchmarks and specific learning objectives with opportunities for child-led play. This session takes a closer look at ways educators can intentionally support opportunities for child-directed play that hit on key early learning concepts and skills. Discover easy-to-implement strategies that guide student inquiry and create meaningful, play-based learning experiences aligned with educational standards.

Presenter: Debby Spitzer

Age Focus: PRE

Instructional Level: Back to the Basics Main Topic: Curriculum - Theories

& Approaches

Ohio Approved Credit: 1 Hour

Sing, Move, Grow and Know: Music and Movement for Children 0-3

Featured

Session

Session Code: T214

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

At birth, the human mind is ready to absorb and integrate knowledge, while the body is ready to move. By using songs with carefully chosen lyrics and age-appropriate movement with children, we can instill the first positive messages about oneself, others and the world. Participants will review the stages of development from birth to three years old, learn related songs and movement, and explore ways to bring the positive application of early childhood research to the child.

Presenter: David Kisor

Age Focus: I/T

Instructional Level: Relevant to All

Main Topic: Music

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Social Emotional Learning: How to Become What Your Children Need

Session Code: T215

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

Self-regulation and emotional development are not always prioritized in early learning settings. Many young children struggle with self-regulation, and many teachers struggle to teach this skill. By sharing the presenter's background of working with families experiencing temporary homelessness, this session will provide participants with strategies for typical developing, age-appropriate, and trauma related behavioral concerns in order to successfully impact the children's social emotional and basic concept learning.

Presenter: Paula Johnson Neal

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Back to the Basics

Main Topic: Guidance/Discipline/

Challenging Behaviors

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours





What All Early Childhood Professionals Need to Know about State and Federal Policy to Ensure the Supports that Families and Children Need to Succeed

Session

Session Code: T216

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:00 PM

Join Groundwork Ohio in exploring the newly released Early Childhood Dashboard, a first-of-its-kind comprehensive dashboard exploring the state of early childhood in Ohio. Learn about the development of the Early Childhood Dashboard, explore the factors and outcomes needed to achieve equity and discuss how you can use this data to contribute to a strong foundation for young children in Ohio.

Presenters: Troy Hunter, Daniel Hains

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Advocacy/Public Policy Ohio Approved Credit: 1 Hour

Where the Boys Are (Part 1)

Session Code: T217

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

This session explores the possibility that boys have different needs in an early learning setting 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, educators are asked to examine current teaching practices and explore new methods that might be more engaging to males.

Presenter: James Flynn

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Social/Emotional Development Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Note: This is a multi-part session. In order to receive Ohio Approved credit, you must attend all parts.



Amplifying Family Voices: Advocating for Be Gone Pesky Ghosts! Decreasing Meaningful Engagement in Early Childhood **Education**

Session Code: T301

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:00 PM

In this engaging session, participants will explore the critical role of family involvement in educational decisionmaking. Attendees will learn how to effectively advocate for family input in shaping policies that impact early childhood education, ensuring that diverse perspectives are valued and incorporated. Participants will leave with actionable strategies and a tailored advocacy plan to foster ongoing family engagement in their educational communities. Join us to amplify family voices and enhance the impact of early childhood education!

Presenter: Malissa Harris

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All

Main Topic: Family Connections & Support

Ohio Approved Credit: 1 Hour

Back to the Basics: What Really Matters?

Session Code: T302

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

Join us for an enlightening discussion

where we delve into the

transformative power of the Trust for Learning's Ideal Learning Principles in the classroom. We will investigate these principles, highlighting their role in nurturing curiosity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills among children. Through dynamic dialogue, we'll explore innovative strategies to extend children's learning experiences through the lens of play-based education. Don't miss this opportunity to gain insights and practical tips.

Presenters: Malori McCloskey, Jen Lee

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Back to the Basics Main Topic: Curriculum - Theories &

Approaches

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Rumination and Thought Traps (Part 2)

Session Code: T303

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

As helpers, we naturally carry the stories of others with us. For some, these experiences replay in our minds long after they occur, especially emotionally intense events in early childhood work. This cycle of rumination can impact our ability to function. In this session, we'll explore how rumination happens, identify common "thought traps," and practice strategies to break the cycle and ease our minds.

Presenter: Patrick McKelvey

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Health & Mental Health Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Note: This is a multi-part session. In order to receive Ohio Approved credit, you must attend all parts.

Building Brains: Integrating Music to Foster Critical Thinking Skills

Featured

Session

Session Code: T304

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

Discover how music can transform classroom routines and transitions into engaging, structured, and joyful experiences! In this interactive session, Dr. Anthony Broughton (Mister B) will guide participants through evidencebased music strategies to promote smooth transitions, improve time management, and foster classroom community. This session provides attendees with practical tools and strategies they can immediately apply to their classrooms.

Presenter: Dr. Anthony Broughton (Mister B)

Age Focus: PRE, SA

Instructional Level: Relevant to All

Main Topic: Music

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Diversity: It's Not Black and White

Session Code: T305

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

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

Presenter: Joseph French

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Diversity & Equity Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Enhancing Relationships, Communication, and Responsiveness for Families with Diverse Interaction **Profiles**

Session Code: T306

Session Time: 3:00 PM-6:00 PM

This session will provide an overview of how relationship building can support strong partnerships between families and professionals. Techniques we will discuss include supporting language and cultural differences, value code shifting, providing family contact and involvement continuums to reconcile diverse perceptions, and using unifying factors to keep interactions positive and to remove relationship barriers, especially when managing challenging issues, such as behavior support and play or academic challenges.

Presenter: Dr. Maria Sargent

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Intermediate

Main Topic: Family Connections & Support

Ohio Approved Credit: 3 Hours

I/T=Infant/Toddler | K=Kindergarten PRE=Preschool | SA=School-Age



Exploring Behavior Through The Context Of Sensory Systems

Session Code: T307

Session Time: 3:00 PM-5:00 PM

Many times, we may misread behaviors as challenging when in reality, those behaviors are one's desire to meet a unique sensory need. This session will explore how an individual's over or under responsivity to sensory input may impact behaviors and how challenging it can be to decipher these cues in the early learning setting. Participants will explore the overlap of sensory integration development and social and emotional development and how supporting these areas is best done within the context of a safe and secure relationship.

Presenter: Katlin Carpenter

Age Focus: I/T, PRE

Instructional Level: Intermediate

Main Topic: Guidance/Discipline/Challenging

Behaviors

Ohio Approved Credit: 2 Hours

Foundations in Infant Mental Health

Session Code: T308

Session Time: 3:00 PM-5:30 PM

This session is for diverse professional audiences who work with infants birth to 12 months old and who wish to gain an understanding of Infant Mental Health (IMH). Participants will learn about infant brain development, apply knowledge of infant social and emotional development, and discuss components of working collaboratively with families and identify strategies for partnering with them.

Presenters: Rachael Theis Shields, Briana Walter

Age Focus: I/T, PRE

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Social/Emotional Development

Ohio Approved Credit: 2.5 Hours

Hurting Hearts: Helping School Families During Grief and Loss

Session Code: T309 Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

Grief and loss disrupts normal development and daily routines. Families are plunged into periods of intense pain and sadness. This session will help participants understand common grief reactions with young children and provide strategies to support them, their families, and their classrooms.

Presenter: Donna Jezewski

Age Focus: T, PRE, SA

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Trauma Informed Care Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Let's Play with Words: All About Phonological and **Phonemic Awareness**

Session Code: T310

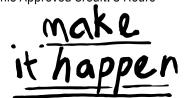
Session Time: 3:00 PM-6:00 PM

We know as early educators that children need authentic, play-based experiences to foster language to pave the way to strong literacy development. Phonological and phonemic awareness is one strand of literacy skills that can help children build a strong foundation for literacy development as they reach school-age. In this session you will discover what phonological and phonemic awareness is, and how it aligns to the Ohio Early Learning Standards as well as discover many examples of activities that support the continuum of development in this important strand in the Language and Literacy domain.

Presenters: Rosemary Helderman, Stephanie Moore

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Language & Literacy Ohio Approved Credit: 3 Hours



Mathematics in Early Childhood: Supporting, Observing, and **Documenting Mathematics in the Preschool Classroom**

Session Code: T311

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

Does the word "math" bring a little shiver to your spine? For some early childhood educators, teaching math can feel intimidating and just not that fun. This session explores mathematical concepts and how they can play out in preschool classrooms in authentic. meaningful (and yes-fun) ways.

Presenter: Dr. Jennifer Sturgeon

Age Focus: PRE

Instructional Level: Relevant to All

Main Topic: Mathematics

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Leadership Retreat Onward! Reigniting Your Leadership Journey Part 3

Session Code: T312

Session Time: 3:00 PM-5:00 PM

Building on the presentations and reflective activities of the day, this session will help you design an empowering plan for the next phase of your leadership journey.

Featured Session

Presenter: Susan MacDonald

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Professionalism,

Leadership & Ethics

Ohio Approved Credit: 2 Hours

*Note: Attendees must pre-register for this all-day session at an additional cost.



I/T=Infant/Toddler | K=Kindergarten PRE=Preschool | SA=School-Age

Thursday, April 24 | 3:00 PM

Sing, Move, Grow and Know: Music and Movement for Children 3-6

Session Code: T313

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

Featured Session

Music is a language, an art form, and a mode of learning and enjoyment that is universal. This session will explore songs, movement, and stages of learning for social and emotional development from preschool through kindergarten. As a child's physical coordination and language increases, the ability to internalize social and emotional awareness increases as well. Participants will sing and move to songs and learn strategies and activities that they can immediately use in their early learning settings.

Presenter: David Kisor

Age Focus: PRE

Instructional Level: Relevant to All

Main Topic: Music

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours



So Much Power in Connection (Conscious Discipline®)

Session Code: T314

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

Connection is the energy created between people when they feel seen, heard, and valued. When people feel connected, they form stronger relationships, collaborate more effectively, and create a supportive environment. In education, we need real human connection now more than ever. Join us in this hands-on session using the Powers and Skills of Conscious Discipline to support connection.

Presenter: Yvonne Watkins

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Guidance/Discipline/

Challenging Behaviors

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Sustainable Early Childhood Ideas: Activities on the Cheap

Session Code: T315

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

Want to create a more sustainable classroom? Want to help the planet? Try gathering and utilizing items that your families might otherwise throw away. Attend this session to discover over 80 activity ideas using household items that families can donate for free! Activities covered in the workshop meet over 90% of the Early Learning Development Standards for Ohio. Be ready to get up and get moving to see and experience sustainability activities on the cheap!

Presenter: Lisa Frasure

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Back to the Basics Main Topic: Learning Environment Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

The DEC Recommended Practices: How to Support Students with Special Needs in Your Classroom

Session Code: T316

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

Join us in this interactive session to explore effective, research-based strategies and interventions that empower you to create a high-quality, equitable, and inclusive environment for all students. You'll gain valuable resources to help identify and implement effective strategies, as well as tools to collect and share meaningful information with caregivers, professionals, and administrators. In addition, participants will be encouraged to recognize and celebrate their own professional skills, while receiving support to document the effective strategies they are already successfully implementing.

Presenters: Elizabeth Diedrick, Kris Gilland

Age Focus: PRE

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Children with Disabilities/Early Intervention Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Where the Boys Are (Part 2)

Session Code: T317

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

This session explores the possibility that boys have different needs in an early learning setting 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, educators are asked to examine current teaching practices and explore new methods that might be more engaging to males.

Presenter: James Flynn

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All

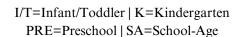
Main Topic: Social/Emotional

Development

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Note: This is a multi-part session. In order to receive Ohio Approved credit, you must attend all parts.







Thursday, April 24 | 5:00 PM

Circuit Training (Not for Credit)

Session Code: TCircuit

Session Time: 5:00 PM-5:30 PM

Get in your daily movement in just 30 minutes with this full-body circuit class. Using only your bodyweight, you'll cycle through dynamic exercises with a focus on strength and endurance. Perfect for all fitness levels, this express session ensures a quick and effective workout with no equipment needed. We recommend bringing a fitness mat and wearing clothing you can move freely in. Athletic shoes and water bottle are encouraged.

Presenter: Nancy Fisher

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Self-Care/Exercise Ohio Approved Credit: 0 Hours





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

Session Code: TBonus1 Session Time: 5:00 PM-6:30 PM

Featured Session

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)

Presenter: Mimi Brodsky Chenfeld

Age Focus: PRE

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Developmentally Appropriate

Practices

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours



Laugh the Stress Away

Session Code: TBonus2

Session Time: 5:00 PM-6:30 PM

How stressed are you? This session will explore various techniques to reduce stress, including laughter. Participants will assess their level of stress and acknowledge that stress contributes to their overall mental health. Take back effective strategies to help you reduce and manage your stress.

Presenter: Joseph French

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Self-Care & Mental Health Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Let's Talk Power to the Profession: What It Means for You

Session Code: TBonus3

Session Time: 5:00 PM-6:00 PM

What does Power to the Profession mean for you - and the future of early childhood education? Join NAEYC CEO Michelle Kang and a panel of experts for a lively, solutions-focused discussion on workforce recognition, compensation, and career pathways. This isn't just a panel—it's your chance to engage, ask questions, and be part of the movement shaping early childhood education. Don't miss this must-attend conversation!

Presenters: Michelle Kang, Pam Perrino

Age Focus: ALL Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Professionalism, Leadership & Ethics





Featured

Session



Friday, April 25 | 7:00AM + 8:00AM + 8:30AM

Gentle Yoga with Crystal Singing Bowls (Not for Credit)

Session Code: FYoga

Session Time: 7:00 AM-7:45 AM

Begin your day with a movement practice enhanced by the soothing vibrations of crystal singing bowls. This class combines slow and gentle stretches, and breathwork with sound healing to promote deep relaxation and balance. No prior yoga experience needed. A yoga mat is recommended, and any yoga props you wish to bring to aid in your practice.

Presenter: Nancy Fisher

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Self-Care/Exercise Ohio Approved Credit: 0 Hours

Little Ones Have Voices Too: How to Engage Children 0-5 in Grief Work

Session Code: F101

Session Time: 8:00 AM-10:00 AM

Despite the growing understanding on how to support youth following the death of a loved one, children between 0-5 remain largely misunderstood. In many instances providers, programs, and systems overlook the significant impact a death can have because they "can't understand" or communicate their experience. This session will help participants give little voices the ability to speak about their grief nested with attachment-based supports. At the end of this session participants will be able to describe the impact of death on young children, understand considerations for engaging children in grief work, and learn creative activities to encourage grief work.

Presenter: Patrick McKelvey

Age Focus: I/T, PRE

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Trauma Informed Care Ohio Approved Credit: 2 Hours

\$5 Fun: Playful Ways to Build Resilience and Grow Responsive Relationships at Home and in the Classroom

Session Code: F102

Session Time: 8:30 AM-9:30 AM

Come play with me! For less than \$5 and in less than 5 minutes, you can build resilience and spark joy through play. This session is to inspire educator and home visitors to rethink play—we shouldn't have to pay to play! We will discuss the impact of play on mental health for children and their caregivers, as well as have an opportunity to play together, too!

Presenter: Tiarra Williams

Age Focus: I/T, PRE, SA

Instructional Level: Back to the Basics

Main Topic: Play

Ohio Approved Credit: 1 Hour

A Project Management Approach to Implementation

Session Code: F103

Session Time: 8:30 AM-9:30 AM

We know a great deal is expected of high quality programs. This session is an introduction to project management principles designed to support the implementation of various projects associated with early childhood programs. Implementing these practices requires planning and management over the course of the project's life cycle. Participants will be introduced to the principles of project management and identify common barriers to project implementation.

Presenter: Mollie Bauer

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Back to the Basics Main Topic: Program Administration, Evaluation & Financial Management Ohio Approved Credit: 1 Hour



American Sign Language Combined with Music for Interactive Learning with Infants and Toddlers

Session Code: F104

Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

Babies can talk! During this hands-on session, participants will enjoy songs and activities incorporating ASL that will benefit infants and toddlers in areas of communication, language development, and focused listening and watching, all of which support bonding. Attendees will practice over 80 signs and determine how to incorporate them into their daily routine. Participants will discover how to analyze and adapt songs and activities to meet the developmental abilities of all children.

Presenters: Georgia Frawley, Ken Frawley



Session

Age Focus: I/T

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Language & Literacy Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

But First Do No Harm - Songs and Stories to Create (And Maintain) Compassionate, Inclusive Classrooms

Session Code: F105

Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

Inclusive classrooms require teachers to meet an ever-broadening range of instructional, social and emotional needs. As an educator and parent of a child with autism herself, Joanie Calem uses original songs, games and practical tips to facilitate conversation that supports teachers in building a community of diverse learners.

Presenter: Joanie Calem

Age Focus: PRE, SA

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

& Belonging

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours



Creative Connections: Integrating Arts into Early Childhood STEAM Learning

Session Code: F106

Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

Unlock the potential of creative arts to supercharge your early childhood classroom! In this hands-on session, you'll explore how integrating visual and performing arts with science, technology, engineering, and math (STEAM) fosters deeper learning, creativity, and critical thinking in young children. From bubble painting to digital storytelling, you'll gain actionable strategies that engage young learners in fun, art-infused lessons. Whether you're a new or seasoned educator, this session will give you the confidence to weave arts into your daily teaching while creating a well-rounded STEAM curriculum.

Presenter: Elizabeth Fields

Age Focus: I/T, PRE

Instructional Level: Intermediate

Main Topic: Arts (Performing & Visual Arts) Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Cultivating Excellence: A Leadership Approach to Building Gender-Diverse ECE Teams

Session Code: F107

Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

This session will equip early childhood leaders with evidence-based strategies to recruit, support, and retain diverse teams that represent all genders. This session will present actionable frameworks for creating an inclusive workplace culture that attracts top talent and fosters long-term commitment. Program leaders will discover practical tools for addressing common barriers to gender diversity, implementing effective mentorship programs, and developing leadership pathways that support all educators.

Presenter: Dr. Chrystine Mitchell

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Professionalism,

Leadership & Ethics

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Developing Shared Leadership and Trust within School-Community Partnerships

Session Code: F108

Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

This session is geared towards early care and education professionals and community-based organization leaders. Participants will be asked to consider the various community and school resources that link them to families and children. Participants will learn how to establish shared visions and goals with their partnering agencies and families. It takes a village to raise a child and applying the South African Ubuntu philosophy through this training, participants become more aware of their role in the village.

Presenter: Dr. Tatiana Wells

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Intermediate Main Topic: Family Connections &

Support

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Exploring Nature-Based Programs Around the World Featured

Session Code: F109

Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

This session aims to explore the remarkable surge in Nature-Based Early Learning (NBEL) programs across the United States over the past decade. With a nearly 25-fold increase, these programs have become a transformative force in child care and early education. The session will delve into the trends, benefits, and challenges associated with integrating nature into early learning environments, especially since the influential publication of Richard Louv's "Last Child in the Woods."

Presenter: Kathleen Bryan

Age Focus: T, PRE, SA

Instructional Level: Back to the Basics Main Topic: Nature Play & Outdoor

Spaces

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Intentionally Planning to Maximize Engagement

Featured

Session

Session

Session Code: F110

Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

Creating an environment that maximizes learning requires targeted planning and instruction. We will examine how to maximize children's engagement by intentionally facilitating learning throughout the day during whole group, small group, and child-led play. We will also address how to help children get the most out of learning objectives during activities routines, and play.

Presenter: Ron Mohl

Age Focus: PRE

Instructional Level: Intermediate Main Topic: Learning Environment Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Made possible by the support of

Lakeshore

Session

Let's Get Brainy- Teaching the Brain States

(Conscious Discipline®)

Session Code: F111

Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

The Conscious Discipline Brain State Model becomes a framework for us to understand the internal brain-body states that are most likely to produce certain behaviors in children and in ourselves. With this awareness, we learn to consciously manage our own thoughts and emotions so we can help children learn to do the same. During this session participants will take a deep dive into the 3 brain states and identifying their triggers, developmental questions, and planning activities to strengthen their executive skills.

Presenter: Rozlyn Grant

Age Focus: T, PRE, SA
Instructional Level: Back to Basics
Main Topic: Guidance/Discipline

/Challenging Behaviors

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours



May There Always Be Music & Books!

Session Code: F112

Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM



In this lively sing-along session, Jim Gill will share pages in which children shared their own heartfelt wishes and inspiring illustrations, prompted by the song "May There Always Be Sunshine." Most importantly Jim will discuss how early childhood educators, family members, care providers and librarians can use this process to celebrate children's wishes, words and artwork and their excitement about learning!

Presenter: Jim Gill

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Language & Literacy Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Peace In The Classroom-Peace In My Heart Featured

Session Code: F113

Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

Peace experienced in the classroom is a direct reflection of the peace the teacher finds within. The educator, through preparation of one's self and the environment, sets the stage and directs the play of peace as it unfolds. This session introduces mindfulness practices, conflict resolutions, and strategies for focusing energy in a positive direction that helps prepare the classroom (and ourselves) for peace. The songs and research presented teach control over internal states and appreciation of the positive aspects of other people and the world in general.

Presenter: David Kisor

Age Focus: I/T, PRE

Instructional Level: Relevant to All

Main Topic: Music

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

I/T=Infant/Toddler | K=Kindergarten PRE=Preschool | SA=School-Age

Sparking Joy: Cultivating Positivity and Resilience

Session Code: F114

Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

We all want early childhood programs that are buzzing with positivity, but how can you create that kind of atmosphere when energy and engagement are low? Our starting point will be discovering the lasting benefits that vibrant, joyful, and engaging learning environments have on the well-being of teachers and children. Participants will then engage in a series of reflective exercises to refresh their outlook and create a vision to re-energize daily work. You will leave this session with abundant resources and actionable strategies to rekindle your spark and reignite your passion for early childhood education!

Presenter: Susan MacDonald

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Professionalism, Leadership

& Ethics

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Teacher Well-Being Project

Session Code: F115

Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

Drawing on the work of Dr. Ross Greene, Thich Nhat Hahn, Dr. Maria Montessori, and Magda Gerber, this session offers an exploration of collaborative, proactive solution finding in relationships between children and caregivers. We will identify emotional regulation and coregulation strategies to use in classrooms and independently to enable more presence and peace in the workplace. Evidence-based mindfulness and problem-solving practices are integrated as part of the training and as tools to take away from the session. The aim of these skills is to reduce the experience of pressure and stress of classroom management.

Presenter: Laura Herrold Johnson

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Health & Mental Health Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

The Power of You and a Song

Session Code: F116

Featured

Session

Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

Session

Music is a powerful learning tool. This session provides a roadmap to connect music with curriculum content, and to encourage imaginative thinking and community participation. We will cover the five senses, the alphabet, number awareness, colors (and color mixing), environmental sensitivity, self-esteem and empowerment, community building, and volunteerism, among others. Participants will engage in guided movement, activities, simplified ASL-based signs and take back a rubric for evaluating songs to accomplish specific educational goals.

Presenter: Vincent Nunes

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All

Main Topic: Music

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Working with Multilingual Preschoolers

Session Code: F117

Session Time: 8:30 AM-9:30 AM

Working with multilingual preschoolers goes beyond "just good teaching". It requires explicit planning and instruction of activities that encourage language development. Students learning English for the first time need language supports that target specific language goals and can be assessed. This session gives an overview of research and provides strategies and ideas that can be applied in the classroom.

Presenter: Jessica Burchett

Age Focus: PRE

Instructional Level: Back to the Basics Main Topic: Language & Literacy

Ohio Approved Credit: 1 Hour





Friday, April 25 | 10:45AM Keynote + 1:00 PM

Plays Well with Others: How to Connect with Your Colleagues, Families and Children

Session Code: KEYNOTE2 Session Time: 10:45 AM-11:45 AM

Gerry uses his humor to develop a strategy for making the workplace a pleasant place where faculty, administrators, and support staff all maintain mutual respect, regardless of personal differences. This results in more efficient and fulfilled workers. Gerry will share policies that he has incorporated that promote a healthy, respectful working relationship even when opinions differ. He will also share ideas that maximize opportunities to get to know staff members and create camaraderie, taking advantage of 15 seconds here and there throughout the day.

Presenter: Gerry Brooks

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Professionalism, Leadership

and Ethics

Ohio Approved Credit: 1 Hour

Made possible by





A Public Library Framework for Family Engagement in 0-5 School Settings

Session Code: F201

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:00 PM

Family engagement is a consistent challenge for educators and administrators working in the early childhood settings. Discover ways in which the A. Sophie Rogers School for Early Learning has utilized aspects of public library programming structures to inform effective family engagement techniques. Get ready-to-implement strategies to improve your school's family engagement.

Presenter: Sarah Simpson

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Family Connections &

Support

Ohio Approved Credit: 1 Hour

Before They Are Ready to Rhyme

Session Code: F202

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

Most early childhood professionals are aware of the connection between phonological awareness and reading success. Some young children, however, are simply not ready or able to listen for rhymes. In this session, Jim Gill shares a collection of engaging musical games that are designed to develop the broader listening abilities that are essential precursors to phonological awareness. He will also share games that help children develop attention, focus and self-regulation abilities – which all contribute to reading success.

Presenter: Jim Gill

Age Focus: All

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Language & Literacy Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Create Effective Teamwork by Navigating Work Styles

Session Code: F203

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

Have you ever had conflict with someone when trying to work together? In this session we will look at the variety of work styles and how each style can influence a team. These working styles affect how people make decisions, deal with change, treat risks and respond to each other. Participants will identify their dominant work style and discuss examples of what they need based on that work style and how to work with others who have different styles. Participants will leave understanding how all approaches to work can add value and enhance teamwork and collaboration.

Presenters: Carrie Shockey, Holley Turner

Age Focus: ALL

Featured

Session

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Professionalism.

Leadership & Ethics

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Embracing the Science of Reading in Early Childhood Classrooms

Session Code: F204

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:00 PM

In this interactive session, discover how the science of reading can best shape practices and policies in your early childhood programs, so that children are primed for success in elementary school. The good news is that many early childhood programs are already laying much of the essential foundation, of which the importance is verified by the science of reading. And here's a hint: it's a complex equation that phonics alone cannot solve—but that early childhood educators implementing a comprehensive curriculum can.

Presenter: Lesley Jennings

Age Focus: PRE

Instructional Level: Back to the Basics Main Topic: Language & Literacy Ohio Approved Credit: 1 Hour

Friday, April 25 | 1:00 PM

Everyone Can Be an Artist: The Value of Open-Ended Art

Session Code: F205

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

Why does everyone keep pushing process art? Is there research to back this up? Do you need any fun, new ideas – come see us! With a combined total of 70 years in the field of early childhood education, we have some great ideas for open-ended art activities with materials you already have in your classroom. There will also be make-it/take-it opportunities for each participant!

Presenters: Nancy Okuley, Staci Cook

Age Focus: I/T, PRE

Instructional Level: Back to the Basics

Main Topic: Arts

(Performing & Visual Arts) Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Fathers and the Future: Cultivating a Culture of Inclusion

Session Code: F206

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

In this session, we will discuss the ways in which fathers have historically been included (and excluded) in ECE environments as well as brainstorm ways in which we can begin to break down any potential barriers to create a space where male role models can feel like a valued part of the classroom and school culture. The purpose of the session is to allow participants to engage in important conversations as well as create an action plan with concrete ways to employ strategies that will invite fathers to be part of the "village," working together to educate and support young children.

Presenter: Dr. Chrystine Mitchell

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Family Connections &

Support

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Growing Up WILD

Session Code: F207

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

Growing Up WILD is an exciting, handson session that will leave you with a multitude of ideas and information on how to integrate wildlife and the environment into your regular lessons in all preschool classroom settings. Participants will receive the Growing Up WILD guide, which includes over 25 lessons designed to lead children through activities that incorporate science, reading, art, math, music and more in a fun, hands-on way. Each lesson includes an opportunity to use nature and the outdoors for an even richer experience for your children. All lessons have been correlated to NAEYC, Head Start and Ohio Early Childhood Content Standards in both science and social studies.

Presenters: Phoebe Atkinson, Nora Sindelar

Age Focus: PRE, SA

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Nature-Based Learning Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Help Beyond the Center: Having Tough Conversations with Empathy

Session Code: F208

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:00 PM

This session addresses the strategies on how to have the tough conversations about referrals for services beyond the center in order to best serve a child. The presentation addresses the perspective of both a parent and a teacher on both ends of these conversations. Along with strategies provided, it also allows for attendees to reflect on current situations as well as past situations in which these strategies may have been applied and their overall outcomes.

Presenter: Lianna Madigan

Age Focus: I/T, PRE

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Children with Disabilities/Early Intervention

Ohio Approved Credit: 1 Hour



Home + School Connections = Success for Everyone!

Session

(Conscious Discipline®)

Session Code: F209

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:00 PM

Families and programs have often been on two different sides of school readiness and success for young children. Most parents and families are not educators or well-versed in child development and SEL. Managing behaviors and teaching SEL requires a collaborative relationship. This session will provide program leaders and educators with strategies to share best practices with families in a nonjudgemental way. This session will help with shift away from common phrases you hear from programs, like "If the parents would only try at home" and from parents like "The school is supposed to teach them.. that's why I send them." to "we are connected and are raising and building success in our children together, home and school!"

Presenter: Tonya Byous

Age Focus: ALL
Instructional Level: Intermediate Aoit!
Main Topic: Family Connections & Support
Ohio Approved Credit: 1 Hour





I/T=Infant/Toddler | K=Kindergarten PRE=Preschool | SA=School-Age

Session

Music-Rocking with Routines: The Power of Music and Classroom Transitions and Bopping Featured

Session Code: F210 Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

Discover how music can transform classroom transitions and routines into engaging, structured, and joyful experiences! In this interactive session, Dr. Anthony Broughton (or Mister B to his students) will guide participants through evidence-based music strategies to promote smooth transitions, improve time management, and foster classroom community. Participants will explore how music supports cognitive, social, and emotional development while learning how to design personalized transition songs and movement activities that keep learners engaged and focused throughout the day. Attendees will leave with practical tools and strategies they can immediately apply to their

Presenter: Dr. Anthony Broughton (Mister B)

classrooms to create harmonious

Age Focus: PRE, SA

routines.

Instructional Level: Relevant to All

Main Topic: Music

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

The Joy of Storytelling

Session Code: F212 Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

Featured Session

Why do we tell stories, and how do we engage children in storytelling? During this session, we will explore the elements that make up a story and engage in various storytelling techniques, including music, visuals, and movement. We will apply these strategies to the daily schedule with children by communicating, connecting, and celebrating the joy of storytelling.

Presenter: Ron Mohl

Age Focus: PRE

Instructional Level: Back to the Basics Main Topic: Language & Literacy Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Personal Climate and Culture: The Key to Professional Success

Session Code: F211

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:00 PM

Featured Session

Being an educator comes with a very 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.

Presenter: Gerry Brooks

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Professionalism,

Leadership & Ethics

Ohio Approved Credit: 1 Hour

Tiny Hands, Big Ideas: Loose Parts Play for the Littlest Learners (Infant/Toddler)

Session Code: F214

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

This engaging session will delve into the fascinating world of loose parts play, a powerful approach to early childhood education that sparks creativity, problem-solving, and cognitive development in young children. Attendees of this session will learn about the benefits of loose parts play specifically for infants and young toddlers. Participants will leave inspired and equipped to create rich and engaging learning experiences for the littlest learners.

Presenter: Sheila Bridges, Jaclyn Gordon

Age Focus: I/T

Instructional Level: Back to the Basics

Main Topic: Play

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Timeless Lessons and New Tools: **How the Lessons from Mister Rogers** are Present Today

Featured

Session

Session Code: F213

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:00 PM

Welcome to the Neighborhood where the series from Fred Rogers Productions (FRP) are brought to life! Join FRP as they share ways that our current programming carries forward the timeless lessons from Mister Rogers' Neighborhood. Hear about legacy ties as well as the innovative ways that the current content and resources support social-emotional learning and executive function, problem solving with STEM, and curiosity and the natural world. The world has changed but core parts of child development have not. The strategies and approach from Fred Rogers are very relevant and helpful to our children today, and different education engagement and outreach opportunities will be shared that have been executed in communities to meet families where they are and extend the learning beyond the screen.

Presenter: Mallory Mbalia

Age Focus: T, PRE, SA Instructional Level: Relevant

to All

Main Topic: Social/Emotional

Development

Ohio Approved Credit: 1 Hour





Featured

Session

Tools You Can Use: Curriculum Planning Matrices

Session Code: F215

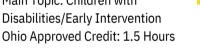
Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

This session supports itinerant early childhood special education (ECSE) staff and their early childhood partners on how to ensure that children's IEP objectives are being met during their daily routines. Curriculum planning matrices can be used to plan for and document specially designed instruction that supports successful inclusion. Come and learn ways to use this tool to support children in the absence of the itinerant ECSE teacher!

Presenters: Camille Catlett. Dr.Laurie Dinnebeil

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Intermediate Main Topic: Children with Disabilities/Early Intervention



Trauma Responsive Leadership (Part 1)

Session Code: F216

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

This three-hour training explores the brain science around trauma and provides leaders with a deep understanding of how trauma affects the brain and, consequently, employee behavior and productivity. This knowledge empowers leaders to implement strategies that address these neurological effects, promote psychological safety, and foster a resilient workplace. Through evidence-based practices and insights into brain function, leaders can create environments that support healing and enhance performance, ultimately leading to more compassionate and effective leadership. The target audience for this training are those who hold leadership positions and can transform the direction and policies of the organization.

Presenters: Joanna Malachowsky, Farheen Kapra

Age Focus: ALL Instructional Level: Deep Dive Main Topic: Trauma informed Care Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Universal Practices to Support Social Emotional Needs in the Classroom

Session Code: F217

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

This session will focus on establishing an early childhood environment that fosters social-emotional development and positive behavior through universal practices and structured PBIS Tier One practices. Participants will learn to create effective classroom setups, predictable schedules, and routines that support emotional security and behavioral consistency. Key topics include building strong teacher-student relationships, directly teaching behavioral expectations, and using acknowledgment systems to reinforce positive actions. Additionally, strategies for directly teaching peer related social skills will equip educators to nurture cooperative and inclusive classroom communities.

Presenters: Emily Humphrey, **Allyson Heiney**

Age Focus: PRE

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Guidance/Discipline/

Challenging Behaviors

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours





I/T=Infant/Toddler | K=Kindergarten PRE=Preschool | SA=School-Age

Note: This is a multi-part session. In order to receive Ohio Approved credit, you must attend all parts.

Braving Burnout

Session Code: F301

Session Time: 3:00 PM-6:00 PM

This session is based off the bestselling book Burnout by Emily Nagoski, PhD and Amelia Nagoski, DMA, as well as the companion workbook. Many educators today suffer from burnout. Children can only be as well as the adults that care for them. Therefore, it is essential that adults have the tools they need to support themselves, so they can better support those in their care. Participants will examine the prevalence of burnout, and identify burnout symptoms and the difference between stressors within and outside of an individual's control. You will have the opportunity to explore new strategies and put them in to practice. Additionally, participants will define meaning and analyze the purpose of meaning in burnout, and practice finding meaning in their own lives.

Presenter: Erin Finley

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Health & Mental Health Ohio Approved Credit: 3 Hours

Connecting with Children: Interactions and Relationships

Session Code: F302

Session Time: 3:00 PM-5:30 PM

In this session, attendees will identify ways to support children's feelings and learning through specific phrases that encourage positive interactions. Participants will reflect on their approach to adult-child relationships and how this can affect their relationship with the children they engage with daily. Through interactive scenarios, attendees will evaluate new, effective strategies for connecting with the children they serve.

Presenters: Stephanie Moore, Arlene Porter

Age Focus: I/T, PRE

Instructional Level: Back to the Basics Main Topic: Social/Emotional Development

Ohio Approved Credit: 2.5 Hours



Friday, April 25 | 3:00 PM

GIGGLES & WIGGLES! It's Circle Time

Session Code: F303

Session Time: 3:00 PM-5:00 PM



Join in this hands-on, participatory session demonstrating a variety of techniques and props for presenting music, movement, rhythm instruments, songs, finger plays, name games, stories, puppets, and creative activities. Have fun, get inspired, and take-home lots of new ideas to make your group time more enjoyable and active for all children.

Presenter: Sharron Krull

Age Focus: PRE, SA

Instructional Level: Relevant to All

Main Topic: Play

Ohio Approved Credit: 2 Hours

Growing Up WILD

Session Code: F304

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

Growing Up WILD is an exciting, hands-on session that will leave you with a multitude of ideas and information on how to integrate wildlife and the environment into your regular lessons in all preschool classroom settings. Participants will receive the Growing Up WILD guide, which includes over 25 lessons designed to lead children through activities that incorporate science, reading, art, math, music and more in a fun, hands-on way. Each lesson includes an opportunity to use nature and the outdoors for an even richer experience for your children. All lessons have been correlated to NAEYC, Head Start and Ohio Early Childhood Content Standards in both science and social studies.

Presenters: Phoebe Atkinson, Nora Sindelar

Age Focus: PRE, SA

Instructional Level: Relevant to All

Main Topic: Nature Play & Outdoor Spaces

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Harnessing Wonder & Promoting Deep Learning through the Power of Investigations

Session Code: F305

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

Deep learning happens when young children engage in project-based investigations. These studies enable preschool children to actively explore topics that reflect their interests and are relevant to their lives. As they dig deep into interesting ideas, they build content knowledge and process skills that children need in today's world and set them up for success in tomorrow's world. This session explores the power of study-based learning and guides teachers through planning an engaging study for their classroom.

Presenter: Michelle Salcedo

Age Focus: PRE

Instructional Level: Intermediate Main Topic: Curriculum - Theories &

Approaches

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

"I See You, I See Me!" The Multicultural Classroom

Session Code: F306

Session Time: 3:00 PM-5:00 PM

With age-appropriate literature and unique activities, creating a multicultural classroom experience can provide meaningful learning opportunities for children. We will explore how to effectively use literature and activities to engage children in exploring differences, encourage them to embrace sameness among peers, and to have confidence in their identity.

Presenter: Dr. Chenelle Price

Age Focus: T, PRE

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Diversity & Equity Ohio Approved Credit: 2 Hours

I/T=Infant/Toddler | K=Kindergarten PRE=Preschool | SA=School-Age

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

Session Code: F307

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

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.

Featured

Session

Featured

Session

Presenter: Joanie Calem

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All

Main Topic: Music

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Literacy Rich Environments with ASL

Session Code: F308

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

In this session participants will unpack components of a literacy-rich environment. From understanding the basic components of literacy to engaging parents with home literacy activities, this session has it all. Learning to read is hard! Adding sign language makes it easier! As an additional bonus, this workshop contains activities to link SEL learning and literacy-rich activities as well as using American Sign Language. Participants will leave with tangible takeaways that they can start implementing right away. From introducing letter sounds to adding basic vocabulary to storytime, learn all the ways sign language can turn literacy into a hands-on engaging lesson.

Presenter: Rachel Giannini

Age Focus: PRE, SA

Instructional Level: Relevant to All-Main Topic: Language & Literacy Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours



Friday, April 25 | 3:00 PM

Make Room for Active Learning!

Session Code: F309

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM



Teachers act as partners, working alongside children and communicating with them both verbally and nonverbally to encourage learning. Key strategies for adult-child interactions are sharing control with children, communicating as a partner with children, scaffolding children's play, using encouragement instead of praise, and taking a problemsolving approach to supporting children in resolving conflicts. Rather than simply pouring information into children, after this training, participants will develop a process of shared control in which children make discoveries through direct experience with people. objects, events, and ideas.

Presenter: Lance Reed

Age Focus: PRE

Instructional Level: Back to the

Basics

Main Topic: Learning Environment Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Prescriptions for Preventing Power Struggles

Session Code: F310

Session Time: 3:00 PM-5:30 PM

In this session, participants will discover how to identify power struggles and the many practices that they can utilize to prevent power struggles. Power struggles are an attempt by a child to meet a need and all behavior is a form of communication. Together, we will examine our backgrounds so that we can understand how our own thinking might make us more susceptible to being in a power struggle. You will be introduced to two strategies for dealing with power struggles and be able to acknowledge the importance of forgiving yourself when you make mistakes or get pulled into one.

Presenter: James Flynn

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Social/Emotional

Development

Ohio Approved Credit: 2.5 Hours

Quantifying Quality in Inclusive Early Childhood Classrooms Featured

Session Code: F311

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

This session will demonstrate the use of a set of tools for examining and enhancing the quality of inclusive practices in early childhood classrooms. The tools include a set of evidence-based indicators of the features of high-quality inclusion in an early childhood classroom, a selfassessment for assessing the extent to which the indicators are being used, a plan of action for increasing the emphasis on chosen indicators, and more. Each participant will gain access to all the tools and an annotated set of free resources that can support their use.

Presenters: Dr. Laurie Dinnebeil. Camille Catlett

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant

to All

Main Topic: Children with Disabilities/Early Intervention &

Inclusion

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Rethinking Play

Session Code: F312

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

This session challenges early childhood professionals to rethink traditional approaches to play, emphasizing its role in promoting equity, creativity, and agency. By embracing culturally responsive and developmentally informed practices, participants will explore how intentional play can honor diverse identities and foster inclusive, meaningful learning experiences. Together, we will reimagine play as a foundation for holistic child development and family engagement.

Presenter: Kisa Marx

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Intermediate

Main Topic: Play

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Strengthening School-Family Partnerships for Ohio's English Learners

Session Code: F313

Session

Session Time: 3:00 PM-5:00 PM

This session was created by the Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center to provide strategies and resources to support educators and administrators across Ohio to effectively partner with the families of English learners. This session will help you to identify barriers to school-family relationships and reflect on what type of relationship your program has with families of students learning English, share information about existing Ohio organizations and resources that offer supports to children learning English and discuss strategies you can implement to improve the relationship your program has with multilingual learners and families.

Presenters: Rhonda Reid, Candace Muetzel

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Family Connections &

Support

Featured

Session

Ohio Approved Credit: 2 Hours

Transforming Classroom Talk: Exploring Effective Strategies to Improve Teacher-Child Discourse

Session Code: F314

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:00 PM

Extensive research in the field consistently shows that children's language development is influenced by the quality and quantity of language and communication they are exposed to. Engaging in meaningful teacherchild conversations significantly impacts early literacy, vocabulary development, and the child's cognitive and emotional growth. Gain insights into what truly enhances teacher-child interactions and explore innovative resources.

Presenter: Dr. Nermeen Dashoush

Age Focus: PRE

Instructional Level: Relevant to All

Main Topic: Teaching & Instructional Practices Ohio Approved Credit: 1 Hour



Friday, April 25 | 3:00 PM

Trauma Responsive Leadership (Part 2)

Session Code: F315

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

This three-hour training explores the brain science around trauma and provides leaders with a deep understanding of how trauma affects the brain and, consequently, employee behavior and productivity. This knowledge empowers leaders to implement strategies that address these neurological effects, promote psychological safety, and foster a resilient workplace. Through evidence-based practices and insights into brain function, leaders can create environments that support healing and enhance performance, ultimately leading to more compassionate and effective leadership.

The target audience for this training are those who hold leadership positions and can transform the direction and policies of the organization.

Presenters: Joanna Malachowsky, Farheen Kapra

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Deep Dive Main Topic: Trauma informed Care Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Note: This is a multi-part session. In order to receive Ohio Approved credit, you must attend all parts.

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Wading in the Water: Navigating the Changing Currents in ECE

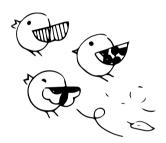
Session Code: F316

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

Change is constant and administrators are under constant pressure with changes to licensing, SUTQ and NAEYC accreditation. This session will explore strategies to keep your head above water and navigate the changes in the early childhood field.

Presenter: Jane Pernicone

Age Focus: ALL Instructional Level: Intermediate Main Topic: Professionalism, Leadership & Ethics Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours



You Are the Safe Space: Understanding Behavior and How Co-Regulation Helps Adults Change Their Perspective, Activate Compassion and Respond to Children in Distress

Session Code: F317

Session Time: 3:00 PM-6:00 PM

This session provides participants with a strong foundation in the practice of co-regulation. Through lecture, discussion and hands-on practice participants will uncover what coregulation is, and learn how it helps adults and children in challenging moments. Using strategies from Conscious Discipline® and other models, this session helps participants recognize the relationship between early experiences and how they shape mental models, influencing how we react to challenging behavior. Participants will examine and practice the DNA® approach to coregulation from Conscious Discipline® and understand essential elements of a coregulated classroom.

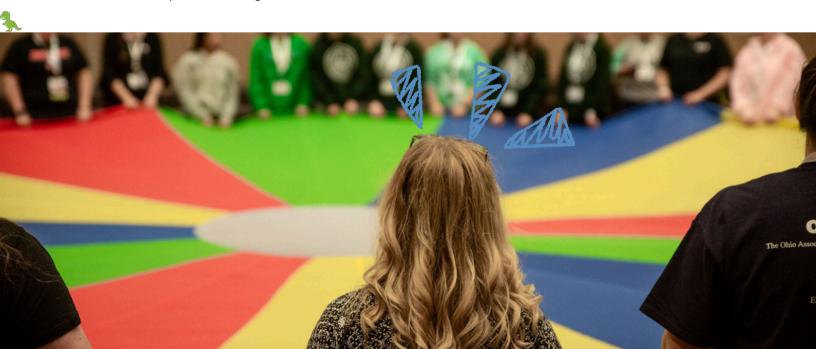
Presenters: Diane Stuart, McKenzie Fulton

Age Focus: T, PRE, SA

Instructional Level: Intermediate Main Topic: Guidance/Discipline/

Challenging Behaviors

Ohio Approved Credit: 3 Hours



Friday, April 25 | 5:00 PM

Building Brains:
Integrating Music to Foster Critical
Thinking Skills
Featured

Session Code: FBonus1
Session Time: 5:00 PM-6:30 PM

Discover how music can transform classroom routines and transitions into engaging, structured, and joyful experiences! In this interactive session, Dr. Anthony Broughton (Mister B) will guide participants through evidence-based music strategies to promote smooth transitions, improve time management, and foster classroom community. Participants will explore how music supports cognitive, social, and emotional development while learning how to design personalized transition songs and movement activities that keep learners engaged and focused throughout the day. This session provides attendees with practical tools and strategies they can immediately apply to their classrooms to create harmonious routines.

Presenter: Dr. Anthony Broughton (Mister B)

Age Focus: PRE, SA

Instructional Level: Relevant to All

Main Topic: Music

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours



Change is Good... You Go First! 21 Ways to Inspire Change Featured

Session

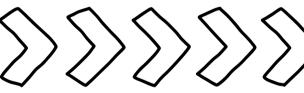
Session Code: FBonus2 Session Time: 5:00 PM-6:30 PM

Administrators and early care and education leaders will discover how to embrace change as a positive tool to plan, implement, and revise strategies to support improved quality in the early childhood programs they lead. Each participant will create an action plan to support change in their program.

Presenter: Pam Perrino

Age Focus: ALL Instructional Level: Back to Basics Main Topic: Professionalism, Leadership & Ethics Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours





Neighborhoods of Stories: How Our Stories Connect Us

Session Code: FBonus3
Session Time: 5:00 PM-6:00 PM

We all have a story to tell. On each of our journeys to where we are today, there were plot twists and heroes, moments of realization and grounding along the way. Join Fred Rogers Productions Director of Learning and Education as she shares her story and how we all have connections to the heart of the work, serving our neighbors and supporting each other.

Presenter: Mallory Mbalia

Age Focus: T, PRE, SA
Instructional Level: Relevant to All
Main Topic: Professionalism,
Leadership & Ethics
Ohio Approved Credit: 1 Hour





Saturday, April 26 | 8:00 AM + 8:30 AM

Building Your Bounce: Promoting Adult Resilience Overview

Session Code: S101

Session Time: 8:00 AM-10:00 AM

This session is designed to meet you where you are and help you focus on your own health, happiness and overall well-being. Together, we will learn about resilience and how important it is that you learn to promote your social-emotional health, how your well-being can impact the children and families you serve in both positive and negative ways, and specific, simple and inexpensive strategies to reduce stress and promote mental health. Participants are sure to leave this session with energy, enthusiasm, and a commitment to make a few positive changes that will lead to greater happiness!

Presenter: Brandy Theis

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Health & Mental Health Ohio Approved Credit: 2 Hours

Child Centered Curriculum: Beliefs, Myths and Possibilities

Session Code: S102

Session Time: 8:00 AM-10:00 AM

This session walks participants through the process of defining child-centered curriculum, identifying benefits and challenges, and then applying this information through developing sample curriculum plans working in small groups. At its conclusion, participants will have sample plans to take back to their work settings and will be equipped to approach their future curriculum planning with a flexible, broad perspective that incorporates children's thinking, needs, questions, and curiosities.

Presenter: Karen Crockett

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Back to the Basics Main Topic: Curriculum - Theories &

Approaches

Ohio Approved Credit: 2 Hours

Fostering Resilience Through the Arts in ECE Settings

Session Code: S103

Session Time: 8:00 AM-10:00 AM

Studies have shown that exposure to trauma may impact one's ability to concentrate, self-regulate, and communicate effectively. Because these skills are not fully developed in young children, they are particularly vulnerable to the negative effects of trauma. Play-based art experiences facilitated by nurturing and supportive caregivers provide young children the opportunity to build resiliency while exploring their ideas and feelings in a safe environment. During this session, participants will be introduced to the benefits of art in the early childhood setting to support children who have experienced trauma.

Presenters: Margeric Gonzalez, Shamera Totty

Age Focus: PRE

Instructional Level: Back to the Basics

Main Topic: Social/Emotional

Development

Ohio Approved Credit: 2 Hours

Little People Big Emotions: What is Behavior?

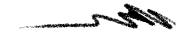
Session Code: S104

Session Time: 8:00 AM-10:00 AM

Young children have big emotions, and they are learning to navigate the world around them while learning to identify and label their feelings. This session will explore behavior, how the brain's development influences behavior, how the classroom environment impacts the behavior, and how the educator's beliefs about behavior affect the child. Join us for these explorations, reflections, and lively conversation.

Presenter: Pamela Perrino

Age Focus: PRE
Instructional Level: Back to the Basics
Main Topic: Guidance/Discipline
/Challenging Behaviors
Ohio Approved Credit: 2 Hours



Supporting a Positive Social Emotional Preschool Climate with Strengths and Mindfulness

Session Code: S105

Session Time: 8:00 AM-10:00 AM

During this session, educators will gain an understanding of the latest research, benefits and developmentally appropriate strategies for creating learning environments that can support the social emotional development and well-being of preschool children. Participants will explore techniques and create activities designed to help preschoolers use, understand, and cultivate their natural strengths. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of mindfulness including approaches for connecting mindfully with young children. We will deeply explore age-appropriate methods for practicing mindfulness with preschoolers in order to provide them with the skills to aid in the development of self-regulation and selfcontrol.

Presenter: Natalie Rinehart

Age Focus: PRE

Instructional Level: Back to the Basics

Main Topic: Social/Emotional

Development

Featured

Session

Ohio Approved Credit: 2 Hours

Creating Dynamic Infant Toddler Outdoor Spaces: Using Play Schema as Inspiration

Session Code: S106

Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

Carefully planned and curated spaces foster exploration, movement and holistic development in infants and toddlers. In this session, participants will explore the unique considerations of developing natural outdoor play spaces tailored to the unique needs of this age group. Gain ideas to design age-appropriate outdoor settings using natural elements. Embrace the outdoors with infants and toddlers!

Presenter: Bethene Edwards

Age Focus: I/T, PRE, SA

Instructional Level: Relevant to All

Main Topic: Developmentally

Appropriate Practices

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Saturday, April 26 | 8:30 AM

Session

Every Moment Matters

Session Code: S107 Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

Over one million neurological connections are made in a child's brain every second. This session explores opportunities to make the most of every minute. It engages you with videos, reflection, and tangible takeaways. Participants will hear about their impact as educators and regain the passion that brought them into the classroom in the first place.

Presenter: Rachel Giannini

Age Focus: T, PRE

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Professionalism, Leadership

& Ethics

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Island Adventure: You Do Not Have to Do It Alone! (Family Child Care)

Session Code: S108

Session Time: 8:30 AM-9:30 AM

Looking for strategies to help you survive as an educator and small business entrepreneur? Join us for this exciting snapshot of the tools you can implement as a family child care provider to stay safe and not feel like you are sinking on your way to a desert island.

Presenters: MaryBeth Bush, Dorothy Gray

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Professionalism, Leadership &

Ethics

Ohio Approved Credit: 1 Hour

JOY in the Journey: How to Keep My Heart in it When it's HARD

(Conscious Discipline©)

Session Code: S109

Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

Teaching is often described as a calling, not just a career. But even the most dedicated educators can struggle to keep their passion and joy alive in the face of everyday challenges. In this inspirational and empowering session, Principal Tanyelle L. Hannah shares practical strategies to rediscover meaning, purpose, gratitude and joy no matter the obstacles. Attendees will leave feeling re-energized, empowered and equipped with fresh tools to foster their own well-being, meaningful relationships with colleagues and scholars.

Presenter: Tanyelle Hannah

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Guidance/Discipline

/Challenging Behaviors

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Let's Accommodate

Session Code: S110

Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

Does the term accommodation frighten you? This session will demystify our beliefs about accommodation. Join a lively discussion that will dive deeply into what we mean when we say terms such as equity, equality, universal design, and accommodations vs. modifications. Leave with a better understanding of how accommodations can be implemented successfully in the classroom to support the child, family, and teacher.

Presenter: Mandy Young

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Back to the Basics Main Topic: Children with Disabilities /Early Intervention & Inclusion Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Make Your Classroom Work for You: If You do Nothing Else, do THIS

Session Code: S111

Featured

Session

Session Time: 8:30 AM-9:30 AM

Educators have a lot on their plates. When days start to feel overwhelming or you start questioning your strategies, it is time to focus on making your classroom work for you. We will discuss 10 things to do and remember that will set you and your students up for success. The information in this session is not profound. However. when implemented consistently, will have a profound impact on your students and your confidence in leading your classroom. For some this will be new information; for others it will be a reminder to get back to the basics and reaffirm that you've got this! Administrators may find this training helpful when training or coaching their staff.

Presenter: Leah Anastasakis

Age Focus: T, PRE, SA
Instructional Level: Back to the Basics
Main Topic: Learning Environment
Ohio Approved Credit: 1 Hour



Promoting Early Literacy Skills Using Early Talk and Playful Interactions

Session Code: S112

Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

Join us for an engaging and interactive session where we explore the magic of phonological awareness and its vital role in early literacy development. Discover how you can strengthen these foundational skills with your children through joyful and playful word games, chants, poems, and songs. Learn to connect these intentionally planned experiences to Ohio's Early Learning Standards, ensuring a seamless integration into your educational practices. We will delve into how early talk and playful interactions lay the groundwork for the development of essential literacy skills. Let's make early language and literacy a joyful journey for every child!

Presenters: Marlo Parlin, Luis Bernal

Age Focus: I/T, PRE

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Language & Literacy Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Secrets to Hosting Captivating and Effective Staff Meetings

Session Code: S113

Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

As a leader, you strive to empower and elevate your team. This session will unveil the secrets to hosting captivating and impactful staff meetings. Through interactive activities and thought-provoking discussions, each participant will gain the knowledge and skills to host inspiring staff meetings that will leave a lasting impact on their team.

Presenters: Jennifer Sprafka, Savannah Hudson

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Intermediate Main Topic: Program Administration, Evaluation & Financial Management Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Smart Songs for Active Children

Session Code: S114

Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

This session provides early education professionals with new protocols for understanding and utilizing music to advance clear, educational goals for early learners. Learn a series of parameters for determining what kinds of music will provide a theoretical and practical platform for introducing and enhancing curriculum topics, creative thinking, and shared community values. With age-appropriate vocabulary and accessible activities. attendees will gain confidence and skill in identifying and using "Smart Songs" to form curriculum modules throughout the year.

Presenter: Vincent Nunes

Age Focus: PRE

Instructional Level: Relevant to All

Main Topic: Music

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Songs for a Peaceful Learning **Environment** Featured

Session Code: S115

Session Time: 8:30 AM-9:30 AM

This session, for those working with three to seven year-old children, will present how to use songs to foster a peaceful learning environment. Participants will learn how to use music and silence as peacemaking tools. Educators, administrators, and family members will learn in this session specific songs that encourage peaceful transitions, interactions, and selves. Research has proven that music and silence are effective means of nurturing social emotional learning. The science-backed tools and original songs presented in this session will help to create and maintain a peaceful learning environment.

Presenter: Risa Beth Cohen

Age Focus: PRE

Instructional Level: Intermediate

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Main Topic: Social/Emotional Development

THE ART OF CREATIVITY!

Process Over Product

Featured

Session

Session Code: S116 Session Time: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

Explore and learn about lots of "really cool" new art materials, unique paints, and collage stuff that will spark children's creative energy and joy for art. Participants will review the differences between process and product-focused art. Discover how to provide open-ended art experiences that are age appropriate, inviting, and

Presenter: Sharron Krull

Age Focus: PRE

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Arts (Performing & Visual Arts)

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

The Importance of Play in Early **Childhood Environments**

Session Code: S117

Session Time: 8:30 AM-9:30 AM

Experts agree that play is essential for the healthy development of children. In this session, we will define ageappropriate play and examine nine benefits children get from play.

Presenter: LaToya Dixon

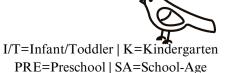
Age Focus: ALL

Session

Instructional Level: Relevant to All

Main Topic: Play

Ohio Approved Credit: 1 Hour



Saturday, April 26 | Keynote 10:45 AM + 1:00 PM

The Healing Power of Play and Optimism

Session Code: KEYNOTE3 Session Time: 10:45 AM-11:45 AM

The Life is Good Playmaker Project has boiled down 30+ years of field experience into a 4-step framework for building environments where everyone - kids and staff alike - can heal, learn, and grow. This trauma-informed, optimism-infused approach, complete with concrete tools helps children and families reach their full potential.

Presenter: Ant Toombs

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Play/Self-Care Ohio Approved Credit: 1 Hour



Made possible by





Are Your Leadership Skills Helpful or Hurtful: Seeing the Positive Intent in Your Staff (Conscious Discipline®)

Session Code: S201

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

Everybody must deal with stress in the workplace, some more than others. Negativity can manifest if we choose to judge instead of notice. As leaders, we can significantly create a positive work environment by shifting how we lead. Explore how strategies and concepts within Conscious Discipline® can be applied to our interactions with colleagues by examining how we judge others' intent, turn our perceptions into a response for guidance and help, and access the power of love in our interactions with colleagues and staff.

Presenter: Yvonne Watkins

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Guidance/Discipline

/Challenging Behaviors

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Building Empathy with Name Songs

Featured

Session

Session Code: S203

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:00 PM

In this session, participants will discover why name songs are essential to every early childhood classroom. Research has proven that music and silence are effective means of nurturing social emotional learning and empathy. We will practice using name songs to help all members of a class feel welcome, included, and valued. Take back specific tools and songs to create and maintain an empathetic learning environment where all are welcome. Literacy extensions will also be discussed.

Presenter: Risa Beth Cohen

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Intermediate

Main Topic: Social/Emotional Development

Ohio Approved Credit: 1 Hour

You were chosen for this MISSION:
Rise to the Challenge with
Perseverance and Grit!
(Conscious Discipline®)

Featured

Session

Session Code: S202

Featured

Session

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

In this inspirational session, we'll delve into the critical attributes of grit and perseverance that enable achievement in the face of adversity. We'll discuss the neuroscience behind what fuels passion and sustains persistence over the long haul. Attendees will leave understanding tangibly how to cultivate grit - both individually and collectively within teams - to tackle challenges and accomplish missions with courage and conviction. By examining inspirational examples and applying researchbased strategies, participants will uncover their "why", gain tools to shift mindsets, and tap into the uplifting power of community. This talk brings the science of success to life by revealing how purpose, practice and perseverance unite to expand the realm of possibility.

Presenter: Tanyelle Hannah

Age Focus: PRE, SA

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Guidance/Discipline

/Challenging Behaviors

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours



I/T=Infant/Toddler | K=Kindergarten PRE=Preschool | SA=School-Age

Different is Not Dangerous - A Musical Trip Around the World

Session Code: S204

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM



Using simple songs, stories and games with age appropriate applications and variety for learning styles, this session 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.

Presenter: Joanie Calem

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Back to the Basics

Main Topic: Music

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Ditch the Ditto: Strategies and Ideas to **Promote the Development of Emergent Writing in Preschool** (Part 1)

Session Code: S205

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

For years preschool classrooms have made use of worksheets to teach young children letter formation and basic print concepts. As we have gained more knowledge about children and their development, we now know this method is not only outdated but also inadequate. This session explores the various stages of emergent writing across the developmental continuum, advocates for "free write" activities. and provides concrete evidence as to why worksheets "don't work".

Presenter: Kelly Felice

Age Focus: PRE

Instructional Level: Intermediate Main Topic: Language & Literacy Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Note: This is a multi-part session. In order to receive Ohio Approved credit, you must attend all parts.

Emergent Writing in ECE

Session Code: S206

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:00 PM

This session is 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.

Presenter: Hayley Venturino

Age Focus: T/PRE

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Language & Literacy Ohio Approved Credit: 1 Hour

Fomentando la Resiliencia a través de las Artes en Entornos de Educación de la Niñez

Session Code: S207

Session Time: 1:00 PM-3:00 PM

Los estudios han demostrado que la exposición al trauma puede afectar la capacidad de concentración, autorregulación y comunicación efectiva. Debido a que estas habilidades no están completamente desarrolladas en los niños pequeños. son particularmente vulnerables a los efectos negativos del trauma. Las experiencias artísticas basadas en el juego facilitadas por cuidadores cariñosos y de apoyo brindan a los niños pequeños la oportunidad de desarrollar resiliencia mientras exploran sus ideas y sentimientos en un ambiente seguro. Durante esta capacitación, los participantes serán introducidos a los beneficios del arte en el entorno de la primera infancia para apoyar a los niños que han experimentado un trauma.

Presenters: Margeric Gonzalez, **Marisol Torres**

Age Focus: PRE

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Social/Emotional

Development

Ohio Approved Credit: 2 Hours

Growing Teachers Throughout the Seasons: Healthy Learning **Environments through School Year Garden-Based Education** (Part 1)

Session Code: S208

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

This session engages participants in hands-on activities about three fun and easy growing methods (seed starting, raised beds with season extension, and hydroponics). curriculum integration, and yummy taste testing techniques. The new Growing Teachers Throughout the Seasons (GTS) guide and free online modules walk teachers through indoor and outdoor growing activities. Explore how GTS encourages young children to observe, explore, and discover the world around them, while supporting outcomes across early learning domains and developmentally appropriate practice.

Presenters: Carol Smathers, Ali Segna

Age Focus: T/PRE

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Nature Play & Outdoor Spaces

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

How Brain Development Affects Children's Behaviors

Session Code: S209

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

We are all looking for the magic wand that eliminates challenging behaviors. In this session we will focus on how children's behavior is influenced by the brain. Join us as we explore basic brain anatomy, connections between areas of the brain, and how these connections are expressed through behavior and discuss a few effective strategies for helping children with these difficulties.

Presenter: Michele Tyler

Age Focus: I/T, PRE

Instructional Level: Back to the Basics Main Topic: Cognitive Development Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours



Saturday, April 26 | 1:00 PM

"Let's Play Principal..." (Still Teaching in the 'Key of Life')

Session Code: S210

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

Featured Session

A total participation celebration of simple and effective ways to magically turn your program or school into a loving community of learning. Like a family! This session invites administrators of early childhood programs to share, through active experiences and ideas that turn policies into realities. How do administrators, shape the climate, mission, and spirit of your programs? How do you create life-affirming, loving, safe and joyous environments for our children, staff, families and communities? The responsibility for such a challenge is in your hands (and in your heart). Be ready to move and be moved!

Presenter: Mimi Brodsky Chenfeld

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All

Main Topic: Play

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Music is Play (For the Non-Musician): The Importance of Your Role

Session Code: S211

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

You don't need to be a musician to use music with young children. Music is play and supports children's intellectual, language, physical, emotional and creative development. This session offers practical ideas to capitalize on children's innate musical ability and ways to use short, simple songs to enhance and support learning.

Presenter: Karen Goulandris, Taylor Laski

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All

Main Topic: Music

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Ohio's ASQ Online and Sparkler

Session Code: S212

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

Recently, Ohio launched "Sparkler: Play for Parenting," a free app for families with children birth through five. Sparkler helps families and early care and education providers learn how their children are developing through observation of age-based play activities and through the leading child development screening questionnaires (ASO). Join this session to learn how to become a Sparkler Program Partner. navigate the Sparkler dashboard, and view ASQ summary reports and followup forms for children in your program. You will also learn how to remain in compliance with SUTO requirements associated with developmental screenings and ways Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education programs can use Sparkler.

Presenter: Julie Babcock

Age Focus: I/T, PRE

Instructional Level: Back to the Basics Main Topic: Assessment of Young Children

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Outdoor Learning and Farm to ECE

Session Code: S213

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

This session will explore the many benefits of farm to early care. Discover how to enhance outdoor learning environments, as well as draw connections to the Early Learning Developmental Standards and across other curriculum connections. Participants will also analyze how to use literacy to enhance classroom experiences with the outdoor learning environment and gardening.

Presenters: Heidi Scarpitti, Maria Jirousek

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Back to the Basics
Main Topic: Nature Play & Outdoor Spaces

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours



START YOUR ENGINES! Active Play Sparks Brain Growth & Physical Development

Session Code: S214

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

Ready, Set, Go! Jump start your body and brain as we get moving.
Participate in cooperative group games, dance to the music, and use simple equipment to promote motor skill development, increase physical activity and boost cognition. Discover how the brain works, what affects brain development, and how children learn best.

Presenter: Sharron Krull

Age Focus: PRE

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Physical Development Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

The Empowered Teacher: Creating Calm in the Classroom

Session Code: S215

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

This session will provide theory, techniques and a short yoga practice to demonstrate how mental wellness strategies and yoga can help children and teachers create a calm environment in the classroom.

Participants will explore various yoga tools, calming techniques, and literature to help promote mental wellness for themselves and children in their classrooms and at home.

Presenters: Nancy Secrest, Amy Hamilton

Age Focus: T, PRE, SA Instructional Level: Relevant to All

Main Topic: Health & Mental Health
Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

I/T=Infant/Toddler | K=Kindergarten PRE=Preschool | SA=School-Age

Saturday, April 26 | 1:00 PM + 3:00 PM

Building & Maintaining Your Family Childcare Business in Ohio

Session Code: S216

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

This session invites family child care owners to consider all the many variables of owning and operating a small business. Participants can apply this content immediately to their work by following practical steps, tools, and strategies to register and license their business, setup payroll should they choose to hire an assistant or other staffing, know how to hire and mage employees, create a budget, and develop financial planning, maximize tax incentives, ensure compliance and growth.

Presenters: Stephanie Geneseo, Ashley Wellman

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Back to the Basics

Main Topic: Program Administration, Evaluation

& Financial Management

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

I/T=Infant/Toddler | K=Kindergarten PRE=Preschool | SA=School-Age

We Are All Alike-We Are All Different: Understanding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (Part 1)

Session Code: S217

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

Early childhood is the ideal time to begin to emphasize the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion. As children understand that we are both alike and different they begin to appreciate diversity and develop empathy and compassion. They are able to form healthy relationships as they see the world from different viewpoints which instills respect for others' beliefs, abilities, and practices. Find out what diversity, equity, and inclusion are and begin to support diverse and inclusive teaching practices in your early care and education program.

Presenters: Stephanie Moore, Cheryl Holloway

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Back to the Basics Main Topic: Diversity & Equity Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Note: This is a multi-part session. In order to receive Ohio Approved credit, you must attend all parts.

A Tisket, A Tasket: Teach Literacy in a Basket

Session Code: S301

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

Music, activities and books activate literacy and language learning in many ways. Join this session and discover how utilizing these with infants, toddlers and preschoolers encourages spoken language, dual language learning, receptive language and phonemic awareness.

Presenters: MaryBeth Bush, Dorothy Gray

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Language & Literacy Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Becoming a Play Detective: Six Stages of Play in the Classroom

Session Code: S302

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:00 PM

In this session we will review the 6 stages of play (unoccupied, solitary, onlooker, parallel, associative, and cognitive). Uncover how to identify and support children at each of these stages of play. There will be some time for Q&A, so bring your questions!

Presenter: Kelly Rose

Age Focus: PRE

Instructional Level: Intermediate

Main Topic: Play

Ohio Approved Credit: 1 Hour



Saturday, April 26 | 3:00 PM

Ditch the Ditto: Strategies and Ideas to Promote the Development of Emergent Writing in Preschool (Part 2)

Session Code: S303

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

For years preschool classrooms have made use of worksheets to teach young children letter formation and basic print concepts. As we have gained more knowledge about children and their development, we now know this method is not only outdated but also inadequate. This session explores the various stages of emergent writing across the developmental continuum, advocates for "free write" activities, and provides concrete evidence as to why worksheets "don't work".

Presenter: Kelly Felice

Age Focus: PRE

Instructional Level: Intermediate Main Topic: Language & Literacy Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Note: This is a multi-part session. In order to receive Ohio Approved credit, you must attend all parts.

Exploring Narratives in the 0-3 Space

Session Code: S304

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

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 families by presenting meaningful resources to extend this learning in to the home.

Presenter: Hayley Venturino

Age Focus: I/T

Instructional Level: Back to the Basics Main Topic: Language & Literacy Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Getting Down and Dirty with Potty Mastery: Helping Early Childhood Educators Support Children's Independent Toileting

Session Code: S305

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

Calling all early childhood educators! Are you ready to flush away the confusion around children's toilet learning and transform their potty challenges into potty triumphs? Join this interactive session where you'll learn to navigate the twists and turns of this important developmental milestone. Together we'll explore effective strategies, debunk common myths and share practical tips for creating a supportive and empowering classroom environment that supports children's potty learning. From managing expectations to fostering independence, you'll leave with the tools you need to confidently guide your students on their toilet learning iournev.

Presenter: Joan Morgenstern

Age Focus: I/T, PRE

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Physical Development Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Growing Teachers Throughout the Seasons: Healthy Learning Environments through School Year Garden-Based Education (Part 2)

Session Code: S306

Session Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

This session engages participants in hands-on activities about three fun and easy growing methods (seed starting, raised beds with season extension, and hydroponics), curriculum integration, and yummy taste testing techniques. The new Growing Teachers Throughout the Seasons (GTS) guide and free online modules walk teachers through indoor and outdoor growing activities. Explore how GTS encourages young children to observe, explore, and discover the world around them, while supporting outcomes across early learning domains and developmentally appropriate practice.

Presenters: Carol Smathers, Ali Segna

Age Focus: T/PRE

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Nature Play & Outdoor Spaces

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Note: This is a multi-part session. In order to receive Ohio Approved credit, you must attend all parts.

I/T=Infant/Toddler | K=Kindergarten PRE=Preschool | SA=School-Age



Saturday, April 26 | 3:00 PM

I Need a Break: The Importance of Downtime in Early Childhood Education

Session Code: S307

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

Taking time to relax and refresh is an essential part of being in early childhood education. In this session, participants will discover how to manage their time, prioritize tasks and develop and maintain the discipline needed to take breaks from work. Participants will examine effective time management tools, strategies to plan and complete activities and tasks, and how to practice mindfulness to avoid burn out.

Presenter: LaToya Dixon

Age Focus: I/T, PRE

Instructional Level: Relevant to All

Main Topic: Professionalism, Leadership & Ethics

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

LIONHEARTED Minds: Empowering Holistic Growth & Resilient Development

Session Code: S308

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

This session is designed to deepen participants' understanding of child growth and development, with a focus on resilience, emotional intelligence, and social skills. We will emphasize age-appropriate developmental strategies that educators can apply to help children thrive in supportive, inclusive learning environments. Through interactive learning and evidence-based strategies, attendees will gain insight into developmental milestones, behavioral support techniques, and tools to foster a well-rounded approach to child growth.

Presenter: Tuwan Spencer

Age Focus: PRE

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Social/Emotional Development

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

I/T=Infant/Toddler | K=Kindergarten PRE=Preschool | SA=School-Age

Mindful Communication

Session Code: S309

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:00 PM

The educator is the most important and influential factor in determining a calm, caring, and safe classroom environment. Mindful, non-judgmental language is an effective tool to create a calm climate, strengthen relationships with students, and promote learning. Discover ways to decrease your own stress while simultaneously creating better relationships with the children in your care. What we model in the classroom, and the ways in which we interact with and respond to children will help them form healthy or unhealthy patterns that will remain with them for life.

Presenter: Yunus Brevik

Age Focus: T, PRE

Instructional Level: Relevant to All

Main Topic: Social/Emotional Development

Ohio Approved Credit: 1 Hour



Music in the Early Childhood Classroom: An Interactive Approach and Application

Session Code: S310

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

During this session, we will explore the benefits of music in the early childhood classroom and why children deserve a musically rich childhood. We will explore how we, as early childhood educators, can be intentional in our planning, and find ways to incorporate music into our classrooms. This will be done by participating in singing, dancing, and exploring musical activities and games!

Presenters: René Orozco, Kassie Matamoros

Age Focus: PRE

Instructional Level: Relevant to All

Main Topic: Music

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Peak Professionalism and Peace: Only a TAP Away!

Session Code: S311

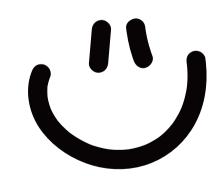
Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

Now more than ever, we need tools to combat stress, anxiety, and burnout while fostering resilience in the workplace. Have you heard of Tapping? This simple, science-backed self-regulation technique helps reduce anxiety, ground emotions, and prevent reactive responses—even in moments of overwhelming stress and trauma. In this interactive session, you'll learn how Tapping promotes personal wellbeing and addresses the impact of personal biases and societal stereotypes that may hinder professional performance. Participants will gain a powerful method to manage their own stress while also equipping children with tools to improve selfregulation and focus, creating a ripple effect of positive change. Whether for self-care or supporting others, Tapping empowers individuals with lifelong skills to thrive in challenging environments.

Presenter: Tijana Coso

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Intermediate Main Topic: Health & Mental Health Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours





Saturday, April 26 | 3:00 PM

Featured

Session

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

Session Code: S312

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

This fun hands-on ASL session will provide participants with powerful concepts and insights on how to use 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 session offers practical information based on research and real life experience.

Presenters: Ken and Georgia Frawley

Age Focus: I/T

Instructional Level: Relevant

to All

Main Topic: Music

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

The Glass is Half Full— Perception of Behavior is a Mindset

Session Code: S314

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:00 PM

Participants will consider how their own mindset or perception is significant when supporting children who exhibit challenging behaviors. Through lecture and discussion, participants will explore temperament, child development, brain-based behavior, and consider their own ability to be composed (or not) when responding to children.

Presenter: Ava Lucky

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Guidance/Discipline

/Challenging Behaviors
Ohio Approved Credit: 1 Hour

Supporting Children Where They Live & Learn: Triple P and PECE

Session Code: S313

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

This session explores the pivotal role adults play in young children's lives, emphasizing the importance of fostering positive relationships and consistent behavior management techniques for kindergarten readiness. Participants will be introduced to Triple P – The Positive Parenting Program and the Positive Early Childhood Education Program (PECE), research-backed initiatives offering collaborative strategies for parents and educators to promote healthy environments and positive behavior in both home and school settings.

Presenter: Lisa Golden

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Guidance/Discipline

/Challenging Behaviors

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours







JOY in the Journey: How to Keep My Heart in it When it's HARD (Conscious Discipline®)

Featured

Session

Session Code: S315

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

Teaching is often described as a calling, not just a career. But even the most dedicated educators can struggle to keep their passion and joy alive in the face of everyday challenges. In this inspirational and empowering session, Principal Tanyelle L. Hannah shares practical strategies to rediscover meaning, purpose, gratitude and joy no matter the obstacles. Attendees will leave feeling re-energized, empowered and equipped with fresh tools to foster their own well-being, meaningful relationships with colleagues and scholars.

Presenter: Tanyelle Hannah

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Relevant to All Main Topic: Guidance/Discipline

/Challenging Behaviors

Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

We Are All Alike-We Are All Different: Understanding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (Part 2)

Session Code: S316

Session Time: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

Find out what diversity, equity, and inclusion are and begin to support diverse and inclusive teaching practices in your early care and education program.

Presenters: Stephanie Moore, Cheryl Holloway

Age Focus: ALL

Instructional Level: Back to the Basics Main Topic: Diversity & Equity Ohio Approved Credit: 1.5 Hours

Note: This is a multi-part session. In order to receive Ohio Approved credit, you must attend all parts.





April 24-26, 2025

www.oaeyc.org/conference





April 23-25, 2026 Kalahari Resort

April 22-24, 2027 Kalahari Resort