

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

Note: Directors, administrators & principals are the target audience for sessions indicated by an asterisk * in the title.

Sessions of Interest for Directors, Administrators & Principals

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

Trauma Informed Care in Early Childhood

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

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

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

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

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

Featured Strand

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

Diversity: It's Not Black and White

Featured Speaker

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

Dual Language Learners: Support Strategies for Birth to 5

Using the Planned Language Approach Model, participants will learn about evidence-based strategies

that support Birth to five dual language learners and debunk myths related to DLL. Participants will acquire and apply new knowledge on how to transfer instructional strategies for Birth to 5 DLL children.

Essential Elements for Successful Inclusion

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

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

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

Sing a Joyful Song: A Community-Building Musical Celebration

Featured Speaker

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

This Child, Each Child Will Grow and Learn

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

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM KEYNOTE

Personal Climate and Culture: The Key to Professional Success

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

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

45 Years of the CDA: Honoring the Past, Treasuring the Present, Shaping the Future

Featured Speaker

This session will highlight the Council for Professional Recognition's new innovations and updates, including the impact of the CDA credential over the last 45 years. Discover the exciting online resources, tutorials and new credentials on the horizon. Learn about best practice stories on how the CDA has supported Ohio early childhood educators, PD specialists, and advocacy organizations to increase quality in early childhood programs across the state.

Advancing Equity in ECE: Words Into Action

Featured Speaker

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

Conscious Discipline®- In Action (Part 1)

Featured Strand

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

DAP- the "Doing and Playing" that Supports Early Learning

Find out how DAP, the tried and true approach for every child in every classroom, stands up to the new standards. In this workshop, you will discover that play is still the foundation that sparks the love for learning and helps children enter school ready to succeed. Discuss strategies used to engage children's thinking, participate in discussion and reflection of DAP experiences.

Essential Elements for Family Conversations

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

Nurturing Nature: How One Preschool Program Shifted Attitudes about Outdoor Education

Featured Strand

In this session participants will explore nature-based education and the elements to look for in a quality nature-based program. We will discuss and share how participants are currently implementing nature-based learning in their classrooms or school program. Come discover how one typical preschool

program has gradually transformed an overgrown area into a functioning outdoor classroom. Take back ideas on how to add more nature-based elements to your classroom or school program.

So, You Want to Be A Director? Practical Tips for Growing Out of The Classroom and Into the Office*

Have you dreamed of becoming a director or administrator? So many directors started as teachers without any formal training in leadership or running a business. If you are ready to take criticism, think like a team, lead adult learners, plumb a toilet (yes, that too), and work harder than you've ever worked before, then this session is for you. Geared towards teachers interested in following their dreams to school leadership, participants will gain an understanding of the director role and define steps to get you to reach your full potential. Wear 1,000 hats and look great doing it!

3:00 PM -4:30 PM

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

Featured Speaker

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

Conscious Discipline®- In Action (Part 2)

Featured Strand

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

Featured Strand

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

Data Driven Coaching: Using Child Assessment to Inform Professional Learning- High Scope®*

Featured Speaker

Ever feel as if your teachers are simply collecting child assessment data because it's a requirement and then promptly forgetting about it until family conference time? This session will explore coaching strategies, techniques, and support systems to be implemented at the classroom level in order to assist teachers in using child assessment to drive instruction. Join us as we uncover ways to demystify data for our teachers and develop coaching plans that are individualized to be the "right-fit" based on their own knowledge and motivation to change. With the goal of increasing child outcomes, this session will focus on how coaches can build capacity within their educators as they partner together to explore best practices within the field of early childhood.

Exploration and Play: Why These Superfoods Should Dominate PK-3 Curricula

Exploration and play are two of education's superfoods, but they are getting squeezed out of classrooms to make time for less-nourishing academic instruction. We'll learn the research and reasons why exploration and play are so beneficial and how to better advocate for making them central to PK-3 curricula.

Retaining Staff through Quality Improvement (NAEYC Accreditation) *

Featured Speaker

Learn how placing more emphasis on developing and supporting staff through quality improvement leads to increased staff morale, greater retention and an overall more positive, energetic work atmosphere. In this session, you will examine the characteristics, competencies

and the types of professional development opportunities that should be included in your Program Professional Development Plan.

3:00 PM -5:00 PM

Exposure to Nature Creates Resiliency!

Featured Strand

In this session, participants will investigate why nature education is integral in early childhood education. Participants will explore their own history with nature and examine their own comfort levels. Together, we will create a continuum of nature usage in the classroom, identify where individuals currently fall on this continuum and where they want to be. Each participant will then create a plan to take back that includes setting a goal, identifying roadblocks, resources and success.

3:00 PM -5:30 PM

What's Your Story and Why is it Important? (Family Care Providers Empowered)

Program directors need opportunities to share ideas and find solutions to today's challenges. Come and meet others who walk 10,000 steps daily in your shoes! We will use our time together to engage in open dialogue to support and inspire each other in providing high quality care in our communities. Bring your business card! Make plans to join us at the conference and return to your programs connected to a Directors' Network from across Ohio. Non-Credit

7:00 PM -8:00 PM KEYNOTE

Music, Movement & Engaging Children

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