

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

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

Sessions of Interest for Directors, Administrators & Principals

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

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

Featured Strand

Want to elevate your voice for young children in Ohio? The families you serve? The early education workforce? Join us for an interactive session to learn how you can advocate for improvements in Ohio's quality early learning system.

Creating A Trauma Sensitive Preschool Environment

In this session attendees will gain an understanding of trauma and the effects on preschool brain development. Learn powerful and impactful activities and skills to assist families in bouncing back from traumatic experiences, events, or effects. Leave with strategies to create a trauma sensitive environment.

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

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

Generation YouTube: How Digital Media Affects the Development of Young Children

With today's digital age, from the young to the old, you'll find someone connected to a digital media device. In this session, participants will dive into a discussion about digital media and the effects on the development of young children. We will discuss several topics such as overexposure to media, the effects of media on the developing brain, and how-to bring awareness to parents.

Laugh the Stress Away

Featured Speaker

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

Team: Create a Healthy One*

Let's talk about teams! How do we create them in early childhood organizations, centers, classrooms, and our own families? This session will investigate the essential aspects of a team and provide guidance to developing healthy teams in your personal and professional lives.

What Can the Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant do for You?

This session will define and describe the value of early childhood mental health consultation and how this supports young children and their families. The session is designed to clarify the essential knowledge, skills, roles, and responsibilities of the mental health consultant. The appropriate audience is for early learning professionals seeking to understand more about Early Childhood Mental Health

Consultation. This training is not intended for those seeking the Early Childhood Mental Health Credential.

Zen & the Art of Early Childhood Education

Featured Speaker

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

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM KEYNOTE

The Power of Optimism

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

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Bouncing Back: How Resilient Are You?

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

Family Engagement: A Five Protective Factor Approach*

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

Looking through the Eyes of Boys

Featured Speaker

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

Mindset Matters: How Mindset Impacts Our Work in Early Education

This session will provide an overview of a fixed versus growth mindset and how our mindsets affect our

work with children and families in early education. Participants will identify characteristics of their own mindsets, identify the differences between mindsets and learn new strategies for using a growth mindset in the early childhood program.

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 -4:30 PM

Bouncing Back: How do you Build Resilience?

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

Early Childhood Professionals: Heroes of Our Time **Featured Speaker**

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

Faster Than a Speeding Bullet: Supporting Superhero Play **Featured Speaker**

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

If Only I Could Work for a Mouse!*

Have you ever wanted to work at the "happiest place on Earth"? Do you wish that your employees could come to work with a smile on their face every day and truly enjoy the work they do daily? Find out how to use the Lessons from a Mouse and what happened within our school community when we implemented the ten lessons learned. Pump up the fun, support each other, and in doing so, support children and families!

The Elephant in the Room: Trauma in the Workplace*

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

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

In this session we will answer the question "what's love got to do with teaching early childhood?" by

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