



The Early Childhood Conference

A Spectacular Virtual Experience

DIRECTOR TRACK

Conference Sessions Just For You!

Thursday, April 22

8:00 am - 9:00 or 9:30 am

Now's the Time!

Moving beyond the stress and challenges of the past year requires educators and leaders to be intentional and focused on all that is possible. This motivational presentation will guide participants in creating a vision focused action plan for effectively managing their time. New strategies and well-researched tools will inspire participants to incorporate new habits, rituals, and daily practices to enhance their well-being and reignite their passion for leading early childhood programs. **Susan MacDonald**

Come on In! How Teachers and Administration Can Build a Community of Kindness and Connection Through Creating Rituals and Traditions

As an author of the book *Rituals and Traditions: Fostering a Sense of Community in Preschool*, this session will look at ways that administrators and lead teachers can create community centered on kindness and develop relationships with children, families and staff by rituals and traditions. Tangible ideas on how to start creating rituals and traditions that are daily, monthly, annual events, special days as well as connecting rituals. Stories and examples will be shared from not only the authors programs, but many others who have discovered the importance of creating rituals and traditions. Attendees will leave with many ideas to use both classroom and program wide that will leave lasting memories for children, families, and staff. As Fred Rogers said, "There are three ways to ultimate success; The first way is to be kind. The second way is to be kind. The third way is to be kind." **Jacky Howell**

Holding Purposeful Conversations: How to Handle Difficult Situations with Respect

A purposeful conversation is an exchange between two or more individuals to find common ground for problem-solving purposes. In this session, participants will be introduced to the concept of holding purposeful conversations using techniques to remain calm and respectful during verbal exchanges. Participants will also learn how Maslow's Hierarchy, non-verbals, and communication styles show up when emotions are left unmonitored. **Debra Severan**

10:00 am - 11:00 or 11:30 am

Your Profession! Your Voice!: A Bold Vision for Our Future!

What if you had all the resources you needed? What if you were respected as an early childhood professional? What if a well-compensated and supported early childhood profession wasn't just a dream? Join **Rhian Evans Allvin**, CEO of the National Association for the Education of Young Children to learn about the bold vision of the "Unifying Framework of Power to the Profession" and opportunities for you to engage in making the recommendations a reality. **Rhian Evans Allvin**

The Elephant in the Room: Trauma in the Workplace

Whether from tragic life events, surviving on a next-to-nothing salary, or inequitable workspaces, many early childhood educators are silently suffering. It doesn't have to be this way! This skills-based session equips participants with the tools to cultivate safe, equitable, trauma-informed workspaces. Greater job satisfaction and lower staff turnover await those who dare to register! **Arianna Howard**

Thursday, April 22

10:00 am - 11:00 or 11:30 am

Self Care- It's More Than an Indulgence

Self-care, we know it's important, but who has time for that? Learn what is self care, why it's important, how to prevent compassion fatigue, and practical strategies for making time for you. **Kaleena Wiseman**

2:30pm - 3:30 or 4:00 pm

Conversations that Matter! Developing Strength-Based Communications Skills to Support Professional Growth

Supporting the continuous professional growth of educators requires leaders to be skilled communicators. When leaders can inspire, motivate, and engage educators through impactful dialogues they will be able to facilitate sustainable improvements in overall program quality. This workshop will guide leaders in developing the skills they need to have effective dialogues that are fully aligned with individual and program goals, lead to action, and offer constructive feedback. We will spend time addressing key communication strategies and techniques as we explore: Appreciative Inquiry (AI) as a collaborative model for leveraging strengths, reflective practices that add depth to professional conversations, observation protocols, adult development theory as it relates to providing constructive feedback and powerful questions as the foundation for meaningful dialogues from the hiring process through the exit interview. The fundamental goal for this session is to support leaders in gaining a new perspective on their communication and leadership practices, so they can leave refreshed and recharged with a clear vision for facilitating positive changes in their daily work and learning communities. **Susan MacDonald**

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. **Brittany Kinstler**

This Could Have Been An Email: How To Create A Staff Meeting Teachers Can't Wait To Attend

When announcing another staff meeting, do you receive cheers of excitement or eye rolls? Learn tips to plan and organize your staff meeting so your adult learners are just as engaged as the children; through hands on activities that get them out of their seats and critically thinking! This session, for center directors and administrators, will require you to move around the room, actively participate, and even get a little silly. You will leave this session with fun new ways to engage your staff and meet learning standards. **Joanna Kelley**

Becoming the Best You — Starting Today

What are your hopes, dreams or aspirations? The person who can achieve them is the best version of you. Not the halfway version of you. Not the one who's living to someone else's expectations. Not the version who gives up when things get challenging. The best you. When you're your best self, you're also the most effective you can be in your role with the children in your organization — whether you're an educator, director or any other role. So how do become your best you? In this engaging, motivating, hands-on presentation, you'll gain a great process and set of tools to use throughout life! We'll create a mini-blueprint with a vision, goal and action steps. We'll focus on WHAT you want to do and WHO you want to be. We'll discover how you trip yourself up — and what to do about it. Along the way, you'll gain "Power Challenges" — useful activities that you can adopt to develop yourself and become a stronger person and leader. The presentation will inspire you to want to do these challenge — so that you can be more effective leading, working and living. So you can become the best version of you, starting today! **Carla Rogg**

8 Financial Strategies for Every Woman

90% of women will manage their finances at some point in their life. Women often have the best of intentions when it comes to managing their wealth, but often put themselves last. That's why every woman should have a plan. **Buddy Farmer**

Friday, April 23

8:00 am - 9:00 or 9:30 am

Building Compassion in Early Childhood Communities

The pandemic has hit everyone in our early childhood communities hard and tested our relationships. Now more than ever, we need to strengthen our skills in understanding the unique perspectives of the children, parents, colleagues, and administrators with whom we work. In this session, we will discuss the brain science of threat and why people respond in difficult ways when they feel vulnerable. We will discuss common situations of vulnerability in our communities and share compassion strategies for supporting others in challenging situations. Finally, we will discover why self-compassion is key to our work. • **Cori Berg**

What are the Top 3 Reasons Early Childhood Teachers Leave the Profession in Ohio?

This session is designed from a qualitative research project to gain perspective on teacher turnover in early childhood educational settings. The session will benefit teachers, administrators, directors, and program coordinators. The session will utilize prompts from current research completed in Ohio on teacher turnover in ECE classrooms and settings. Participants will be engaged through the live chat with brainstorming ideas and leave the training with a new vision for hiring novice teachers and developing individual training programs to meet all new teachers at their level of development and areas of opportunities. **Charlotte Perlaky**

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 1000 hats and look great doing it!

Joanna Kelley

How to Open a Child Care Center in Ohio Without Debt

This session will cover how to open a child care center in Ohio from start to finish without taking out any loans.

Stacy Corll

Self Care Practices for Early Childhood Educators

In this session there will be gentle movements in and with a chair, along with instruction about sitting, standing and lifting which will help teachers to keep their bodies comfortable and working. Breath practices and concentration/meditation practices will be taught to provide help for calming the mind and emotions. You will need to wear pants with bare feet or comfortable flat shoes, and have handy a chair and two beach towels or three bath towels.

Angela LaMonte

10:00 am - 11:00 or 11:30 am

Laying the Groundwork Summit 2021

During this Summit attendees will look at the current state and national policies that directly affect the early childhood profession and the families served. The state budget process and the work of key bipartisan legislative leaders in the Ohio Senate will be discussed. Come discover ways you can become engaged in state policy and advocacy and experience putting learning into action by engaging in a unique virtual advocacy challenge where you will practice elevating your voice through communication platforms with the support of Ohio's leading early childhood advocacy organization, **Groundwork Ohio**. Special presentation will be provided by Rhian Evans from NAEYC.

Laugh The Stress Away

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

• **Joe French**

Friday, April 23

10:00 am - 11:00 or 11:30 am

Working Together for the Benefit of Our Children

This session will provide participants an opportunity to analyze and better understand the value of cultivating empathy for families and children they serve. Techniques to improve communication with families and promote healthy environments that support acceptance over tolerance will be discussed. Leave with an improved ability to understand and share the feelings of another. **Mandy Young**

Five Habits of Highly Effective Early Childhood Leaders

In this session we will discuss the five habits that highly effective early childhood education leaders exhibit that can improve daily operations and practices in an early childhood education business. We will examine the need for a continuous quality improvement plan, constructive versus destructive feedback and completing staff evaluations as a prerequisite for leading high performing teams. **Robert Gundling**

Supporting Your Staff in Challenging Times

Supporting Your Staff in Challenging Times presentation will coach program administrators on how to recognize and discover staff stressors and how, in their role, can help support those staff members with the stressors they are experiencing. This presentation will also coach program administrators on how they can create an environment that alleviates some of the stressors. Administrators will also learn how to acknowledge their own stressors and will be given suggestions and strategies to help themselves with their stressors. **Christine DeSanti**

2:30 pm - 3:30 or 4:00 pm

Gossip Be Gone! The Vital Importance of a Positive Teams

Children thrive in environments where the adults model positive relationships and create communities based on trust and respect. In this workshop, we will examine the impact that toxic stress in a classroom has on young children's brain development and social-emotional skills. We will explore strategies for enhancing your professional skills to help you communicate effectively with your co-workers, as well as techniques to reduce gossip. We will use the NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct as a guide to creating strength-based team relationships and a positive, supportive, respectful environment for children and adults. **Susan MacDonald**

4:00 - 5:00 pm

Ohio Directors' Network with Sherry Roush & Belinda Costin

Saturday April 24

Zen & the Art of Early Childhood Education

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 discusses the foundational components of our work with young children. We will reflect together (via Zoom's Chat feature) on why we choose play, why reflection and intentionality are critical to our 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!

Richard Cohen

Beyond Baby Shark: Embracing Diverse Family Structures

Not every family has Baby Shark, Mommy Shark, and Daddy Shark! In order to be welcoming and supportive of all children in our care, we need to evaluate how we are welcoming and supporting families. Practice ways to evaluate programs and classrooms, and gain resources for making your space safe for all families. **Lydia Bowers**

Saturday, April 24

10:00 am - 10:30 or 11:00 am

Professionalism in Practice: Stress Management

Working with children and families, though rewarding, can be challenging during the best of times. The Covid-19 Pandemic has brought to light, more so than ever before, the importance of stress management and adult resilience for those who are working on the front line with children and staff. In this session, strategies for self-care and building adult resilience will be discussed and participants will leave with a self-care plan to ensure they are able to take care of themselves, while caring for others. **Misty Cole**

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! **Amanda Hedrick**

Reaching Parents in the Age of COVID

Learn to use Zoom as a parent engagement tool. We will review the Zoom platform, hosting tips and tricks, breakout rooms, polls, and more! **Crystal Taylor**

2:30 pm - 3:30 or 4:00 pm

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.

Tricia Streharsky