

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

Note: Infant-Toddler Educators are the target audience for sessions indicated by an asterisk * in the title.

Sessions of Interest for Infant-Toddler Educators

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

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

Featured Strand

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

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

Featured Speaker

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

Conscious Discipline©- The Basics

Featured Strand

Need help with classroom management and teaching children the social-emotional skills they are missing? This is an introduction session on the Conscious Discipline classroom model. Learn the Conscious Discipline Brain State Model and how to become aware of children's' states and reasons behind their behaviors.

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

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

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

Featured Speaker

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

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.

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

Featured Speaker

Using songs, games and dramatized musical stories, participants will actively explore ways to expose children to the beauty and challenge of kind, compassionate communities. Take back resources to build an inclusive classroom where kindness is cool.

Laugh the Stress Away

Featured Speaker

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

Math Around the Room

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

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

Featured Strand

During this hands-on session, participants will explore concepts of 'nature pedagogy' or nature based learning and how to incorporate more nature based activities into the daily curriculum. This session is for early childhood educators interested in incorporating more nature related play and experiences into their program, and especially for programs that have or are hoping to have a nature based outdoor space. Strategies shared apply to children of all ages.

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.

Bunch of Monkeys Featured Speaker

Positive strategies for guiding positive behaviors and dealing with challenging behaviors.

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

Inclusive classrooms require educators to meet an ever-broadening range of instructional, social and emotional needs. 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. Take back hands on tools to help children with special needs integrate into general classrooms and support the other children to become compassionate classmates.

Every Teacher's Best Friend: MUSIC! Featured Speaker

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

Family Engagement: A Five Protective Factor Approach

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

Looking through the Eyes of Boys Featured Speaker

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

PBIS: Easy Ways for Better Days (Supporting Infants & Toddlers)*

This session will discuss evidence-based practices needed to prevent challenging behaviors within infant and toddler settings by creating nurturing and responsive relationships between staff and children,

supportive environments and embedding social supports within classroom routines. Appropriate strategies to manage infant and toddler behaviors such as biting, stealing toys and tantrums will be examined.

Relationships are Key!

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

Risk -Taking Through Play (Toddler through Preschool)

While many adults may be risk-averse, children need to experience and experiment with risk in order to learn about themselves, their peers and the world around them. Think about the role relationships have in providing children with a safe place to take risks. Learn the difference between risk and hazard, and ways to minimize hazards while allowing children the space they need to be risky. Consider ways that children in your preschool setting can take physical risks such as rough-housing, working with tools, and climbing, and what children hear when we say, "Be careful!". Learn to see social risk-taking such as rejection and not-sharing as valuable and healthy learning experiences. Examine ways that children take emotional risks in our presence when they separate from their loved ones or get mad, and ways that we can both help the children through those feelings while letting them know that they and their feelings are acceptable to us. Hint: it's not by saying, "You're okay!" Through anecdotes, videos, and photos, the presenters will share how The School for Young Children in Columbus, the model school for the parenting book by Heather Shumaker, *It's Okay Not to Share*, supports children as they take risks, and supports teachers as they grow to be comfortable with those risks.

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

This fun hands-on ASL workshop 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 workshop offers practical information based on research and real-life experience.

The Psychology Behind Challenging Behaviors (Part 1)

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

3:00 PM -4:30 PM

Bouncing Back: How do you Build Resilience?

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

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

Using simple songs, stories and games with age appropriate applications and variety for learning styles, this workshop provides teachers hands-on tools to help children build friendships and a welcoming community. Participants will take back a collection of songs from around the world that emphasize friendship, compassion, and inclusion of people from different backgrounds. Material presented is applicable for children in preschool and early elementary.

Early Childhood Professionals: Heroes of Our Time Featured Speaker

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

Essential Elements for Supporting Teachers in Play

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

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

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

Incorporating Art into Early Literacy Development

Sydney Gurwitz Clemens said "Art has the role in education of helping children become like themselves instead of more like everyone else." This session will emphasize the importance of art in early literacy instruction as well as provide "make it, take it" projects you can take back and incorporate in your own classrooms. Come ready to participate and share ideas.

Listening and Speaking with Infants*

Through guided conversation, hands-on activities and small group discussion, participants will gain an understanding of the research regarding the importance of listening to infants and speaking with them. The different states of baby alertness will be shared. Together we will role play listening to and conversing with infants and share feedback.

The "Art" of Effective Discipline

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

The Psychology Behind Challenging Behaviors (Part 2)

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

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