

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

Sessions Supporting Children with Special Needs

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.

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.

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.

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

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.

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.

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.

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.

3:00 PM -4:30 PM

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

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.

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.