



Play Sessions

The Ohio Early Childhood Conference | April 23-25, 2026 | Kalahari Resort | Sandusky, OH

Thursday, April 23, 2026

8:30 am – 10:00 am

Exploring Nature-Based Programs Around the World

Kathleen Bryan, Program Coordinator - ECE Birth – 5, University of Cincinnati

8:30 am – 9:30 am

Want Them to Learn? Then Let Them MOVE!

Laurie Gombash, Physical Therapist, Laurie's Empty Nest, LLC

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Rethinking Play

Kisa Marx, Founder & Care Provider, The Play Lab Foundation

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Scrambled Eggs & Icebergs! Physical Activity That Promotes Self-Regulation

Sharron Krull, Early Childhood Consultant/Trainer, Play Power/Discount School Supply

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

The Power of Play — Living Your Why, Building Brains, and Bringing Joy

Dani Svantner & Wendy Turcott, Trainers, The Play Coaches

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Teaching with a BANG!

Malori McCloskey, Director of Provider Services & Paige Pray, Quality Enhancement Specialist, Child Care Resource Center

BONUS

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

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

Mimi Brodsky Chenfeld, Early Childhood Educator, Consultant & Advocate

Friday, April 24, 2026

8:30 am – 10:00 am

Mud Kitchens: Why You Need One and How to Make One

Emily Benjamin, Administrator, Chickadee Preschool

8:30 am – 10:00 am

Start Your Engines! Active Play Sparks Brain Growth and Physical Development

Sharron Krull, Early Childhood Consultant/Trainer, Play Power/Discount School Supply

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

From Pebbles to Potential, Inspiring Early Learners through Loose Parts Play

Jamie Taylor, Director & Stacey Reed, Assistant Director, Friendship Child Center

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Process over Product Art: Creative Expression for Regulation, Release, and Joy

Dani Svantner & Wendy Turcott, Trainers, The Play Coaches

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

The Toddler Challenge: The Joys and Struggles of Toddlerhood

Karen Crockett, Teacher/Coach & Anne McGlamery, Teacher, Nationwide Children's Hospital Child Care Program

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Creativity and Joy in Teaching: How to Spark the Joy in Teaching!

Dr. Kathleen Harris, Dean, School of Education & Applied Social Sciences, Seton Hill University

BONUS

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Taming the Tiger — Understanding and Nurturing Big Emotions

Dani Svantner & Wendy Turcott, Trainers, The Play Coaches

Saturday, April 25, 2026

8:00 am – 10:00 am

GIGGLES & WIGGLES! It's Circle Time

Sharron Krull, Early Childhood Consultant/Trainer, Play Power/Discount School Supply

8:30 am – 9:30 am

Inspiring Creativity and Creative Play in Early Childhood Classrooms

Michelle Salcedo, Director of Professional Development, Teaching Strategies LLC

8:00 am – 10:00 am

Influencing Our Future: Early Learning Activities for Preschoolers

LaToya Dixon, Owner, First Fruits Child Care Limited

8:30 am - 10:00 am

Nature Play with Fairy Gardens

Dr. Kathleen Harris, Dean, School of Education & Applied Social Sciences, Seton Hill University

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

How to Talk to Infants & Toddlers While They Play: Language that Fosters Connection, Confidence and Creativity

Cara Tyrrell, ECE Consultant & Parent Educator, Core4Parenting

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Wonderful Play! Using Music to Support Early Childhood Development (Part 1)

Mr. Jeff Klemm, Musician/Educator Jeff Klemm Music LLC

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

"Let's Play Principal..." (Still Teaching in the 'Key of Life')

Mimi Brodsky Chenfeld, Queen of Fun

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Purposeful Play in Early Childhood Education

Debby Spitzer, Educational Consultant, Debby Spitzer Consultants

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Beyond Worksheets: Embracing Play and Natural Curiosity to Document Organic Learning in Early Childhood

Kaitlyn Pecherkiewicz, Lead Pre-K Teacher & Lesley Perlberg, Lead Teacher, Play and Prep Preschool

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Wonderful Play! Using Music to Support Early Childhood Development (Part 2)

Mr. Jeff Klemm, Musician/Educator, Jeff Klemm Music LLC

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Pebbles and Prose: The Storytelling Power of Loose Parts

Elizabeth Fields, Director of Curriculum & Professional Learning, Learning Beyond Paper, Inc.