

Thursday, March 2, 2023

7:30-8:30 a.m.

Addressing the Aftermath of the COVID Pandemic for Young Teachers, Young Children, and their Families.

Presenter(s): Julie Parker

Room: Meeting Room 2

Recognizing that traumatic experiences are linked to behavioral and developmental outcomes, the education professional can create a trauma informed environment, thus preventing instructional practices that further traumatize the child and family. Trauma-informed practice involves a systemic understanding of the impact of traumatic stress and common reactions to trauma as demonstrated by young children with and without disabilities (Ko, et al., 2008). Education professionals should understand how trauma can affect the responses of preschool and early school age children and their families and the impact trauma may have on interventions and instructional strategies.

Celebrating Diversity through Literature -Read Aloud

Presenter: Crystal Campbell

Room: Meeting Room 4

SECA Conversation for Change recommended session

Participants will explore rich literature that celebrates Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. This session will also share why read alouds are so important for building vocabulary and comprehension skills.

STEM, STEAM and 21st Century Block Play

Presenter(s): Jeff Whittaker

Room: Meeting Room 7

This is also a virtual session and will be live streamed for virtual attendees

A properly designed block center provides key skill development opportunities such as; creativity, communication, critical thinking and collaboration. It also provides a platform for social development, physical development, STEM, STEAM, and creative expression. In this hands-on workshop participants will learn how various block play materials including magnetic building systems are playing a key role in changing the way we think about block play in the 21st century preschool classroom.

Tell it Once...Tell it Again

Presenter: Judy Whitesell

Room: Meeting Room 8

Read-alouds and storytelling are excellent avenues to promoting and encouraging young children's language development and comprehension skills. Come join us as we prime our skills to enhance opportunities for young children.

8:45-10:45 a.m.

Reducing Teacher Burnout: Social Emotional Learning

Presenter(s): Tracy Weston

Room: Meeting Room 3

"Social emotional learning (SEL) is a methodology that helps teachers and students to better comprehend their emotions, to feel those emotions fully, and demonstrate empathy for others. These learned behaviors are then used to help individuals make positive, responsible decisions; create frameworks to achieve their goals, and build positive relationships with others. This workshop will give participants an opportunity to learn the affects of SEL and how it can help in hiring and retaining staff. SEL is beneficial to adults, increasing self-awareness, relationship building among colleagues, and positive behaviors both in and out of the classroom. On a more individual level, the skills learned within an SEL program have been shown to help individuals better cope with emotional stress, solve problems, and avoid burnout which can lead to stressful and harmful behaviors.

"Got Conflict? Let's Create a Solution!"

Presenter(s): Amy Eddy, Jeri Lynne Knight, Terri Teters

Room: Meeting Room 4

Do you feel like you're drowning in conflict? Has it disrupted your work environment? Join us as we identify underlying issues, explore solutions, and practice creating/implementing new policies and procedures.

This session will address the fast growing homeless population in the United States which is children under the age of 6. Early Childhood Educators are in a unique position to work with these families. We will discuss how to identify and support these families in the classroom. Participants will learn more about what homelessness looks like and learn strategies to help identify children and families who may be facing homelessness. Participants will gain an understanding of how to support families in the classroom during unfortunate times.

11:00-12:00 p.m.

What's the Big Idea in Counting?

Presenter(s): Sherry Howard

Room: Meeting Room 3

This session is based on Doug Clements research that states that mathematics is a highly sequential domain in which certain ideas and skills must be learned before others. Teachers who understand the developmental progressions for each major topic of mathematics and sequence activities based on them are far more effective and efficient. This session will look at the developmental continuum of counting and practice using hands-on activities for teachers to take back to their classrooms.

Children and families are increasingly diverse. Cultural migration to America continues to be something many communities are adjusting to. In Child Care and Early Education, this diversity is seen in our classrooms everyday.

Advantages of Joining a Professional Early Childhood Association like SECA

SECA Fossils, Board & Members

Room: Meeting Room 7

This session will present all the reasons one should join SECA. You will hear it directly from SECA members who are excited to share their experiences. Come join like-minded people to build connections

Creating Anti-Racist Early Childhood Programs

Presenter(s): Alyssa Dituro

Room: Meeting Room 8

SECA Conversation for Change recommended session

As our world continues to change, those who work with the youngest and most impressionable population must make every effort to move towards a more equitable and just world. Join us as we discuss early childhood education's history and the disparities many of our children face. Participants will have thought-provoking conversations on how to be a changemaker in their community and for the BIPOC children in their life.

1:00-2:00 p.m.

Supporting Children Impacted by Immigration Detention and Deportation

Presenter(s): Milagros Lozano

Room: Meeting Room 3

SECA Conversation for Change recommended session

Children's parents' deportation and its negative effects are not unfounded. Children and their families have witnessed arrests and the sudden separation from their parent or a loved one due to ICE raids and immigration deportation. This session relates to the trauma of parent-child separation as it relates to the United States Immigration Customs Enforcement, its impact on child development stages, and how to support children and their families.

The Intersection of Education & Poverty: Strategies Reaching All Learners

Presenter(s): Stephanie Watts, Pamela Randall

Room: Meeting Room 4

This session will briefly review the most current research on poverty and how it affects children, ages birth to age 10, in a variety of early childhood settings. Research-based instructional strategies will be presented and discussed in order to provide early childhood educators with the most effective tools in reaching ALL learners while also keeping poverty in mind.

Restructuring Administrative Roles & Responsibilities

Presenter(s): Amy Kay

Room: Meeting Room 7

This is also a virtual session and will be live streamed for virtual attendees

In this session, you will hear about challenges, struggles, and brainstorming that resulted in a more clearly defined administrative structure for one childcare facility. This could be just what is needed if you are ready to reimagine and even redesign your current administrative roles and responsibilities and have at least one administrator working alongside you. Come with an open mind and ready to hear others experiences and work on coming up with creative solutions together.

Self-Directed Learning for Early Childhood Educator Staff

Presenter(s): Rebecca Aslinger

Room: Meeting Room 8

Andragogy is the study of Adult Learning. Children are not the only ones learning in the classroom. During times of disruption, like COVID-19, adults continue to learn and better their practice. In this session you will learn how and also ways to improve your own self-directed learning. Directors will learn ways to support their staff to be life long learners.

2:15-4:15 p.m.

Supporting Executive Function Development through Play in the Early Childhood Classroom

Presenter(s): Anil Karim, Amna Khalid

Room: Meeting Room 3

Early learning programs that intentionally support the development of executive function skills in addition to supporting cognitive development provide the best environment for long-term development and academic learning. Promoting executive function skills within early education is key to building resilience and reducing the substantial opportunity gaps that separate disadvantaged children from their more advantaged peers.

Playing with STEM: Teaching Strategies for Thinking Like an Engineer with Preschoolers

Presenter(s): Amy Berens

Room: Meeting Room 4

Come play with STEM and learn how play-based investigations with science, technology, engineering, and math help children become resilient problem-solvers using the Engineering Design Process.

Powerful Play...for Teachers

Presenter(s): Kathy Young

Room: Meeting Room 7

This is also a virtual session and will be live streamed for virtual attendees

Do you feel tired, irritable, or have no energy by the end of the day? Do you wonder how long you can continue with the work that you do for children? If these questions bother you, or you often find yourself staring out the window longing to be at the beach, this session is for you! This lively session is based on research which shows that being playful ourselves can help to relieve the effects of stress and burnout. We know how good play can be for children. Come find your own fun and learn what play can do for you!

4:30-5:30 p.m.

Translanguaging-Providing a Microphone to the Silenced Voice in Kindergarten Seminar

Presenter(s): Julie Stensland

Room: Meeting Room 2

How do you feel when someone is speaking another language that you do not understand? As a teacher, that can be very challenging with multilingual students. But we want to offer a solution. Forget translation and embrace translanguaging! We embrace heritage language at our Paideia School for

Creative Thinking and we want to share how easy it is to step right into a world that encourages multilingual voices to question, clarify and understand content through reading, writing, speaking and listening. Our goal in this session is to share what we have learned about the benefits of translanguaging with our kindergarten students this year in our content seminars, our schoolwide monthly seminars, during our workshop time and centers. We celebrate language and our multilingual students use their voice in a supportive environment. This session will be full of ideas you can take back to your own classrooms and try out with your students.

Children's Literature as the Pathway to Resilience

Presenter(s): Marla Pankratz

Room: Meeting Room 4

This session will be full of hands-on, interactive activities allowing participants to engage in the activities. Join us for a humorous, heart-warming presentation full of hands-on experiences to support joyful learning. Early childhood professionals must guide children as they acquire and apply knowledge, skills, and attitudes of resilience. Children's literature provides an engaging vehicle for jump-starting the learning experiences.

SECA Annual Business Meeting

Room: Meeting Room 7

Each year at our annual conference we offer an opportunity to meet with Affiliate presidents, their board members, representatives to SECA, SECA Officers, president-elect, staff and members in good standing. This year we will provide an opportunity for members to join us virtually during our Annual Business Meeting Zoom call on Thursday, March 2nd at 4:30 PM EST/5:30 CST . The Zoom link will be sent out to all current members and you will be asked to register for this meeting. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to continue to serve you.

The Power of Play: Supporting All Types of Play

Presenter(s): Gwen Robertson

Room: Meeting Room 8

"The Power of Play - Supporting all types of play" is a session that reflects on using observations to meet the play needs of the child. There are 16 varieties of play styles for teachers to become familiar with. Teachers should be prepared to support different types of play, individually, at the same time, or as they flow from one to another play style and back again. This session intends to challenge teacher's way of thinking and encourage them to critically reflect on their practice, the types of play in their current program, and how they can extend the children's play further. Play is a child's way of learning so let's improve the way we support play.

Friday, March 3, 2023

7:30-8:30 a.m.

Advocating for Family Child Care: Addressing the Child Care Desert

Presenter(s): Karen Thompson

Room: Meeting Room 2

Have you ever considered owning your own family child care home? Considered being an entrepreneur? Desired to learn how to advocate about the need for quality early care and education in your community? Then this is the session for you! We will be discussing how the recent pandemic demonstrated that many parts of the country are experiencing a child care desert, and how local family child care, with the accompanying lower ratios and home setting, is a great fit for many families, while providing high quality care and education. Strategies for partnering with other early childhood programs and settings such as wrap around care or infants and toddler care will be shared.

Using Sign Language as an Effective Tool for Behavior Management

Presenter(s): Dina Treff, Lillie Watson, Laura Durham

Room: Meeting Room 3

Behavior management in the Preschool Classroom often requires a variety of methods and strategies. As we learned and implemented the use of ASL in our classroom to communicate with a child with hearing loss, we also noticed that we could use ASL to communicate with children in a "silent" way to modify or proactively address their behavior.

Intentional Play

Presenter(s): Kathy Banks

Room: Meeting Room 4

Intentionally planning, documenting and supporting play to reflect, build resilience and create a pathway to the future for young children. This session provides a road map to teacher success. Outlining intentional teaching and play instruction in a whole new way, this session eases the anxiety and stress of planning an environment and schedule for early toddlers and preschoolers.

Strategies for Improving Social, Communication, and Behavioral Skills for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder in Early Childhood Education

Presenter(s): Kathryn Gentry

Room: Meeting Room 7

This is also a virtual session and will be live streamed for virtual attendees

Around 1.9% of children in the United States have autism spectrum disorder (ADS), which can impair their social, communication, and behavioral skills (Center for Disease Control, 2020). No cure for autism spectrum disorder (ADS) exists. This conference session will identify and describe strategies, such as redirecting, assimilating interests, visual cues, and predictable routines educators can implement to promote a stable environment in which children with autism spectrum disorder (ADS) can lead happy, safe, and successful lives.

IECMH and the Early Childhood Leader: A Necessary Partnership

Presenter(s): Beth Huber

Room: Meeting Room 8

Research continually show us the that early years are critical for brain development. Healthy, stable and secure relationships are necessary for optimal development to occur. The world continues to reel from the recent pandemic, and the resulting stress has had undue impact on relationships. Presenters Beth Huber and Alyssa Dituro believe that it is beneficial for the leaders of early childhood programs to promote the necessity of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) education. Understanding

IECMH and relational care can help leaders support the professionals and families, which in turn will benefit the children. Several SECA states have AIMH's (Association of Infant Mental Health organizations) that provide training, resources and mental health endorsement opportunities. Beth currently works for AIMHiTN and is a former childcare director. Alyssa serves as the Executive Director of the McNeilly Center for Children in Nashville. They have a shared vision of supporting leaders through the endorsement journey. Join Beth and Alyssa as they share their passion for IECMH and endorsement.

Monitoring for Understanding

Presenter(s): Sandra Hutson

Room: Meeting Room 9

Comprehension strategies are conscious plans — sets of steps that good readers and listeners use to make sense of text. Comprehension strategy instruction helps students become purposeful, active readers and listeners who can use strategies to monitor understanding. These strategies have research-based evidence for improving text comprehension. Reading comprehension is now thought to be a process that is interactive, strategic, and adaptable for each reader. Reading comprehension is not learned immediately, it is a process that is learned over time. In other words, monitoring understanding takes practice.

The T in TEAM...

Presenter(s): Judy Prine, Gena Puckett

Room: Meeting Room 10

Building a team together. Together we can build a TEAM through activity, philosophy and fun.

Reimagining Ca

mpus-Based Child Care Administration in Response to COVID-19

Presenter(s): Susan Clark, Crystal Rutland

Room: Meeting Room 11

In light of America's campus-based child care and general child care crises, the proposed session will explore one campus-based childcare center's experience in re-envisioning their administrative structure and mission in response to the COVID-19 pandemic amidst chronic staffing shortages. A review of administrative structures common for campus-based childcare will serve as the foundation for the discussion of how other centers, both campus-based and private facilities, may engage with a similar process. Inventories to assess staff strengths and interests will be explored, as well as funding streams that might support similar processes across other centers. Staff buy-in and collaboration will be reviewed as key points for success. In hearing of one center's experience in dramatically shifting its administrative structure to align in an increasingly focused way on its historical mission, participants will be motivated to re-envision their own leadership roles and practices to maximize staff recruitment, retention, and wellbeing, all of which promote the health and longevity of child care as a profession and essential service for America's workforce.

Outdoor Play: Creating an Outdoor Learning Environment on a "Shoe-String" Budget

Presenter(s): Kelly Carmody, Mary Hannah Mills, Dr. Louise E. Davis

Room: Meeting Room 16

Play is essential for children's growth and development. Outdoor play offers children freedom to explore, use their senses, and promote physical development. When creating outdoor play spaces for young children, cost can often be a barrier. Outdoor Play: Creating an Outdoor Learning Environment on a "Shoe-String" Budget will introduce ways to create developmentally appropriate learning experiences on a "shoe-string" budget. Attendees will learn how to recycle and upcycle materials to create and promote outdoor learning.

Diving Deep into the Equity Issues

Presenter(s): Jennifer Neitzel

Room: Meeting Room 17

Sponsored by [TECTA Leadership Team/ Advisors](#)

[SECA Conversation for Change](#) recommended session

The focus of this session will be to provide a background about current equity-related issues in early childhood. Administrators will also be provided with strategies for supporting teachers as they begin to implement strategies designed to address racial inequities within early learning programs.

11:30-12:30 p.m.

What's The Big Idea Sorting and Patterning

Presenter(s): Jennifer Cluley

Room: Meeting Room 2

Research shows that teachers often do not understand the importance of building a solid Math foundation in preschoolers. Mathematics is a highly sequential domain in which certain ideas and skills must be learned before others. Teachers who understand the developmental progressions for each major topic of mathematics and sequence activities based on them are far more effective and efficient. Participants will think about the Math developmental continuum as the big idea around sorting and patterning is discussed to understand the needs of their individual children. Each activity can be adapted based on children's skill level.

Today I Think I'll T.E.A.C.H

Presenter(s): Dr. Kim Johnson

Room: Meeting Room 3

This interactive workshop will talk about the importance of balancing our teaching and learning processes. Through a creative approach toward literacy, we can begin to teach our children to appreciate challenges and love to learn. This workshop will show how talking positive can lead to cognitive and creative strength that can ultimately foster more focused literacy based success in the setting.

DO COVID Babies Talk Less?

Presenter(s): Colleen Haddad

Room: Meeting Room 4

Over the past decade, peer-reviewed research studies have linked conversational turns to improved socioemotional development, executive functioning, reading skill, and brain development. The greater the quantity of turns, the better the child outcomes. However, independent studies from researchers at

LENA and at Brown University have arrived at remarkably similar and stark findings: Babies born during the COVID-19 pandemic are vocalizing less and experiencing less interactive talk with adults than their pre-pandemic peers, suggesting they may be at greater risk of experiencing language delays. In this session, we will explore the latest early talk research, concrete strategies for increasing interactions, and how to use interactive talk to build positive adult-child relationships.

Building a Foundation for Faith through Five Biblical Experiences

Presenter(s): Karan Marshall

Room: Meeting Room 7

This is also a virtual session and will be live streamed for virtual attendees

Faith-based programs have many approaches and sometimes those programs have concerns about what kind of curriculum to use. In this session, a developmentally appropriate approach call Biblical Experiences will be explored as a framework for faith-based curriculums.

The CDA Credential: A Viable Program for Career Pathways

Presenter(s): Sandra Kowalchek

Room: Meeting Room 8

In this session, you will learn the process & benefits for administrators, directors, teachers and others seeking to utilize the Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential as a career pathway for high school students. You will explore the benefits for administrators, faculty and students; learn about the CDA assessment and credentialing process, and tips for success! Information will also be shared about new Council initiatives, such as the Council's Child Development Associate (CDA) Handbook for High School: A Guide to Advocacy and Implementation -- that includes planning/design tools, resources, and instruction to create a sustainable High School CTE/CDA program; and, the Council's new CTE/CDA technical assistance initiative. The CDA is the most widely recognized credential in early childhood education. Earning a CDA while in high school jump-starts successful careers and channels faculty expertise!

Share your Knowledge with Dimensions: Calling Authors and Reviewers.

Presenter(s): Wilma Robles de Melendez, Editor, Ph.D. and members of the Editorial Committee

Room: Meeting Room 9

If you are an author and would like to publish with *Dimensions*, come and join this session. This session also provides details for those interested in serving as reviewers for *Dimensions*. Join us!

Self Care: What is Clogging Your Drain

Presenter(s): Mary Braxton

Room: Meeting Room 10

Early childhood educators nurture others all day long and often aren't able to take time to reflect on ways to nurture themselves and create moments of balance. In this workshop, we will discuss ways to look at what is creating your drain and methods to put into place to assist with your own personal overall health. This includes much more than deep breathing and bubble baths. Early education stress, burnout, and mental health are all part of your individual resiliency.

Leading During Ambiguity: Taking Care of You

Presenter(s): Jane Humphries

Room: Meeting Room 11

This session will assist early childhood leaders as they reel from the changing landscape of the pandemic and its impact on the program, children, families—and their own mental health. It is the purpose of this presentation to assist participants with skills and supports that strengthen not only themselves but the relationships that they have when working with staff, young children and their families, as they care for them each day

SECA Conversations for Change

Presenter(s): Brigitte Willis, Judy Whitesell

Room: Meeting Room 16

Join us to engage in meaningful, rich, non-judgmental, safe conversations in an attempt to grow individually and to explore how we can use our platforms to ensure all children and families receive the respect and acceptance they deserve regardless of skin color. We will hear personal stories from a panel of diverse perspectives that have begun the path to changing perceptions regarding anti-racists beliefs. We will share some valuable resources and plant ideas for you to use with the children you teach.

Employee Interview : How to Craft Interview Experiences That Align With Your Vision and Values

Presenter(s): Beth Cannon of Beth Cannon Speaks

Room: Meeting Room 17

[Sponsored by TECTA Leadership Team/ Advisors](#)

It's still critical that you carefully select the right candidates, know how to screen before the interview, ask the right questions, look for clues in answers and body language, and select a team who will be quality, focused team players.

Learn how you set the stage for a great long-term relationship with employees who share your mission

2:30-4:30 p.m.

Managing Multiple Priorities for Early Childhood Professionals

Presenter(s): Kit SaizdeLaMora

Room: Meeting Room 2

In this session participants will identify daily activities that are demanding too much attention, explore common misconceptions of time, examine personal characteristics of time use, and develop personal strategies for effective prioritizing.

Anyone Know Children with Challenging Behavior

Presenter(s): Kathy Ennis

Room: Meeting Room 3

Consistency in practice and realistic expectations for a child is the key to success in approaching behavior challenges. We will talk about the stages of play, developmentally appropriate stages and ideas to use in the classroom as well as the home so teachers and parents can be partners working together for the well-being of the child.

Building Quality With The Power of Reflection and Inquiry

Presenter(s): Bonnie Darlene Faucette

Room: Meeting Room 4

This session will help teachers of all age groups learn how to include reflective practices and inquiry-based teaching practices to enhance teaching practices. By doing this the teachers will be able to build quality in classrooms that will in turn increase classroom scores on assessments. Change does not happen overnight. It is built through classroom practices and teaching skills to increase learning through play. This session will empower those that work with children to reflect and use inquiry systems to help all children in the classroom and meet their developmental needs. This session will provide hands-on experiences to build inquiry skills and leave with skills that can be applied in the classroom.

Literacy Activities to Encourage Friendships and Relationships in Early Education

Presenter(s): Connie Stout O'Dell

Room: Meeting Room 7

This is also a virtual session and will be live streamed for virtual attendees

In our conference session, Literacy Activities to Encourage Friendships and Relationships in Early Education, our Glenville State University Early Education Student Group, as well as its faculty advisors, will share a variety of hands on learning activities to enhance and encourage young children's development of healthy friendships and relationships. Connections to children's literature will be shared. The presenters will share activities for connecting children's literature to strengthen friendships and relationships including prosocial skills, playing and working together, and relationship building and resilience. Family engagement activities will also be shared. Activities will be interactive and developmentally appropriate for preschool and kindergarten aged children. Handouts will be available. The content will be developed under the close guidance, collaboration and support of the college student group's advisors and a public school partner teacher.

TEAM - Creating a TEAM Environment through Leadership

Presenter(s): Judy Prine, Gena Puckett, Laura Harry, Jo Carroll

Room: Meeting Room 8

Creating a TEAM environment through leadership. Presenters will provide attendees with some techniques through activities to enhance a TEAM environment.

Resilience, Reflections, and Pathways for the Future in Early Childhood- Panel with Authors of Dimensions 2023 Special Issue

Presenter(s): Wilma Robles de Melendez, Editor, Ph.D. and members of the Editorial Committee

Room: Meeting Room 9

In this panel, authors of the articles in *Dimensions'* 2023 special issue share their views about the implications of resilience in programs serving young children and their families. The discussion will engage participants to share their ideas and to learn more about *Dimensions*.

Lights, Camera, Action! How to Integrate the Performing Arts into Your Early Childhood Classroom

Presenter(s): Shana Milligan

Room: Meeting Room 11

This session will be interactive and carefree while informative as teachers learn to incorporate the performing arts in the classroom. Teachers will leave with more breadth of fun ideas and activities to use successfully with young children.

Beyond Ever After -- Building Connections Through Picture Books & STEAM Learning

Presenter(s): Diane Schnoor

Room: Meeting Room 16

Beyond Ever After! Learn how to build connections between multicultural fractured fairy and folk tales, authentic STEAM experiences, and the curriculum using materials you already have in your early childhood or elementary setting. You'll explore strategies to get your students fully engaged and wanting to learn more; and walk away with a new perspective on traditional stories and their fractured cousins, as well as strategies and ideas guaranteed to awaken your sense of wonder and to help you immediately build science and STEAM connections in your early childhood, elementary, or library setting. Learn how to connect science and math to literacy, oral communication, gross motor skills, and dramatic and artistic play.

2:30-3:30 p.m.

Caring for Me is Caring for You - Supporting Staff Wellbeing

Presenter(s): Becky Haas

Room: Meeting Room 17

Sponsored by [TECTA Leadership Team/ Advisors](#)

As frontline service providers, early childhood educators support children and families who have experienced or are experiencing trauma of some kind. As a result, these professionals often experience compassion fatigue and secondary trauma. In this session, we will define compassion fatigue, and secondary trauma and provide tips to early childhood educators and managers to practice better self-care and support staff to reduce the effects of on-the-job exposure to trauma.

3:30-4:30 p.m.

Creating Trauma-Informed, Resilient-Focused Early Childhood Education

Presenter(s): Becky Haas

Room: Meeting Room 17

Sponsored by [TECTA Leadership Team/ Advisors](#)

Early childhood educators understand that a child's life outside of the classroom matters. Becoming a trauma-informed, resilient-focused early childhood program is not about knowing the stories of a child's hardship but rather equipping professionals to deal with the lingering effects of trauma and help children not only heal but to flourish in classroom settings.

Saturday, March 4, 2023

8:00-9:00 a.m.

Showing What they Know: Authentic Assessment of Young Dual Language Learners through Play

Presenter(s): Douglas Bell

Room: Meeting Room 2

Come have fun learning to use developmentally appropriate assessment for young dual language learners toddler through preschool aged. We will explore a play based approach to assessment that can be used in your classrooms right away with the materials you already have. Use play to determine the development levels, concepts and skills learned, and language proficiency of all young children (including those who are linguistically and culturally diverse). We will use hands on practice in the session so you can implement the strategies when you get back to your program.

Executive Function Development in Early Childhood: Results from an Executive Function- Focused Program in Preschool

Presenter(s): Amber Brown, Anil Karim

Room: Meeting Room 3

Executive function skills do not develop automatically in children without opportunity for practice. Early learning programs that intentionally support the development of executive function skills in addition to supporting cognitive development provide the best environment for long-term development and academic learning. Promoting executive function skills within early education is key to reducing the substantial gaps in school readiness and later achievement that separate disadvantaged children from their more advantaged peers. This presentation will give teachers, staff, directors, and administrators an overview of the importance of executive function development in young children and review the impact an executive-function focused classroom-based intervention. In addition, this session will examine the results of a study whose purpose was to evaluate the impact of an executive function-focused early education program on the executive functions and student achievement of young children.

Outsmart the Wiggles: Big Body Play for Learning Success

Presenter(s): Preston Blackburn

Room: Meeting Room 4

When kids wiggle, act distracted, and can't control their bodies, it is hard for them to focus and learn. More often than not, however, it is movement, in the form of big body physical play, that helps kids sit still and attend. Through play and physical activity, kids learn self-regulation and self-control as well as how to control their bodies so when it is time to sit in school, at their desk, in circle time, or transition smoothly they can. And when we give kids the chance to build all kinds of strengths and skills through physical play, they build confidence in what they can do on the playground, in the classroom, and in life.

Building Pathways for the Future: Family Literacy as a Tool to Combat Poverty

Presenter(s): Michelle Brunson

Room: Meeting Room 7

This is also a virtual session and will be live streamed for virtual attendees

This session describes our experience implementing family literacy events in multiple rural settings across our state targeting families living in poverty in order to increase their access to literacy materials and provide parent education for facilitating early literacy skills at home.

Here's One for the Books: Bookmaking in the PreK Classroom

Presenter(s): Davida Price, Dona Pitts

Room: Meeting Room 8

In this session participants will learn the value of bookmaking in the PreK classroom. Making books helps to increase student engagements. Kids love hands on learning too. If bookmaking is new to you then we recommend you come join us and learn to make their words come alive!

Maximizing Your Playground Real Estate for Resilience and Pathways to the Future

Presenter(s): Nancy Alexander

Room: Meeting Room 9

We know that outdoor time supports physical development. Find out how you can support children's skills and abilities in domains other than just physical.

The Intermingled Curriculum

Presenter(s): Janet Chambers

Room: Meeting Room 10

Does your curriculum need a sparkly spring clean? Learn how to set up a customized, high quality, developmentally appropriate, successful curriculum from scratch, re-energize an existing curriculum with more meaning and efficiency, or take specific elements presented, such as literacy, and adapt just that track.

This session will help you plan and implement an engaging curriculum to achieve meaningful goals. The multi sensory nature of the activities and the way they are presented in the Intermingled Curriculum is directly planned to embrace the wide variety of abilities, languages and attitudes teachers will find in their classroom. Each child has the opportunity to enjoy activities custom built to their stage of development and incorporate their interests. Meaningful experiences along with a mix of self directed play, guided play, and direct instruction help individual children learn happily and socialize.

Exploring Your Emotions and Social Development

Presenter(s): Crystal Campbell

Room: Meeting Room 11

Participants will list ways to incorporate the Emotional /Social Standards into the early childhood classroom and create an environment for social competency to grow.

Accreditation 101

Presenter(s): Alissa Mwenelupembe

Room: Meeting Room 16

This session will introduce participants to NAEYC Early Learning Program Accreditation. It will cover the benefits of accreditation as well as the process and how they begin their accreditation journey.

What is Accreditation and How to Get Started?

Presenter(s): Storm Webb

Room: Meeting Room 17

Sponsored by [TECTA Leadership Team/ Advisors](#)

Join our panel of experts to discuss the accreditation process. Discover how accreditation can benefit your business and the children and families you serve. Learn about the "top three accreditation secrets" as we walk you through the steps to getting started with accreditation. We will also go through the

process of maintaining your award and living accreditation in your program. Participants will walk away with our helpful handout guide, providing all the tools you need to begin and succeed on your path to accreditation.

9:15-10:15 a.m.

Building Resilience Through Relationships

Presenter(s): Kathy Banks

Room: Meeting Room 2

Early Care and Education is a field that services not just children, but families. In 2022, families are living and existing in a world with negative stresses that directly impact their livelihood. Today, many children are coming to our programs with the weight of the world on their shoulders. This conference session will provide an outline to all providers on what toxic stress may look like, and how relationships can help children and their families build resilience to combat the stress they may be experiencing.

Stress and Brain Development: Fostering Resiliency in Children Predisposed to Stress

Presenter(s): Tara Dickerson, Dr. Louise E. Davis

Room: Meeting Room 3

Recent research suggests that toxic stress can alter the brain development of young children. There are many children and families that may be predisposed to stress, specifically due to socioeconomic stressors, and more recently, the COVID-19 pandemic. Many families may also be experiencing financial strain due to inflation. Research also indicates that families who are not typically financially insecure may have a more difficult time adjusting to the stressors caused by financial insecurity, which may be more frequent due to inflation and the current job market. This presentation plans to provide information regarding brain development in the early years and how early childhood providers can facilitate optimal brain development in the children they care for and building relationships with families to foster resilience. Specifically, providers will learn the three types of stress which are toxic, tolerable, and positive stress and how a young child may experience these types of stress. Attendees will discuss in breakout groups different scenarios and how they have helped these children and new strategies to adapt in the future.

Reggio Emilia Inspired Infant and Toddler Care

Presenter(s): Jodi Bechtel

Room: Meeting Room 7

This is also a virtual session and will be live streamed for virtual attendees. This session will not be available as a recorded session.

The Reggio Emilia approach outlines seven characteristics that sets it apart from traditional care. We will discuss each characteristic using personal application in infant/toddler classrooms.

Intentional Outdoor Play Spaces

Presenter(s): Reagan Bernskoetter

Room: Meeting Room 8

Explore intentional changes for children's outdoor play experiences based on reflective observations of play patterns used for future planning. Discuss ways outdoor spaces are important.

Play, Resilience and DAP: Joyful Learning for Each Child

Presenter(s): Susan Friedman

Room: Meeting Room 9

The fourth edition of NAEYC's book, *Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs Serving Children Birth through Age Eight* offers much to educators navigating how to support children's resilience with joyful learning experiences throughout the day.

See how DAP's 3 Core Considerations, 9 Principles of Child Development and Learning and 6 Guideline's for Effective Practices guide intentional teaching and joyful play and learning in a range of contexts. Gain insights into the research behind the updates to the fourth edition and how they reflect the deep connections between DAP and equity. The DAP book contains over 70 vignettes which show DAP in action in a range of settings. Take a deep dive into a selection of these vignettes and see their relevance to your own education settings and see how DAP can serve as a guide to support joyful play and learning and resilience in young children.

The fourth edition of the DAP book, was developed while the field of early childhood education began to navigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. How do we nurture children's resilience and learning when many children may have missed out on regular play interactions and experienced so much stress during their earliest years? This session highlights the core elements of DAP within the context of using DAP as a guide during both times of great challenge as well as opportunity and how DAP can serve as a guide to effective teaching within a range of contexts.

Maternal Depression and the Effects on Children "Camden's Story"

Presenter(s): Jenni Smith

Room: Meeting Room 10

Maternal Depression and the Effects on Children is an in-depth personal look at how a mother's depression directly/indirectly impacted her children. This session will highlight facts, and reveal shocking statistics about Perinatal Depression. Depression truly looks different for everyone and it is time to break the stigma and talk about it! Jenni reveals how the relationship with her child's caregiver prompted a further look into the health and wellness of her infant son. The session will serve as a forum for others to share their personal testimonies.

Safe and Inviting Outdoor Environments

Presenter(s): Ronnette Haynes

Room: Meeting Room 11

Children learn through play. For this reason, it is vital the learning environment outside receives as much forethought as the learning environment within the classroom walls. During this presentation, participants will examine the top ten reasons why children need to spend time outdoors, learn to create and implement an inviting outdoor environment and discuss strategies ensuring safety the outdoor learning environment.

Socio-Emotional Activities in Our Classrooms

Presenter(s): Sandra Morales, Lin Moore, Elaine Zweig

Room: Meeting Room 16

This session focuses on hands-on activities for teachers to learn how to implement social-emotional activities in their daily classroom instruction. Socio-emotional skills include but are not limited to the children's "experience, expression, and management of emotions" and their abilities to establish a positive relationship with others (Cohen & others 2005). Research on socio-emotional learning shows that positive and healthy relationships with others influence children's school outcomes. Developing socio-emotional skills allow students to avoid aggressive behavior that may result in a problematic situation (Matsopoulos, 2000). Teaching our classroom socio-emotional skills helps us connect the academic skills with lifelong skills necessary to succeed in life. Therefore, it is important to train teachers in classroom management procedures that promote and encourage social competence.

Accreditation Comparison - Choosing the One that's Best for Your Program

Presenter(s): Storm Webb

Room: Meeting Room 17

Sponsored by [TECTA Leadership Team/ Advisors](#)

Ready to get started with accreditation but overwhelmed with all the different accrediting bodies to choose from? Join this session for an in-depth comparative analysis of national accreditation processes and standards. Review and discuss the similarities and differences as you discover which accrediting organization best suits your program. The presentation will be full of resources and handouts to help your evaluation.

10:30-12:30 p.m.

High Quality, Low Budget - Innovative Activities

Presenter(s): Georgia Graham, Kristen Armstrong, Michelle Cleveland

Room: Meeting Room 3

During this time of economic uncertainty, early childhood programs continue to be impacted by the rising cost of materials. Educators of children birth to five will explore innovative ways to replace typical early childhood materials with inexpensive alternatives. Come join this interactive workshop for the opportunity to create high quality activities on a budget.

Literacy Hooks and Book Nooks

Presenter(s): Angela Shelton

Room: Meeting Room 4

Early literacy is defined as "the knowledge and skills young children need in order to learn to communicate, read, and write" and includes linguistic processing and print-related domains. The classroom environment itself can serve as a teaching and learning tool that supports development of these early literacy skills. During this presentation, participants will engage in purposeful planning tasks that infuse early literacy domains in the classroom environment and strategically plan for maximizing classroom spaces for literacy learning. Session attendees will participate in a variety of active engagement strategies that can be easily adapted to use in the classroom, gaining a variety of ideas and resources that engage children in authentic and meaningful literacy experiences through "Literacy Hooks and Book Nooks."

How Whole-Body Learning Helps Kids Learn Better & Faster.

Presenter(s): Laurie Gombash

Room: Meeting Room 7

This is also a virtual session and will be live streamed for virtual attendees

Come to this interactive session ready to engage in whole-body active learning! Children learn best when they are engaged in literacy-based activities that are enriched with the arts and movement. Participants will learn how a multisensory approach to learning phonemes is fun and relevant for all. You will learn about the power of muscle memory in reading and writing and how kinesthetic movement in the classroom can help children overcome learning challenges. You will leave this session with several identifiable new skills that you can use immediately in your setting. Come see how FUN and easy it is to create opportunities to use multisensory learning to fully explore early literacy.

Creative Ways of Engaging Adult Learners in Anti-Bias Education Practices

Presenter(s): Amy Wilson

Room: Meeting Room 8

SECA Conversation for Change recommended session

Children are embedded within communities and cultures that begin to educate them about who they are or should be from the earliest days of life. These pervasive messages present children with biased messages and negative stereotypes. Early childhood professionals are uniquely positioned to work closely with families to counter bias and support the positive identity development of children. As professionals embark on the ongoing journey of becoming equitable educators, our hope is that introduction to new information and engagement in critical and reflective discourse will positively support their professional practices. Using content from "Anti-Bias Education for Young Children & Ourselves" by Derman-Sparks, Edwards, and Goins, Family Engagement Quality Coaches developed strategies to explore anti-bias practices with adult learners in the early childhood field. These strategies include ongoing communication, access to weekly resources, and collaborative discussions to support professionals as they reflect on current practices and learn about implementing anti-bias strategies.

Use Your Voice for Kids: Advocacy for ECED Providers

Presenter(s): Katie Growden

Room: Meeting Room 9

Your voice as an Early Childhood Educator is unique, powerful, and desperately needed! Decisions that impact our field are being made (on a daily basis) by people who have not walked in our shoes and have little understanding of what life looks like for today's young children, their families, or their teachers. You CAN make a difference by speaking from your experience and perspective. I know this, because I live it.

This session will provide information about upcoming policies that impact children, families, and childcare providers as well as tools to make an impact on the folks making those decisions. Together, we will walk through the basics of advocacy, why it matters, and what you can do. Come prepared to challenge yourself to speak to others about why you're passionate about Early Childhood Education! You will leave equipped with the ability to interact with both community members and legislators using verbal, written, and virtual methods, as well as the opportunity for ongoing engagement and support as an advocate.

Positive and Adverse Childhood Experiences: Creating a Path from Trauma to Resilience

Presenter(s): Cherie Benjoseph

Room: Meeting Room 10

This workshop provides an overview of the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs) studies. It focuses on the impact of trauma and toxic stress on the developing brain in children as well as impact of positive childhood experiences (PCEs) on children. The training helps participants recognize trauma symptoms, behaviors and responses in traumatized children. This training also focuses on the importance of resilience based on the research and provides strategies for social workers to help promote resilience in children through a trauma focused care approach.

Creating a Sense of Belonging for Children and Families in Everyday Experiences

Presenter(s): Gwen Robertson

Room: Meeting Room 11

A sense of belonging doesn't just happen; it takes time and effort to grow. Focused, planned ideas are important to ensure equity and diversity as well as promote social emotional learning. In this workshop participants will learn some strategies and tips to provide an environment that support a sense of belonging for all children and families. Hands on displays and props will be available for participants to explore and make plans to create when they return to their classroom.

Focused Feedback for Children's Success in Inclusive Early Childhood Classrooms

Presenter(s): Angel Greer

Room: Meeting Room 16

The Inclusive Classroom Profile (ICP) is an assessment tool that is used to measure inclusive practices in early childhood environments. Professional development plays a significant role for early childhood educators. Utilizing the ICP provides guidance in the implementation of professional development programs that promote high quality early childhood inclusion. In this session, we will highlight the key components of the ICP. We will explore effective feedback, how it is measured, and how early childhood educators are utilizing this strategy for children's success in inclusive classrooms.

10:30-11:30 a.m.

Say YES to Leadership: Lessons from Super Directors

Presenter(s): Dr. Shiley Raines

Room: Meeting Room 17

Sponsored by TECTA Leadership Team/ Advisors

Great programs have great directors. This session will explore what they have in common.

11:30-12:30 p.m.

Advice and Wisdom for Directors and Potential Directors

Presenter(s): Dr. Shiley Raines

Room: Meeting Room 17

Sponsored by TECTA Leadership Team/ Advisors

Participants will assess their strengths to say "YES" to the next level as a leader.

1:00-2:00 p.m

What is Happening to Fine Motor Development?

Presenter(s): Karan Marshall

Room: Meeting Room 3

Young children today tend to spend time playing with electronic devices or - in the classroom - sitting and listening. However, these activities are now delaying young children's fine motor development and the foundation for writing skills. In this workshop, we will explore this issue and try out activities that promote fine motor development so that children can succeed in kindergarten.

Toddlers Mark the Spot! An In-Depth Project with Our Most Creative Children

Presenter(s): Angie Gann

Room: Meeting Room 7

This is also a virtual session and will be live streamed for virtual attendees

Toddlers are engaged and interested in their immediate environment and are in the beginning stages of understanding the process of their thoughts and actions. Their work is created through guided explorations of events and explorations that are relevant to their daily lives and in their community. These projects are used to find answers to the children's wonderings and gain a deeper understanding of their world.

In this session we will discuss the importance of mark making projects when it comes to toddlers. The focus will be on how studies are created and implemented in a Reggio Emilia inspired classroom. Projects are formed by observations made by teachers about children's interests. The provocations and investigations that are planned because of these observations is what guides the teachers and children in their learning process. Children and teachers are researchers together to discover new things about children's interests.

We will demonstrate an in-depth projects from toddler classrooms that will strike inspiration for the participants in this session. The toddlers in these classrooms and their teachers, have spent countless hours mark making, working with different mediums and learning how to use the various tools that help children create art. We are excited to share these explorations to provide insight into working with toddlers in a Reggio-Inspired classrooms

Toxic Stress in Children: Why It Matters and How Adults Can Help

Presenter(s): Diane Bales

Room: Meeting Room 9

Stress is an everyday experience, both for children and adults. Chronic stress and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) can damage the developing brain. The stress experienced by children and adults has been heightened during COVID-19. Learn why toxic stress and ACEs matter and how responsive adults can reduce the effects of stress on the brain, and try out some simple hands-on activities that you can use to help children manage stress in the ECE classroom.

Persevering through Adversity: Pre-K and Kindergarten Life Hacks

Presenter(s): Debra Hailey, Katrina Jordan, Michelle Brunson, Patricia Alexander

Room: Meeting Room 10

As a teacher, you may be doing all the right kinds of activities with young children. However, intentional teaching or knowing the how and why behind what you do, changes the conversations around those activities. By being intentional in supporting children to be resilient and being able to overcome adversity in their young lives, you set the stage for them continuing to be resilient later in life. Children who are resilient build skills and dispositions that help them to be capable and successful people. Learn ways to make minor adjustments to your typical school day that will have a big impact on the resiliency of the children that you serve.

Professional and Personal Safety in the Work Place

Presenter(s): Shelli Henehan

Room: Meeting Room 11

This presentation covers the importance of professionalism in the early childhood profession. The presenters will discuss the importance of professionalism about social media in order to be more marketable in the job market as well as social media with the children are in their care. Participants will examine scenarios and discuss the importance of being vigilant in ensuring children are visible and safe at all times, including rest time. The importance of documentation, ethics and confidentiality will also be discussed in depth.

Unwrapping Structured Literacy and WHY IT IS Important for All Classroom Teachers

Presenter(s): Katie Tonore

Room: Meeting Room 16

15-20% of students have symptoms of dyslexia. Children with dyslexia are in every classroom BUT effective instruction is NOT in every classroom. Structured Literacy explicitly teaches systematic word identification strategies. These strategies benefit students with dyslexia along with MOST students in the classroom. This session will offer strategies for incorporating Structured Literacy in K-3 classrooms.

Culturally Responsive Strategies to use in the Classroom

Presenter(s): Jennifer Neitzel

Room: Meeting Room 17

Sponsored by [TECTA Leadership Team/ Advisors](#)

[SECA Conversation for Change](#) recommended session

In this session, teachers will learn about current inequities in early childhood, including how they show up in early learning environments.