



Directors

Welcome to Winter PTAC!

January 28, 2023

For 25 years, the Preschool Teachers Adventure Conference has been helping those in the field of Early Childhood Education keep their training current and their motivation strong during our 3-day summer ‘adventure!’ We are back with our 1-day Winter version to serve those who would like a mid-year motivational ‘push’ to greet the New Year!

Working with children and their families is an important God-given task. Whether you work with infants and toddlers or preschoolers, in either a Christian or a secular setting, or you supervise people who do, you have the power to influence lives every day — “one heart at a time.”

Amid these challenging times, let us help educate and inspire you — fill your spirit and entertain you! It is our hope that you will leave Winter PTAC renewed in body and spirit — ready to have a positive impact on the lives of the children and families that you work with!

Your Day at Winter PTAC



<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
7:30 am — 8:00 am	Registration/Continental Breakfast
7:50 am — 8:05 am	Praise & Worship
8:10 am — 9:20 am	Keynote Speaker — Mary Rice Hopkins
9:30 am — 10:20 am	Session #1 Workshops
10:30 am — 11:20 am	Session #2 Workshops
11:30 am — 12:20 pm	Lunch #1 OR Session #3 Workshops
12:30 pm — 1:20 pm	Lunch #2 OR Session #4 Workshops
1:30 pm — 2:20 pm	Session #5 Workshops
2:35 pm — 3:30 pm	Session #6 Workshops

Keynote Speaker — Mary Rice Hopkins

Receiving the “Parent’s Choice Award” and Dove Foundation Seal of Approval, the ministry and music of Mary Rice Hopkins is timeless. Her simple yet profound melodies have captured the hearts of children and families for over 30 years around the world. Mary has produced 30 CD’s and 6 DVD’s. The children’s book *Noah* was published by Crossway. *Safe in the Fold*, *Lost and Found* and *Come Back Home* were published through FaithKidz (Cook Communications Ministries). Mary has also self-published seven curriculum books with accompanying CD’s. More recently, Mary has teamed with Darcie Maze of “Puppets with a Heart” for a weekly TV special every Saturday morning at 8:30 PST on Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN). This character-based show uses music, puppetry, and lessons which touch the heart. Mary’s passion is to make a difference in hearts and lives. The International Network of Children’s Ministers (INCM) awarded Mary their Legacy Award in 2014.



Session 1 Workshops

9:30—10:20 am

How to Protect Yourself in a Complaint Investigation

Directors

All owners and directors should take this class — you MUST know your rights as a provider and liability holder. Learn the process, timeframes, and your rights to protect your school, your staff, your reputation, your permanent file/record, and your center’s reputation. We will discuss in detail the specifics of the report, the investigation, the administrative review process, the findings, and the final appeal process.

Speaker: Kristy Thornton

Room: Sanctuary

FA: Business & Operation Management

Parent, Staff & Childcare Partnerships

Directors

This training is designed to discuss the importance of an effective relationship with the parents, the educators, and the childcare center. Effect conflict resolution, open communication, maintaining professional boundaries, and collaboration are the keys to maintaining good relationships and longevity of families in your care.

Speaker: Natasha Harris

Room: A125

FA: Leadership & Development

Session 2 Workshops

10:30 — 11:20 am

Minimum Standards

Directors

Changes, changes, and more changes. This session will cover what’s new with Minimum Standards, Administrative Penalties, Background Checks, Permit Renewals, and the division of the DFPS agency. It has never been more important to stay updated on all the new information.

This session is 2 sessions long and will include a Q&A.

Speaker: Dorris Burnworth

Room: Sanctuary

FA: Professional Development

Professional Workplace Etiquette

Directors

So many times, we walk into the workplace, only to discover that we have entered an unprofessional, chaotic environment. When we notice changes in our program/classrooms, how does it affect the children in our program? We will discuss basic workplace etiquette to sharpen our professionalism and to create and maintain a harmonious environment.

Speaker: Natasha Harris

Room: A125

FA: Leadership & Development

Session 3 Workshops

11:30 am — 12:20 pm

NOTE: Lunch 1 is served during this time period.

Minimum Standards

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Speaker: Dorris Burnworth

Room: Sanctuary

FA: Professional Development



Session 4 Workshops

NOTE: Lunch 2 is served during this time period.

Leading from the Middle of the Pack

Directors

Leadership doesn’t just come from the top. Some of the most meaningful leadership opportunities live in the middle and many of the most impactful leadership decisions are made by mid-level leaders who are guiding day-to-day operations. This session infuse these important leadership roles with value, purpose, and meaning; setting the stage for excellence in leadership from top to bottom!

Speaker: Lori Buxton

Room: A125

FA: Leadership & Development

Tips for Successful Family STEM Nights

Directors

Looking for a new way to engage parents in their children’s learning? Join us to learn how to set up a successful Family STEM Night. We’ll share wow-factor activities, like leaf blower hovercrafts, kid-made lemonade, straw triangles, and the 3 Little Pigs playhouse. Don’t miss out on our tips for planning, publicizing, and carrying out the big event!

Speaker: Dr. Carrie Cutler

Room: Sanctuary

FA: Business & Operation Management

Session 5 Workshops

1:30 — 2:20 pm

Preschool/Church Relations

Directors

Is your preschool one of the primary ministries of your church, or the one at the bottom of the list? It's no secret that many preschools have a challenging relationship with their church. As a director/teacher can you **really** do anything to improve that relationship? The answer is, YES! In this session, we will discuss the challenges you might face with your church, but we'll also give you practical advice and hope so that you can begin building mutually beneficial bridges and relationships for the benefit of all!

Speaker: Andrew Keyes

Room: Sanctuary

FA: Business & Operation Management

Looking Up! The Role of Faith in Leadership

Directors

Knowing what you believe and why you believe it is foundational to inspired and lasting leadership. So, what role does faith play in your leadership? Where does it fit? Why does it matter? What if my faith isn't shared? These are the kinds of questions that we will tackle in this faith-filled session.

Speaker: Lori Buxton

Room: A125

FA: Professional Development

Session 6 Workshops

2:35 — 3:30 pm

What is Your Exit Strategy?

Directors

Build a career worth having, a business worth running, a life worth living, experiences worth giving, and a legacy worth leaving. Everyone needs to have an exit strategy the day they start — even if not today, but in 1 year, 5 years, or 10 years down the road. Learn how to build a business that you can sell. Most people's 5-year business plan is making it through the week; we all need to get ahead of the game and make a plan!

Speaker: Kristy Thornton

Room: Sanctuary

FA: Professional Development

The Phenomenon of FUN!

Directors

"FUN" isn't just for children. It is life giving, health restoring, sanity saving, jail time avoiding pixie dust for leaders and allows us to reach our people and our goals with joy for the journey! If you need more FUN in your life and in your program, join us! If you don't think that you need more FUN in your life and program — RUN FAST AND JOIN US!

Speaker: Lori Buxton

Room: A125

FA: Leadership & Development



Session Leaders



Dorris Burnworth is a Licensing Inspector for the Texas Department of Family & Protective Services and holds a degree in Clinical Psychology.

Lori Buxton has been involved in Early Care and Education since 1995 and has served children and their families on many levels, including classroom teacher, trainer, children's pastor and executive child care administrator. Lori is the founder of the Gulf Coast Directors Network in southeast Texas.

Dr. Carrie Cutler currently holds the position of clinical assistant professor of elementary mathematics education at the University of Houston. Her new book, [Math-Positive Mindsets: Growing a Child's Mind without Losing Yours](#), give practical advice to those who want to help children succeed in math. Dr. Cutler is an expert in developmentally appropriate practice and early childhood topics as diverse as mindful movement, art, STEM, and authentic assessment for young children.

Natasha Harris is the Founder, Presenter & Executive Owner of Integrity Training & Professional Services. Natasha has

always had a love and passion for administration and education. Her goal as a Leadership Developer is to transform business leaders from being average to becoming the best in their industry. She owned Divine Touch Christian Academy (2008-2010) and is the current owner of Heritage of Love Academy since 2015.

Andrew Keyes is a husband and father to four young children who has served in two different churches as a Family Pastor for 9+ years. He currently serves as the Assistant Pastor of Children and Student Ministries at Windwood Presbyterian Church. He has worked at churches with school ministries & advocates for churches & schools to be one team and one ministry.

Kristy Thornton has over 20 years experience as a teacher, director, owner, trainer and consultant. She is the President of Thornton & Thornton Ent., Inc., an organization dedicated to providing high-quality early childhood programs. She is also the founder and CEO of Executive Business Consultants, a company that specializes in training and consulting to many corporations and early childhood professionals.