

# Preschool & MDO

# 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!

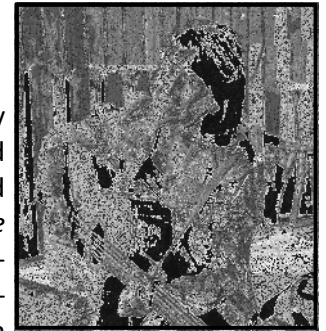
## Your Day at Winter PTAC



<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	<b>Keynote Speaker — Mary Rice Hopkins</b>
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 <b>OR</b> Session #3 Workshops
12:30 pm — 1:20 pm	Lunch #2 <b>OR</b> 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

### **Play According to Piaget**

**MDO**

Jean Piaget offered the world of early childhood his powerful and lasting theory on cognitive development. In this session, we will discuss key elements of Piaget’s theory and how you as the teacher, can help to facilitate the education of young children more effectively. How can we use his research to improve our teaching methods?

**Speaker: Kara Gore**

**Room: C150**

**FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum**

### **Temper Tantrums 101**

**MDO**

Come learn how to decipher why a child tantrums, what is normal behavior and how to help a child overcome tantrums before they become a distraction in the classroom.

**Speaker: Christi Priddy**

**Room: Summit**

**FA: Behavior & Guidance**

### **Why Kids (Really) Misbehave**

**MDO/PRES**

Controlling a classroom is similar to fire prevention and protection. You only have two choices! SNIFF or SNUFF! Smoke detector or fire extinguisher — proactive or reactive. In this insightful workshop, teachers will learn the reason children misbehave & how to respond.

**Speaker: Dr. Rick Chromey**

**Room: F110**

**FA: Discipline & Guidance**

### **Terrific Transitions**

**MDO/PRES**

Transitions can be the most stressful, hair-raising (or hair-losing) part of the day, but they don’t have to be! You very likely have all the tools that you need to make this time magical, we just need a plan! Join Lori for some practical tips and tools that will take your transitions from “terrifying” to “terrific”!

**Speaker: Lori Buxton**

**Room: A128**

**FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum**

### **Music & the Brain**

**MDO/PRES**

Music is vital to the developing brain! We all know this to be true, but why? Let’s spend some time looking at what music does for brain development and how to use this information to bring music into our classrooms in a meaningful way! *Sessions 1 & 5.*

**Speaker: Tom Wilbeck MA, LPC**

**Room: A126**

**FA: Music & Movement**

### **Why Not Worksheets?**

**PRES**

While worksheets offer an easy opportunity to fill time during the day, are they really developmentally appropriate for preschoolers? Let’s discuss why they may not be appropriate in the preschool classroom and learn how to create truly authentic hands-on experiences that teach the same concepts. *Sessions 1 & 6.*

**Speaker: Kendolyn Pope**

**Room: Youth**

**FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum**

### **More Fine Motor Skills. . . Write Out of the Box! (ZOOM)**

**PRES**

You asked for it — you got it at PTAC! This extended session contains even more essential, rarely addressed, information for educators of all young children, which supports pencil grasp, re-writing development, effective sitting, and body movement regulation at school and home. Activities and techniques are ready to use tomorrow! **This is a 2-session workshop — be prepared to stay for both sessions 1 & 2.**

**Speaker: Dr. Marianne Gibbs, OT**

**Room: A120**

**FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum**

### **Documenting Children’s Growth**

**PRES**

Learn the reasons and techniques of documenting milestones that children achieve every day! Knowing the appropriate age-level milestones is essential. Through the use of samples, the teacher can become aware of developmental stages of children. They also show different ways to help children achieve these milestones through interactive play. Suggestions are given to help the children who are behind in their developmental skills. This is imperative information to communicate to a child’s progress to parents.

**Speaker: Albert Wright**

**Room: Journey**

**FA: Observation & Assessment**

### **Schedules, Routines, and Transitions, Oh My!**

**PRES**

#### **Developmentally Appropriate Classroom Environments**

Are you tired of telling children to be quiet, to sit still, to hurry up, and to slow down? Your schedule, routines, and expectations can make a classroom joyful or stressful for your children and for you! Join us to learn what DAP is and how it informs your work. You’ll leave this session with practical suggestions for routines and schedules, classroom organization, attention getters, and creative songs and movement activities to facilitate transitions!

**Speaker: Dr. Carrie Cutler**

**Room: C145**

**FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum**

**Session 2 Workshops****10:30 — 11:20 am*****A Day in the Life of a Toddler*****MDO**

Toddlers are interesting, unique, & fun little people! They are experiencing difficult physical challenges & important developmental milestones. Additionally, they lack crucial social skills & need extremely specific environments! Through humor & hands-on fun, we will put ourselves in their shoes. Get ready to be 2 years old — again!

**Speaker: Kara Gore****Room: C150****FA: Child Growth & Development*****Nudging Toddlers from “Me-ness” to “We-ness”*****MDO**

Toddlers are into autonomy, which can result in uncooperative, oppositional behavior in group settings. Participants will discuss developmental milestones for toddlers, ages 18-36 months, and explore transition techniques, books, and simple follow-up activities that will give toddlers practice in cooperating with classmates and caregivers as they work on the task of autonomy. Caregivers can nudge toddlers to the realization that “we-ness” is more fun than “me-ness”! *Sessions 2 & 6.*

**Speaker: Barbara Lynn****Room: C114****FA: Child Growth & Development*****Toddler Power Struggles & Challenging Behavior*****MDO**

When you’re faced with difficult toddler behavior in your classroom — it can be painful! You simply want to move forward with your day, yet one (or more!) of your students is digging in their heels or throwing a tantrum. This session will focus on positive strategies that will help mitigate meltdowns and willfulness.

**Speaker: Christi Priddy****Room: Summit****FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum*****Teaching With Style*****PRES**

Everyone teaches with personality. . . The question is — which one are you? In this insightful and resourceful workshop, you will discover your natural teaching style and how it impacts learning in your classroom. If your teaching needs a lift — this workshop will help you fly!

**Speaker: Dr. Rick Chromey****Room: F110****FA: Professional Development*****Keeping Children Safe — Successful Supervision*****MDO/PRES**

We wear many hats, but this is the most important! If we can’t keep children safe, the rest just doesn’t matter. In our time together, we will take a “real” look at supervision challenges and solutions so that the children in our care have the very best experience in our classrooms!

**Speaker: Lori Buxton****Room: A128****FA: Health & Safety*****Stress Management*****MDO/PRES**

Stress, it’s just part of the job. Yes, that’s true, but stress doesn’t have to steal our joy of teaching. Participants in the session will explore how stress impacts our bodies and how we can be resilient in the face of adversity. Let’s get serious about our health and happiness in a fun and engaging way — together! *Sessions 2 & 6.*

**Speaker: Tom Wilbeck, MA, LPC****Room: A126****FA: Professional Development*****Science on a Shoestring*****PRES**

Is your science center stocked with a few rocks, a magnifying glass and a dead insect or two? Are you stumped about how to make your science center more inspiring and impactful? Come learn how to build your science center with 10 inexpensive and easy to find items. Then, discover the many activities you can do with these items!

**Speaker: Kendolyn Pope****Room: Youth****FA: Math & Science*****More Fine Motor Skills. . . Write Out of the Box! (ZOOM)*****PRES**

You asked for it — you got it at PTAC! This extended session contains even more essential, rarely addressed, information for educators of all young children, which supports pencil grasp, re-writing development, effective sitting, and body movement regulation at school and home. Activities and techniques are ready to use tomorrow! **This is a 2-session workshop — be prepared to stay for both sessions 1 & 2.**

**Speaker: Dr. Marianne Gibbs, OT****Room: A120****FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum*****The Ultimate Transitions Training*****PRES**

Transitions can be stressful for children, especially when they seem abrupt. We will discuss the best ways to ease your way into and out of a transition into the next activity. This session will show how to use transitions effectively, and what to expect at each developmental level for your children during transitional times.

**Speaker: Albert Wright****Room: Journey****FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum*****Ten Essential Math Skills to Develop in the Early Years*****PRES**

Counting is one of the hallmarks of early childhood math. But — what else should I be teaching? Joins us for activities, games, and lessons that can help our students build a foundation of math concepts & skills.

**Speaker: Dr. Carrie Cutler****Room: C145****FA: Math & Science****Session 3 Workshops****Lunch 1 is served during this time period.****11:30 am — 12:20 pm*****I’m Supposed To Do What With These Infants?*****MDO**

Infant teachers are more than babysitters and play a vital role in the earliest education of young children. Come to this workshop to learn how to build positive routines, implement age appropriate activities and track the development of the littlest learners. Participants will also explore the developmental milestones of the infant period by examining the Ages & Stages Questionnaire for this age group.

**Speaker: Kendolyn Pope****Room: Youth****FA: Child Growth & Development*****Sensory Items in the Classroom*****MDO/PRES**

Sensory is all around us, however we don’t take the time to embrace the importance of sensory as an essential part of daily play. Explore the many ways that sensory is incorporated in the classroom. Find ways to include more sensory play to ignite learning through sensory play.

*Sessions 3 & 4***Speaker: Vickie Maertz****Room: A128****FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum*****Developmental Milestones 1.0*****MDO**

This session is an overview of developmental milestones for MDO aged children ages birth through 12 months of age.

**Speaker: Christi Priddy****Room: Summit****FA: Child Growth & Development*****Face Painting Made Simple! Sessions 3 & 4.*****MDO/PRES**

Looking to add some FUN and CREATIVITY to your lesson plans? Learn some basic face painting techniques that your students will LOVE! You can practice on a friend, yourself, or practice sheets during this class.

*Sessions 3 & 4***Speaker: Jessica Salas****Room: C115****FA: Professional Development**

**Session 3 Workshops — continued****11:30 am — 12:20 pm****Music in the Classroom for the Non-Musician** **MDO/PRES**

This presentation will discuss and demonstrate the importance of music in a child's life. Three techniques for using music will be demonstrated: Recorded music (when and how to use it), Rhythm games, and Musical Instruments. Participants will be encouraged to break out of their mold and GET MUSICAL!

**Speaker:** Tom Wilbeck, MA, LPC **Room:** A126  
**FA:** Music & Movement

**ABC's of Music & Praise** **PRES**

You don't need to be musical to attend this session! Learn how to use music to reinforce your lessons — from songs for holidays to parable songs to teaching good character and God's word. You will leave with new tunes and ideas in your head and your heart!

**Speaker:** Mary Rice Hopkins **Room:** F110  
**FA:** Music & Movement

**Learning Through Play — Centers & Circle Time** **PRES**

Let's share our ideas and inexpensive ways to motivate young learners

and let them have fun while doing it! *Sessions 3 & 4.*

**Speaker:** Leisha Davis **Room:** C126  
**FA:** Age Appropriate Curriculum

**Conflict Resolution** **PRES**

Conflict is hard whether it is between staff members or between the children in your program. This session will give you the tools that you need to bring about fair conflict resolution. These life lessons are something that we can take and use outside the center/classroom as well.

**Speaker:** Albert Wright **Room:** Journey  
**FA:** Behavior & Guidance

**STEM Supersized — The PE Way!** **PRES**

Come join us for an interactive session to learn how to incorporate STEM activities into gross motor/movement activities that you can do in your outdoor space or gym. Combining gross motor development and STEM learning is multi-tasking at it's finest! *Sessions 3 and 4.*

**Speakers:** Stella King **Room:** C145  
**FA:** Adv. Physical & Intellectual Competence

**Session 4 Workshops** **Lunch 2 is served during this time period****12:30 — 1:20 pm****Sensory Activities for Infants to Preschool** **MDO**

Is it sticky? Is it rough? Is it smooth? Is it wet? So many different ways we can explore science sensory based activities with the hands and feet. Come join our session and we will discover how to create simple activities the children enjoy.

**Speaker:** Natasha Harris **Room:** C127  
**FA:** Child Growth & Development

**Responding to Oppositional Behavior & Biting in Toddlers** **MDO**

When toddler teachers understand the sources of oppositional behavior in toddlers, they are empowered to provide guidance. Participants will examine toddler developmental milestones and reasons why toddlers may oppose authority or bite classmates in frustration. Caregivers will explore possible responses, including prevention, vocabulary development, and supervision.

**Speaker:** Barbara Lynn **Room:** C114  
**FA:** Child Growth & Development

**Motivate Me: Creating a Positive & Productive Preschool Learning Experience** **MDO/PRES**

Deep down everyone hungers to learn. The problem is educators prefer shortcuts that short-circuit inner motivation in the classroom. It's easier to use incentives and even punishments to motivate a learner. The problem? Study after study shows that the use of behavioral incentives to modify behavior fail to provoke long-term results. Is there a better way? Absolutely! Just feed the NEEDS. Or, as we call'em...the GROWLS...and watch'em learn!

**Speaker:** Dr. Rick Chromey **Room:** F110  
**FA:** Teacher-Child Interactions

**Face Painting Made Simple!** **MDO/PRES**

Looking to add some FUN and CREATIVITY to your lesson plans? Learn some basic face painting techniques that your students will LOVE! You can practice on a friend, yourself, or practice sheets during this class. *Sessions 3 & 4.*

**Speaker:** Jessica Salas **Room:** C115  
**FA:** Professional Development

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Sensory is all around us, however we don't take the time to embrace the importance of sensory as an essential part of daily play. Explore the many ways that sensory is incorporated in the classroom. Find ways to

include more sensory play to ignite learning through sensory play. *Sessions 3 & 4.*

**Speaker:** Vickie Maertz **Room:** A128  
**FA:** Age Appropriate Curriculum

**Teaching Special Children** **MDO/PRES**

Somewhere along the way, many Early Childhood professionals were convinced that they had to have specialized training to positively impact the lives of children who have special needs. This simply is not true! YOU can make a huge difference in the lives of children with all types of abilities and unique needs. Often times, the methods we choose to best support children with special needs end up blessing all of the students in your class! Let's talk and share as we unpack this important topic.

**Speaker:** Kara Gore **Room:** C150  
**FA:** Care of Children With Special Needs

**Handwriting Prerequisites & Scissor Skills (ZOOM)** **PRES**

Informative discussion-based session identifies, analyzes, and explains facilitation of the 12 key components determining handwriting readiness in young children. This extended session also highlights the important topic of scissor skill development and how to facilitate. Enhance parent conference interactions and your professional articulation of student progress with objective, meaningful information learned in this session. **This is a 2-session workshop — be prepared to stay for both sessions 4 & 5.**

**Speaker:** Dr. Marianne Gibbs, OT **Room:** A120  
**FA:** Age Appropriate Curriculum

**Learning Through Play — Centers & Circle Time** **PRES**

Let's share our ideas and inexpensive ways to motivate young learners and let them have fun while doing it! *Sessions 3 & 4.*

**Speaker:** Leisha Davis **Room:** C126  
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**STEM Supersized — The PE Way!** **PRES**

Come join us for an interactive session to learn how to incorporate STEM activities into gross motor/movement activities that you can do in your outdoor space or gym. Combining gross motor development and STEM learning is multi-tasking at it's finest! *Sessions 3 & 4.*

**Speakers:** Stella King **Room:** C145  
**FA:** Adv. Physical & Intellectual Competence

## Session 5 Workshops

1:30 — 2:20 pm

### ***Making the Most of Conversations with Infants — The World's Best Listeners!***

**MDO**

This session examines the role of receptive language (or listening) in babies' acquisition of expressive language, concept development, and vocabulary. Participants will discuss the sequence of language acquisition in the first two years of life and acquire a new appreciation of how babies' ability to listen aids them in learning to speak and to develop concepts such as up/down and empty/full. Let's explore new ideas for maximizing our conversations with babies (ages 0-18 months) as we feed them, play with them, and provide care.

**Speaker: Barbara Lynn**

**Room: C114**

**FA: Teacher-Child Interactions**

### ***Potty Training 101***

**MDO**

Come learn the ins and outs of potty training! Learn how to read a child's cues to know when they are ready to conquer potty training and how to partner with parents to make this transition easy and exciting!

**Speaker: Christi Priddy**

**Room: Summit**

**FA: Child Growth & Development**

### ***STEM for Infants & Toddlers: Putting Little Problems in Their Way to Engage***

**MDO**

It's never too early for children to begin to make sense of the world around them. Join us to discover how thoughtful questioning and intentional planning will magnify the STEM already present in your classroom centers. You will leave this session with 12+ play-based STEM activities to nurture the habits of mind (persistence, generalization, creativity, organization, etc.) necessary for scientific inquiry with your bottle-toting babblers!

**Speaker: Dr. Carrie Cutler**

**Room: C145**

**FA: Professional Development**

### ***Sticky Learning***

**PRES**

Every teacher must deal with the "new student." The problem is if a new learner isn't properly assimilated into the classroom, there can be bigger difficulties, including misbehavior, apathy, and boredom. In this session, teachers will learn the "Rule of 3's" and what needs must be met, at each step of the way, to create a self-motivated learner.

**Speaker: Dr. Rick Chromey**

**Room: F110**

**FA: Behavior & Guidance**

### ***Minimum Standards Refresher Training***

**MDO/PRES**

This session is designed for participants licensed in the 746 (centers) minimum standards requirements. We will discuss highly cited deficiencies, recent updates, and how to maintain compliance.

**Speaker: Natasha Harris**

**Room: C127**

**FA: Professional Development**

### ***Music & the Brain***

**MDO/PRES**

Music is vital to the developing brain! We all know this to be true, but why? Let's spend some time looking at what music does for brain devel-

opment and how to use this information to bring music into our classrooms in a meaningful way! *Sessions 1 & 5.*

**Speaker: Tom Wilbeck, MA, LPC**

**Room: A126**

**FA: Music & Movement**

### ***Communicating & Connecting With Parents***

**PRES**

Parents come with various personalities and will all kinds of backgrounds. Therefore, their children are a reflection of each family's unique traits. Early Childhood programs must find a way to not only effectively communicate with each parent, but also connect with the whole family on a deeper level. Parents need something to believe in, tips on appropriate developmental issues and a real person to relate to when serious issues arise. We will discuss how to reach parents in a way that will not only bless the child, but their entire family!

**Speaker: Kara Gore**

**Room: C150**

**FA: Professional Development**

### ***Handwriting Prerequisites & Scissor Skills (ZOOM) Sequenced for Success***

**PRES**

Informative discussion-based session identifies, analyzes, and explains facilitation of the 12 key components determining handwriting readiness in young children. This extended session also highlights the important topic of scissor skill development and how to facilitate. Enhance parent conference interactions and your professional articulation of student progress with objective, meaningful information learned in this session. **This is a 2-session workshop — be prepared to stay for both sessions 4 & 5.**

**Speaker: Dr. Marianne Gibbs, OT**

**Room: A120**

**FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum**

### ***Pushing Your Theme to the Limit***

**PRES**

Most early childhood classrooms are based on weekly or monthly themes that frame the curriculum and activities. How can we think beyond the basics and get the most out of our monthly themes? Come to this session to explore mind mapping and how that can influence your lesson planning. Leave this session with cross-curricular activity ideas for up to five common themes that you can incorporate into your classroom immediately.

**Speaker: Kendolyn Pope**

**Room: Youth**

**FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum**

### ***Discipline & Guidance: The Importance of Responsive Care***

**PRES**

There is a distinct difference between a mainstream child and a traumatized one. With problematic behaviors being at an all-time high, it can be hard to know how to properly redirect negative behavior without knowing the back story. This session will help you understand how to observe and respond to negative behavior, while helping a traumatized child reach their full potential.

**Speaker: Albert Wright**

**Room: Journey**

**FA: Behavior & Guidance**

## Session 6 Workshops

2:35 — 3:30 pm

### ***Nudging Toddlers from "Me-ness" to "We-ness"***

**MDO**

Toddlers are into autonomy, which can result in uncooperative, oppositional behavior in group settings. Participants will discuss developmental milestones for toddlers, ages 18-36 months, and explore transition techniques, books, and simple follow-up activities that will give toddlers practice in cooperating with classmates and caregivers as they work on the task of autonomy. Caregivers can nudge toddlers to the realization that "we-ness" is more fun than "me-ness"! *Sessions 2 & 6.*

**Speaker: Barbara Lynn**

**Room: C114**

**FA: Child Growth & Development**

### ***Partnering with Parents***

**MDO**

Come and explore ways to partner with parents to help bridge the gap between the classroom and home.

**Speaker: Christi Priddy**

**Room: Summit**

**FA: Parent Communication**

### ***STEM for the Sippy Cup Crowd***

**MDO**

Are you doing science *for* your children or supporting them as they carry out investigations and observations? How do you know what science is appropriate for preschool? What materials can preschoolers use to learn science? Join us to learn about Science Eyes, the Observation

Station, and how to get the most science out of your sensory table. You'll leave this session with 15+ science, technology, engineering, and math activities that you can use right away. It's STEM for the sippy cup crowd!

**Speaker: Dr. Carrie Cutler** **Room: C145**  
**FA: Math & Science**

**How Preschoolers L.E.A.R.N: MDO/PRES**  
**The Five-Fold Process for Effective Instruction of Preschoolers**

This session will explore 5 components for effective instruction of preschoolers: Listen (Gaining Attention), Experience (Creating Emotion), Apply (Introducing Change), Retain (Remembering Information), and Nurture (Growing Stronger).

**Speaker: Dr. Rick Chromey** **Room: F110**  
**FA: Adv. Phy. & Intellectual Competence**

**Sensory Processing Disorders in Young Children MDO/PRES**

Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD) is a common disorder with many children. In our classrooms, the sensory activities will assist children with their needs. We will explore the difference between hypo and hyper sensitivity and examine all six senses based on the developmental needs and domains in children.

**Speaker: Natasha Harris** **Room: C127**  
**FA: Care of Children with Special Needs**

**Stress Management MDO/PRES**

Stress, it's just part of the job. Yes, that's true, but stress doesn't have to steal our joy of teaching. Participants in the session will explore how stress impacts our bodies and how we can be resilient in the face of adversity. Let's get serious about our health and happiness in a fun and engaging way — together! *Sessions 2 & 6.*

**Speaker: Tom Wilbeck, MA, LPC** **Room: A126**  
**FA: Professional Development**

**Preschool Escape Room for Go Dog, Go! PRES**

Go Dog, Go! Is a great book to read—now — let's add a new level to

this great book and make an Escape Room for 3-5 year olds. You will take away how to make your own escape room by becoming a 3-5 year old and being in the 'escape' room. You will get a list of items and hints you need to make your own escape room.

**Speaker: Vickie Maertz** **Room: C150**  
**FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum**

**Get Your Grit On! (ZOOM) PRES**

Life's high achievements aren't met by those who are innately talented, but by those who persevere, endure, and never give up — that's GRIT! In this session, Dr. Gibbs discusses the What, Why, and How about growing your own grit from the inside out and then educating for grit—helping children develop their own grit potential! Come learn the nitty-gritty about grit and get your grit on for good!

**Speaker: Dr. Marianne Gibbs, OT** **Room: A120**  
**FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum**

**Why Not Worksheets? PRES**

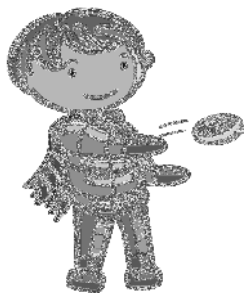
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**Speaker: Kendolyn Pope** **Room: Youth**  
**FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum**

**Building Relationships with Parents PRES**

Teachers that partner with parents help tremendously during the developmental years of children. Parents need to feel that they are not alone in raising their children. We will look at the various ways to communicate with parents and ways to get them involved. Communication is essential for the child, you the teacher, and the parents. Getting involved is fun for all concerned and fosters a feeling of confidence for everyone!

**Speaker: Albert Wright** **Room: Journey**  
**FA: Parent Communication**



# Additional Information and Reminders!

◆ Last minute cancellations will be posted outside the session rooms and highlighted in our morning announcements.

- ◆ Childcare is not available on the premises and children will not be allowed to attend workshops with attendees.
- ◆ Some of your chosen sessions might be full, but be aware that some of the workshops will be repeated during later sessions.
- ◆ We recommend that you have an alternative workshop already chosen in advance for each session time. In fairness to all participants, saving more than one seat in a session is prohibited.
- ◆ The Director's Track is available **only** to Directors. Workshops are available for Mother's Day Out Providers and Pre-school Teachers.
- ◆ Check our website out later this year for information on Summer PTAC 2023! Our website is:  
[www.ptacconference.org](http://www.ptacconference.org)

# Session Leaders

**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 TX.

**Dr. Rick Chromey** is the Founder and President of MANNA! Educational Services International, a non-profit organization that creates "training that's curiously Divine!" He travels widely empowering leaders to lead, teachers to teach and parents to parent. Rick lives with his wife Linda in beautiful Boise, ID and in his spare time enjoys St. Louis Cardinal baseball. [www.mannasolutions.org](http://www.mannasolutions.org).

**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.

**Leisha Davis** has been teaching and shaping little minds for over 13 years. There is nothing more rewarding to her than seeing a child's eyes light up while learning! Prior to working in the education field, Leisha worked at IBM for 20 years. During her time at IBM, she volunteered many hours to tutoring K-2nd grade reading and math skills.

**Dr. Marianne Gibbs** is an occupational therapist and dynamic, national early childhood educational speaker. In addition, to being the owner of Gibbs Consulting, Incorporated, Dr. Gibbs is also a contributing author to the Frog Street Press Pre-K and Pre-K2 Curricula, as well as Benson Handwriting programs.

**Kara Gore** is a Christian wife and mother first. She has been deeply passionate about the field of early childhood since she was 17 years old. Having worked as an ECE teacher, as a Child Care Licensing Specialist, as an adjunct instructor of Child Development courses, as a Legal Expert Witness for abuse/neglect cases involving child care programs, as a Director of a private Christian preschool, and currently as a Trainer/Consultant for her own business since 2006, Kara is constantly seeking knowledge and experience in this amazing field.

**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.

**Stella King** has been in the recreation field for over 19 years, directing day camps, sleep away camps and special events. She currently teaches Fit & Fun and P.E. at The Adventure Preschool and ascribes to the motto, "We don't learn to play! We play to learn!"

**Barbara Lynn** has taught in a variety of settings, including public, parochial, and lab school for over 18 years. She has taught in the Department of Education/Early Childhood at Warton County Junior College since 2004 and has been Department Head since 2005.

**Vickie Maertz** holds a Masters and Doctorate in Occupational Therapy. She is a Master Registered Trainer, author, and consultant. She has lectured both in Texas and nationally on the topic of ADHD, Autism, and Sensory Processing Disorder for over 8 years.

**Kendolyn Pope** has worked in the field of early childhood education for over 25 years. She brings her experiences as a nanny, classroom teacher, and Director of Curriculum and Instruction at the Children's Museum of Houston to her current work as Director of Faith Schools.

**Christi Priddy** is a 2006 graduate of the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. Following graduation, she worked for 8 years as an Early Intervention Specialist before moving into the private classroom setting. Her work history has enhanced her extensive knowledge of child development with a focus on developmental delays & intervention strategies. Christi is currently the Co-Director of Weekend Children's Ministries and serves as a consultant in the community on appropriate developmental behaviors in children.

**Jessica Salas** has been a PK teacher for 19 years. She has taught 8 of those years at The Adventure Preschool. Jessica love art and is always find fun and creative ways to incorporate it into her lesson plans. She started face painting 7 years ago and loves to practice on her 3 children!

**Tom Wilbeck, MA, LPC**, is a multi-instrumentalist who pulls audiences in with stories and a multitude of opportunities to join in the fun by becoming part of the show. You can see more of Tom's musical expression in his children's group Tom's Fun Band.

**Albert Wright** is a Master Level Registered Trainer with over 20 years of experience in the childcare industry. His focus has always been doing what is best for children by training directors and teachers on achievement motivation and how it benefits today's classroom. Albert is the owner of Wright One Training.

