

PTAC

Preschool Teachers Adventure
Conference

July
25, 26, 27

2023



Workshops for

Early Childhood Educators,
Mother's Day Out Providers,
Preschool Teachers,
Directors
& Administrators

Sponsored by
The Adventure Preschool
at Windwood Presbyterian Church
10555 Spring Cypress Road
Houston, TX 77070

www.ptacconference.org
ptac@windwoodpc.org



PRE-CONFERENCE
Monday, July 24th

CPR/First Aid

SIDS/Shaken Baby Course

Add to your professional training by attending this informative class. By attending this class you will become certified by the American Heart Association in both CPR and First Aid.

When: Monday, July 24, 2023

Time: 9:00 am until 12:00 noon

Location: Windwood Presbyterian Church
Worship Center
10555 Spring Cypress Road
Houston, TX 77070



The Adventure Preschool would like to take the opportunity to invite you to the 26th Annual Preschool Teachers Adventure Conference



We have evolved from a small conference for MDO and Preschool teachers into a conference that now serves over 650 Early Childhood Professionals and Directors per day! We have nationally acclaimed speakers, along with practical and imaginative workshops, where you will find opportunities to be trained, encouraged, and motivated!

Our Speakers

Each day, we will take the opportunity to start the day together in our Worship Center and our 'satellite' rooms, while we enjoy various nationally recognized speakers and performers of interest to all.

Start/End Times

Doors open at 700am, followed by Praise and Worship from 7:50 to 8:05 am. Keynote Speakers run from 8:10 am until 9:15 am each day, with conference workshops starting immediately thereafter. On Tuesday and Thursday, we have an Afternoon Presenter from 2:35—3:30 pm each day. On Wednesday, we have an additional Session of classes available during that time.

Conference Workshops

Each workshop is 50 minutes long and will have open seating on a first-come, first-served basis. We have special workshop sessions for those involved with Mother's Day Out and/or Preschool — each session has many workshops to choose from! Directors can choose from workshops designed specifically for them.

We will have the conference/presenter handouts available ONLINE for you to print out BEFORE you arrive. Workshop notes/handouts will be posted (www.ptacconference.org) as they become available.

Cancelled or Full Sessions

Last minute cancellations will be posted outside the session rooms and highlighted in our morning announcements. It is unavoidable that some of your chosen sessions will be full, but be aware that some of the workshops will be repeated. Workshops that repeat on that day are noted at the end of the workshop description. We recommend that you have at least two alternates chosen in advance for each session time. In fairness to all participants, saving more than one seat in a session will not be allowed. Please respect "Session Full" signs, as sitting on the floor is a violation of Fire Safety Codes.

Your fees include admission to speakers and workshops, continental breakfast and a catered lunch each day.

Cost & Registration Deadlines

Seating is limited, so we recommend that you register as soon as possible! We are offering a discount for 3-Day Registration as noted below:

Discounted Registration — Now through May 30th
3 Days = \$325 (goes up to \$350 as of June 1st)

Regular Registration
1 Day = \$150 2 Days = \$275 3 days = \$350

Training Hours

In accordance with the standard for training, for each FULL day that you attend PTAC, you are eligible for 6 clock hours. If you attend all three days (including speakers) of PTAC you will be eligible for a total of 18 clock hours. Certificates for training hours will be provided with your registration materials.

Refund Policy

Registration fees are **non-refundable**, but are transferable to another early childhood professional. Should we reach capacity and are unable to accommodate you, your registration fees will be refunded.

No Children Allowed

PTAC has no childcare available on the premises. **Children cannot attend PTAC or be on the premises at any time during the conference.**

Questions?

Should you have any questions about PTAC, please call The Adventure Preschool at 281-378-4080. Extra forms and workshop handouts can be downloaded at: www.ptacconference.org

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

Registration: 7:00 am

Praise & Worship: 7:50—8:05 am

Welcome: 8:05—8:10 am

Keynote Speaker: 8:10—9:00 am



Keynote Speaker — Sam Glenn

Sam Glenn has been honored by being named Speaker of the Year on several occasions by meeting and event organizations and won two national awards for his training videos. He is the author of more than 30 personal and professional development books. Hundreds of organizations use Sam's videos to kick off their staff meetings and cultivate positivity in the workplace. Sam's Motivated by Art© Training has become the new buzz in creating engagement in the workplace. Not only does his creative art bring energy to the walls in any workplace, but the art is used for training to enrich the quality of personal and professional performance.

Footnote Speaker — Patty Stirling

Patty is founder of **Patty's Primary Songs**. Her successful YouTube channel has hundreds of millions of views from schools, educators and families since 2009. With over 400 music videos dedicated to education and movement for young learners, **Patty's Primary Songs** helps children master new concepts in early childhood development skills through music. Patty Stirling is a full-time musician, performer & composer.



Session 1 Workshops

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

9:30 am - 10:20 am

Director Track

The 3 B's of Business: Basics, Branding, & Building

The 3 B's of Business: Basics, Branding, and Building (Directors) - Directors will review the 3 B's when it comes to owning or operating a childcare center program as an administrator: Basics, Branding, Building. Administrators will gain helpful knowledge to keep it simple and back to basics when it comes to the overall, general operations of the early childhood facility program, as well as learn how to brand their programs through marketing strategies and identifying solutions to build relationships with parents and children. Participants will be engaged through collaborative discussions to help organize and lead a successful, positive program with efficient and effective results. Participants will create an action plan for the 3 B's to implement goals for quality improvement of practices within their childcare program and evaluate the plan for sustainability.

Speaker: Kristin Miller

FA: Business & Operation Management

Left Brain/Right Brain Perspective: Bringing Harmony to Your Team

Unity — Harmony — What does that mean? In this session, we will identify the left brain/right brain perspective and discuss how to successfully match staff for a harmonious classroom environment.

Speaker: Natasha Harris

FA: Leadership & Development

Adults Need Play, Too! Fun Teambuilding Activities for Every Play Personality

Adults benefit from play and being playful just as much as children do! Learn about the 8 adult play personalities and participate in games for each. You will leave with enjoyable activity ideas that will benefit you, your teachers, your programs, and your children. And — you will have fun, too!

Speaker: Diane Goyette

FA: Leadership & Development

MDO/Preschool Track

Wonderfully Made Infants

The world of infant care is both complex and delicate as caregivers monitor the many facets of each infant's growth and development. Let's discuss advanced infant development topics and find Godly ways to partner with parents as their little ones grow quickly through infant stages. S. 1,4

Speaker: Kara Gore

FA: Child Growth & Development

MDO

trum. This session will focus on positive strategies that will help mitigate meltdowns and willfulness. Sessions 1 & 4.

Speaker: Christi Priddy

FA: Behavior & Guidance

Get Up & Move

Getting children to move and have fun — in your classroom — doesn't need to be complicated or scary. Come learn some fun, easy songs and activities, with inexpensive props, that you can quickly integrate into your daily classroom routine! Sessions 1 & 2.

Speaker: Melissa McKenzie

FA: Music & Movement

MDO/PRES

The Dangers of Shaken Baby & SIDS

While not fun topics to talk about, Shaken Baby Syndrome and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome are ones that need to be addressed; and these topics are a required part of the annual professional development for every teacher working with infants and toddlers. This session will explain what "shaken baby" is, some of the causes, and positive practices to help prevent it. This session will also review Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and a discussion of the measures that early childhood centers can take to help reduce the risk of it.

Speaker: Marlyn Kramer

FA: Health & Safety

MDO

The Basics of Child Care in 2023: Buckle Up, Buttercup!

Child Care in 2023 is not for the faint of heart. We cannot use 1995 methods to work with 2023 children and families. This training will give the honest answers on what is happening and what we can do to gain positive momentum. Sessions 1 & 5.

Speaker: Albert Wright

FA: Professional Development

Toddler Power Struggles & Challenging Behavior

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 tan-

MDO

The Character of an Exceptional Teacher

Who are you when no one is looking? Does your walk align with your talk? These are timeless and familiar questions and it could seem that they are "once asked, once answered" kinds of questions. The truth is — we are human and character drift can creep into our lives and our class-

MDO/PRES

MDO/Preschool Track

rooms if we aren't mindful and watchful. This session will provide thoughtful and scriptural strategies for maintaining alignment and accountability.

Speaker: Lori Buxton

FA: Professional Development

Sensible Spaces & Predictable Places

MDO/PRES

Have you ever stopped to think about the awe you experience when seeing a beautiful red cardinal, or the happiness of the smell and taste of a freshly baked cookie? All of these sensorial experiences lead and guide you to a feeling of security and safety. On the other hand, have you ever sensed a bump in the night or felt your heart beat faster when something unexpected happened? These unpredictable sensorial experiences tend to make you uncomfortable and unbalanced. Recognizing how these kinds of sensorial experiences impact our lives positively or negatively can help us better understand how to design our classroom environments. This session will explain the new research on the *predictable brain* and offer strategies and design techniques for creating classrooms that are sensitive spaces and predictable places. *Sessions 1 & 3.*

Speaker: Melissa Williamson

FA: Child Growth & Development

Adding the 'A' to STEM

PRES

Let's spot STEM concepts found in art! We'll uncover STEM topics within artwork from classic artists like Mondrian, Kandinsky, Calder, Klee, and more! We'll see the benefits of process art experiences for young children, the stages of art development, and discuss how art fulfills learning across developmental domains. Also, we'll see budget friendly art ideas that are simple to implement. Art belongs in STEM! *Sessions 1 & 3.*

Speaker: Frida Parson

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Giving Children Their "VOICE"

PRES

For children to be successful at school, they need to have developed strong language skills. . . so let's give children the tools and explicit instruction they need. . . With activities that are Engaging, Enriching and Exciting! We will explore language that asks questions, provides rich descriptive words, includes language experiences that compare and contrast and more — using games, drama, songs, art, and read-a-louds! Join in the fun and learn at the same time! *Sessions 1 & 3.*

Speaker: Chris Smith

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Hooray for Habitats: Oceans & Grasslands

PRES

It's fun to learn about oceans & grasslands! An ocean sensory baggie, shell imprints, and interactive octopus and shark excite children about earning! Lessons include seed art, earthworm hotel, and making a cheerio worm. Children delight in the stinky skunk game, pouncing like foxes hunting mice, and listening to engaging books about each topic. Students also enjoy scavenger hunts and nature painting! *Sessions 1,2,4,5.*

Speaker: Barbara Cargill

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Jurassic Parked: The Bible & Dinosaurs

PRES

Diplodocus. Tyrannosaurus Rex. Stegosaurus. These dinosaurs are all popular with preschool children. But how do they fit within the Bible? And how can preschool teachers answer basic questions for how dinosaurs lived and died? In this fun and insightful session, learn how God's Word helps us understand dinosaurs, as well as solve the great mysteries that still haunt modern science about these ancient beasts.

Speaker: Dr. Rick Chromey

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Why Productive Struggle is Productive to

PRES

Promote Rigorous Learning

This session will showcase the fantastic journey the teachers at my school are traveling to find out if students are capable of working with groups of other students and individuals to create, design and problem-solve to make learning in our classrooms more rigorous. We were shocked to find that our preschoolers are capable of much more than we gave them credit for. Now we are looking at ways to design and imple-

ment lessons that inspire students to think on the highest levels. Through collaboration, we will showcase examples of rigorous learning and how it can be implemented in teachers' classrooms using your own imagination.

Speaker: Krystal Malichi

FA: Advance Intellectual Competence

Loose Parts: What Are They, Why Are They Important & What Do I Do With Them?

PRES

You will leave this session with a long list of loose parts to use in your own indoor and outdoor classrooms. Come participate in discussions about storage, how to incorporate loose parts into your classroom, where to find loose parts — and much more! *Sessions 1 & 3.*

Speaker: Julie Hamilton

FA: Advance Intellectual Competence

More Fine Motor Skills. . . Write Out of the Box!

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

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Your Puppet, Your Teaching Assistant

PRES

Ventriloquism is NOT needed in order to use a puppet to introduce your lessons with a puppet as your teaching assistant. Learn how to create countless voices, a unique personality, and how to make a puppet seem like a real character to kids! Puppets are incredibly effective — when done well! So, learn the secrets to being a master puppeteer. It's not as hard as you think!

Speaker: Karl Bastian

FA: Professional Development

Supporting Second Language Learning in the Early Childhood Classroom

PRES

With an increasing number of children coming to early childhood programs with English as their second language, it is important that we, as early childhood educators, know how to support these children. Come inquire and brainstorm ways to incorporate support for second language learners in the early childhood classroom.

Speakers: Dr. J. Baham & Dr. Taylor Cook

FA: Prof. Development

Transitioning Your Day

PRES

Participants will learn developmentally appropriate transitions for infants, toddlers, and preschool children. We will discover new capturing attention, waiting, moving, teaching, and dismissing transitions. Participants will learn how to incorporate transitions into every aspect of their day. *Sessions 1 & 4.*

Speaker: Ginny Watkins

FA: Professional Development

Identifying a Disability

PRES

What is a disability? Do you question how disabilities are determined, what's the role of an early childhood teacher, how is a disability recognized, and what do I do when I have a suspicion about a child's learning, social, and emotional development? Identifying a child's challenges early in life is critical and may make a positive difference in the life of a child in need. Attending this session will answer your questions and provide insight to research-based strategies to help children. You will walk away knowing you are better equipped to support all levels of learning. *S. 1,3.*

Speaker: Robin Rettie

FA: Care of Children with Special Needs

Where Is Mother Goose & Her Nursery Rhymes?

PRES

This workshop is focused on incorporating nursery rhymes in our early childhood classrooms. Activities and ideas will be shared using nursery rhymes to teach - vocabulary development, phonological awareness, concepts of print and more. *Sessions 1 & 3.*

Speaker: Lynette Tello

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Director Track

Parents & Providers as Partners: The Home & School Connection

Participants will gain further insight and knowledge to effectively learn how to build positive relationships between parents and teachers which cultivates an environment of inclusiveness, intentionality and connection. These elements will help them support successful and healthy environments that are optimal for a child's development and learning. Trainees will be given the tools and create fundamental ideas to best support, strategize, and implement these elements within their program using group collaboration, interactive real-world examples, and participating in a hands-on activity during this session.

Speaker: Kristin Miller

FA: Professional Development

Where Did the Time Go? Effective Time Management & Daily Planning

Being busy is an understatement in a Director's life. The day-to-day challenges, conversations, and engagement can cause us to lose valuable time that could be allocated for administrative duties. In this session, we will discuss effective ways to get the most out of your day!

Speaker: Natasha Harris

FA: Professional Development

Challenging Children Are Gifts From God Too!

Children with behavior difficulties can be challenging to welcome and retain in our programs! But these children—and their families—may be the ones who can benefit the most from what you have to offer. Help your teachers to strengthen their relationships with these children and to prevent or manage difficult behaviors themselves. You'll leave with a plan that helps these children feel supported in their classrooms and reduces their trips to the office, too!

Speaker: Diane Goyette

FA: Leadership & Development

MDO/Preschool Track

Wonderfully Made Toddlers

MDO

Toddlers are funny, curious, loving, weird, and quite misunderstood. While society can oftentimes discount toddlers as "terrible", we can work to better understand them and the significant developmental challenges they face. Let's discuss topics like biting, potty training, environmental needs, and more! You might be surprised by the ideas you hear while finding immense support for the toddler classroom and your impact on this beautiful stage of childhood. *Sessions 2 & 5.*

Speaker: Kara Gore

FA: Child Growth & Development

Engaging Infants & Toddlers in Early Math Skills

MDO

From the day they are born, children are making brain connections and learning from their environment. It is the role of the early childhood teacher to provide stimuli and an environment where these infants and toddlers can explore, learn, and expand awareness of their surroundings. This session will give teachers a variety of ideas as to how they can start to develop math skills in their young students, while demonstrating that learning is ongoing and fun! *Sessions 2 & 5.*

Speaker: Marlyn Kramer

FA: Math & Science

Together Time with Infants, Toddlers & Older Twos

MDO

Come and discover the importance of creating an age appropriate setting for the youngest children. See how you can engage these children by designing a setting where infants and toddlers can gather together to explore and learn. *Sessions 2 & 5.*

Speaker: Christi Priddy

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Music Fun for Little Ones

MDO

Music ignites all areas of child development and skills for school readiness, including intellectual, social-emotional, motor language and overall literacy. Make music fun beyond "Wheels on the Bus". Come learn new songs incorporating puppets and movement that will keep the kids happy and engaged! *Sessions 2 & 4.*

Speaker: Shelley Akins

FA: Music & Movement

Get Up & Move!

MDO/PRES

Getting children to move and have fun — in your classroom — doesn't need to be complicated or scary. Come learn some fun, easy songs and activities, with inexpensive props, that you can quickly integrate into your daily classroom routine. *Sessions 1 & 2.*

Speaker: Melissa McKenzie

FA: Music & Movement

Albert's Guide to Transitions

MDO/PRES

Behavior problems are happening everywhere — and teachers are struggling because so many are happening during transitions. This training is designed to give age-appropriate strategies to deal with the different types of transitions you may experience.

Speaker: Albert Wright

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Back to School — Ready? Set. . . GO!

MDO/PRES

And just like that, it's time to start a new school year! How ready are you to welcome those excited faces into your classroom? How set are you to lead and teach them through another year of growth and development? And when the doors open on the first day of school, will you be ready to GO? This session will help you to get your heart, head, and spirit prepared for a phenomenal year!

Speaker: Lori Buxton

FA: Professional Development

The Road to Building Resilience

MDO/PRES

Educators must understand the shift occurring in brain science. We know it takes regulated adults who surround students to help them build resiliency skills. Research also suggests that resilience results from a combination of protective factors. Neither individual characteristics nor social environments alone are likely to ensure positive outcomes for children who experience prolonged periods of toxic stress. Your actions and interactions can make a difference. Our brain activity represents millions of predictions of what you will encounter next in the world, based on your lifetime of experience. Assuring educators are equipped with this knowledge is essential to promoting optimal classroom environments. Join me to collect ten practical steps that can be implemented in any classroom.

Speaker: Melissa Williamson

FA: Behavior & Guidance

Sustainable Food Fun

PRES

Want to use cooking in the classroom but unsure of where to begin? We'll go over creative and responsible ways to use food in the classroom! We will look at edible engineering, art, science, and literacy-based cooking activities. Food is a unique way to incorporate independence and learning across the domains! Let's get cookin'!

Speaker: Frida Parson

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Creating Your Own "Gab-A-Teria"

PRES

This "hands-on," "minds-on" workshop will serve up ideas to create a center that powerfully promotes language development through natural

MDO/Preschool Track

social interaction and get your children “gabbing”! Visit the Puppet Place, Whisper Window, and the Calling Corner! *Sessions 2 & 5.*

Speaker: Chris Smith

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Hooray for Habitats: Oceans & Grasslands

PRES

It's fun to learn about oceans & grasslands! An ocean sensory baggie, shell imprints, and interactive octopus and shark excite children about earning! Lessons include seed art, earthworm hotel, and making a cheerio worm. Children delight in the stinky skunk game, pouncing like foxes hunting mice, and listening to engaging books about each topic. Students also enjoy scavenger hunts and nature painting! *Sessions 1,2,4,5.*

Speaker: Barbara Cargill

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Motivate Me: Creating a Positive & Productive Preschool Learning Experience

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! *Sessions 2 & 5.*

Speaker: Dr. Rick Chromey

FA: Teacher-Child Interactions

The Joy: Just Own You In What You Do

PRES

This session combines storytelling and audiovisual aids to convey the message that teaching requires you to be your authentic self. When navigating the workplace through relationships with staff, administrators, and students in an ever-changing environment, we must find the joy that keeps us coming back so the pursuit to make the grass greener where you are planted is NOT lost! *Sessions 2 & 5.*

Speaker: Krystal Malachi

FA: Professional Development

Special Days

PRES

Kids always look forward to special days such as Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter, etc. You will leave this session with a whole year of special days that will go with your themes. Some are inside and some are outside. We will discuss all the ins and outs of planning for these days that your students will remember for years to come! *Sessions 2 & 5.*

Speaker: Julie Hamilton

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

More Fine Motor Skills. . . Write Out of the Box!

PRES

*** Second Session of a 2-Session Workshop!*** You must have attended Session 1 to participate in this session! 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!

Speaker: Dr. Marianne Gibbs, OT

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

They're Tools, Not Toys

PRES

When the first *Narnia* movie came out, our church hosted a large screening at a local theater. When Father Christmas handed out his gifts to the Sons and Daughters of Adam and Eve and said solemnly to them, “*These are tools, not toys,*” the children in the audience with me all turned and looked at me, for they had heard me say those very words many times! They understood that I viewed my toys not as mere playthings but as my ministry tools.

Speaker: Karl Bastian

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Brainstorming Guidance - A Discussion Approach to Addressing Behaviors within the Early Childhood Classroom

PRES

Do you have challenging behaviors in your classroom? This engaging session will present scenarios based on anonymous personal experiences from participants and presenters. Using a guided framework we will brainstorm together ideas to work through classroom challenges. Discussions of the ABCs of behaviors (antecedent, behavior, consequence) will be incorporated to provide possible solutions to apply within the early childhood classroom. Resources for parents, teachers, and administrators will be provided. *Sessions 2 & 5.*

Speakers: Dr. Joanne Baham & Dr. Taylor Cook

FA: Behavior & Guidance

Maintaining Traditional Values

PRES

While Supporting DEI in a Preschool Classroom

This session will enable participants to identify ways to support diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in the classroom while supporting traditional values. Participants will be encouraged to extend their understanding of DEI and how it can be implemented in a classroom. *Sessions 2 & 5.*

Speaker: Ginny Watkins

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

BEHAVIOR! The Human Brain and Body Interactions

PRES

Baffled by behavior that affect learning and social? Then this presentation is for you. Engage in a hands-on experience as we learn about the complex, yet amazingly designed 8 sensory systems, peripheral and central nervous systems, and the human limbic system interactions that can throw a good day off course. Walk away with knowledge to utilize right away in your classroom, at home, and with yourself.

Speaker: Robin Rettie

FA: Behavior & Guidance

Building a Classroom Community

PRES

This workshop is focused on building a relationship with the children in our classroom throughout the day. Class sayings, positive quotes, warm ups, class meetings and other activities that can create a welcoming and safe classroom environment for us all.

Speaker: Lynette Tello

FA: Professional Development

Director Track

****LUNCH #1 IS SERVED DURING THIS TIME**

Director Roundtable

Open discussion facilitated by Natasha Harris with topics relevant to childcare.

Speaker: Natasha Harris

FA: Professional Development

The Importance of Play: Do We Do What We Say?

We know that play is the optimal mode for learning and supporting children's development. Do our curriculum design, daily schedules, and program environment reflect that importance? Let's work together to examine these components to ensure that they prioritize the provision of lots of sustained, open-ended, free-choice, child-initiated play.

Speaker: Diane Goyette

FA: Leadership & Development

MDO/Preschool Track

****LUNCH #1 IS SERVED DURING THIS TIME****Connecting with Infants & Toddlers Through Movement & Play** MDO

Children are active by nature!! They enjoy singing, dancing, mimicking, playing, and so much more! We as early childhood educators want to take advantage of this enthusiasm by providing multiple developmentally appropriate opportunities for their “activeness” to take place! This training will help teachers understand the many things they are already doing to foster learning in their classroom, as well as discover additional ideas to immediately implement! Join us for this fun and fast-paced class where we will learn together!

Speaker: Marlyn Kramer **FA:** Adv. Physical & Intellectual Competence

Patty's Primary Songs

MDO/PRES

This interactive session will get you moving to new curriculum based music by international YouTube sensation children's musician Patty Stirling. Not only will she share how to make participatory songs exciting and developmentally appropriate, you will leave with internet expertise to find new music on your smart devices

Speaker: Patty Stirling **FA:** Music & Movement

STEM Supersized — the PE Way

MDO/PRES

Come join us for an interactive outdoor 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 multitasking at its finest. *Sessions 3, 4, 5.*

Speaker: Stella King **FA:** Adv. Physical & Intellectual Competence

Sensible Spaces & Predictable Places

MDO/PRES

Have you ever stopped to think about the awe you experience when seeing a beautiful red cardinal, the peace and warmth felt when cozied beneath your favorite blanket, or the happiness of the smell and taste of a freshly baked cookie? All of these sensorial experiences lead and guide you to a feeling of security, well-being, and safety. On the other hand, have you ever sensed a bump in the night, heard a wailing siren, or felt your heart beat faster when something unexpected happened? These unpredictable sensorial experiences tend to make you uncomfortable and perhaps a bit unbalanced. Recognizing how these kinds of sensorial experiences impact our personal lives positively or negatively can help us better understand how to design our classroom environments. This session will briefly explain the new research on the *predictable brain* and offer several strategies and design techniques for creating classrooms that are sensitive spaces and predictable places. *Sessions 1 & 3.*

Speaker: Melissa Williamson **FA:** Child Growth & Development

Adding the 'A' to STEM

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Let's spot STEM concepts found in art! We'll uncover STEM topics within artwork from classic artists like Mondrian, Kandinsky, Calder, Klee, and more! We'll see the benefits of process art experiences for young children, the stages of art development, and discuss how art fulfills learning across developmental domains. Also, we'll see budget friendly art ideas that are simple to implement. Art belongs in STEM! *Sessions 1 & 3.*

Speaker: Frida Parson **FA:** Age Appropriate Curriculum

Giving Children Their "VOICE"

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Join in the fun and learn at the same time! *Sessions 1 & 3.*

Speaker: Chris Smith

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

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

FA: Behavior & Guidance

Organizing a DYNAMIC Classroom

PRES

Do you need help with lesson plans, technology, implementation, classroom clutter, and maintaining order? Don't stress! This session is designed to help teachers organize curriculum in their classrooms with new ideas, including technology and organizational routines with music/visuals via Digital Lesson planning. Participants will learn the benefits of having their books, songs, videos, and pocket charts in one accessible, engaging format for flawless daily routines.

Speaker: Krystal Malichi

FA: Professional Development

Loose Parts: What Are They, Why Are They Important & What Do I Do With Them?

PRES

You will leave this session with a long list of loose parts to use in your own indoor and outdoor classrooms. Come participate in discussions about storage, how to incorporate loose parts into your classroom, where to find loose parts — and much more! *Sessions 1 & 3.*

Speaker: Julie Hamilton

FA: Advance Intellectual Competence

Using Children's Portfolios to Build Connections

PRES

Capturing authentic assessment is critical to understanding the development and learning progression of the children. One way to understand each child's unique development is through the use of child portfolios. Creating these portfolios does not have to be difficult or time-consuming. This training presents a four-step process for creating child portfolios. The information provided will include a sample template that allows for an authentic assessment of each child based on the early learning program's philosophy. Furthermore, practices to incorporate to begin creating and using children's portfolios will be provided so educators can start creating, using, and maintaining portfolios immediately within their daily activities.

Speakers: Dr. Joanne Baham & Dr. Taylor Cook **FA:** Observation & Assessment

Identifying a Disability

PRES

What is a disability? Do you question how disabilities are determined, what's the role of an early childhood teacher, how is a disability recognized, and what do I do when I have a suspicion about a child's learning, social, and emotional development? Identifying a child's challenges early in life is critical and may make a positive difference in the life of a child in need. Attending this session will answer your questions and provide insight to research-based strategies to help children. You will walk away knowing you are better equipped to support all levels of learning. *Sessions 1 & 3.*

Speaker: Robin Rettie

FA: Care of Special Children

Where Is Mother Goose & Her Nursery Rhymes?

PRES

This workshop is focused on incorporating nursery rhymes in our early childhood classrooms. Activities and ideas will be shared using nursery rhymes to teach - vocabulary development, phonological awareness, concepts of print and more. *Sessions 1 & 3.*

Speaker: Lynette Tello

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Director Track

****LUNCH #2 IS SERVED DURING THIS TIME*****Cultivating a Resilient Team Culture***

We are either heading into, walking through, or coming out of a storm. It is the cycle of life and is true for individuals and for teams. Our people depend on our leadership throughout, and we have to be ready. This transparent conversation about resilience will equip you to help them rebound stronger, wiser, and ready for whatever life brings next.

Speaker: Lori Buxton

FA: Leadership & Development

MDO/Preschool Track

****LUNCH #2 IS SERVED DURING THIS TIME*****Wonderfully Made Infants***

MDO

The world of infant care is both complex and delicate as caregivers monitor the many facets of each infant's growth and development. Let's discuss advanced infant development topics and find Godly ways to partner with parents as their little ones grow quickly through infant stages. *Sessions 1 & 4.*

Speaker: Kara Gore

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. *Sessions 1 & 4.*

Speaker: Christi Priddy

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Music Fun for Little Ones

MDO

Music ignites all areas of child development and skills for school readiness, including intellectual, social-emotional, motor language and overall literacy. Make music fun beyond "Wheels on the Bus". Come learn new songs incorporating puppets and movement that will keep the kids happy and engaged! *Sessions 2 & 4.*

Speaker: Shelley Akins

FA: Music & Movement

Break Out of the Box with Your Bible Lessons

MDO/PRES

Help share God's incredible Truth with children in fun, creative ways. Young children aren't grown-ups, so let's not try to teach them about God the way we teach grown-ups. This session will provide tons of ideas to bring Christ in the classroom as you break out of your box!

Speaker: Melissa McKenzie

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

A Child's Language: A Play-Based Approach to Learning

MDO/PRES

In recent years, some educators have lost sight of the importance of play. Play is important in the social and emotional development of every child. In this session, teachers will learn the science behind play and the social constructs it can teach.

Speaker: Albert Wright

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

STEM Supersized — the PE Way

MDO/PRES

Come join us for an interactive outdoor 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 multitasking at its finest. *Sessions 3, 4, 5.*

Speaker: Stella King

FA: Adv. Physical & Intellectual Competence

Keep Kids Excited About Learning!

MDO/PRES

Kids are changing and we need to change with them! Children should be able to explore their ingenuity, creativity and their imagination. Learning could be and should be fun and involve children's natural interests and activities. This session is hands-on and gets educators to think outside the box to keep students engaged and learning at the same time. *Sessions 4 & 5.*

Speaker: Marci Sawyer

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Integrating the Critical Thinking Theory

PRES

of Bloom's Taxonomy in Preschool Classrooms

Early childhood is the foundation for a child's whole growth and development. Fostering higher order thinking skills in our children helps set them up for cognitive life-long success! Young children are sponges, they soak it all in, absorbing the knowledge we provide for them in their play-based, engaging learning environment. Our goal is for them to retain what we are teaching them and what they're learning! Using Bloom's Taxonomy and the research behind this learning theory model created by Benjamin Bloom, to promote higher order thinking skills and language development in our preschoolers, teachers will be empowered to utilize a variety of low-to-high critical thinking activities when planning their curricula and engaging in play with children.

Speaker: Kristin Miller

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Hooray for Habitats: Oceans & Grasslands

PRES

It's fun to learn about oceans & grasslands! An ocean sensory baggie, shell imprints, and interactive octopus and shark excite children about learning! Lessons include seed art, earthworm hotel, and making a cheerio worm. Children delight in the stinky skunk game, pouncing like foxes hunting mice, and listening to engaging books about each topic. Students also enjoy scavenger hunts and nature painting! *Sessions 1,2,4,5.*

Speaker: Barbara Cargill

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

I Can Do It Myself!

PRES

Interactive and self-reflective session that focuses on techniques you can use immediately in the classroom to support children's independence skill-building. This session will increase your ability to facilitate self-help mastery and self-efficacy development in your children, which are building blocks for future academic achievement.

Speaker: Marianne Gibbs, OT

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Bringing Stories to Life

PRES

There is a reason Jesus used stories to life. Life IS a story. History is "HIS story". Learn the secrets on how to be an amazing story teller and how to have students on the edge of their seats when you tell stories.

Speaker: Karl Bastian

FA: Professional Development

Transitioning Your Day

PRES

Participants will learn developmentally appropriate transitions for Infants, Toddlers and Pre-K children. We will discover new capturing attention, waiting, moving, teaching and dismissing transitions. Participants will learn how to incorporate transitions into every aspect of their day.

Speaker: Ginny Watkins

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Child Development & the Learning Environment

PRES

Learn how to create a classroom environment that nurtures a child's development and sets both teacher and student up for success! This session focuses on a child's developmental needs from infancy to pre-k with lots of hands on ideas for creating a fun and challenging preschool experience for the little ones in your care. *Sessions 4 & 5.*

Speaker: Rebecca Mueller

FA: Child Growth & Development

Director Track

Leaning In

We can't do this alone. We know leaders need a team—but before we can "lean on" our team, we have to "lean in" to our people. Delegation can be a valuable tool for leaders as long as we invest first. In this session, we will walk through the process of effectively inviting, equipping, and empowering each person to contribute to your team in meaningful ways.

Speaker: Lori Buxton

FA: Leadership & Development

Are You Busy or Are You Productive? Making the Most of Your Day

As a leader, do you find yourself going through the motions, only to discover you are not getting anything accomplished? In this session, we will discuss the difference between being busy and being productive. We will also share tips on effectively accomplishing your task and how to set goals for achievement.

Speaker: Natasha Harris

FA: Professional Development

Leading a Team: What is Leadership?

Participants will determine the difference between leadership and management, as well as discover their individual communication skills/style. We will discuss how to explore the communication needs of staff and how to relate brain development to communication.

Speaker: Melissa Williamson

FA: Leadership & Development

MDO/Preschool Track

Wonderfully Made Toddlers

MDO

Toddlers are funny, curious, loving, weird, and quite misunderstood. While society can oftentimes discount toddlers as "terrible", we can work to better understand them and the significant developmental challenges they face. Let's discuss topics like biting, potty training, environmental needs, and more! You might be surprised by the ideas you hear while finding immense support for the toddler classroom and your impact on this beautiful stage of childhood. *Sessions 2 & 5.*

Speaker: Kara Gore

FA: Child Growth & Development

Engaging Infants & Toddlers in Early Math Skills

MDO

From the day they are born, children are making brain connections and learning from their environment. It is the role of the early childhood teacher to provide stimuli and an environment where these infants and toddlers can explore, learn, and expand awareness of their surroundings. This session will give teachers a variety of ideas as to how they can start to develop math skills in their young students, while demonstrating that learning is ongoing and fun! *Sessions 2 & 5.*

Speaker: Marlyn Kramer

FA: Math & Science

Together Time with Infants, Toddlers & Older Twos

MDO

Come and discover the importance of creating an age appropriate setting for the youngest children. See how you can engage these children by designing a setting where infants and toddlers can gather together to explore and learn. *Sessions 2 & 5.*

Speaker: Christi Priddy

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Attention-Getters and Transitions

MDO/PRES

Children spend a lot of time switching between activities throughout the school day. With a little preparation, we can take advantage of these time-tidbits and not only have fun, but also help the children learn along the way. Get ready for some fun, hands-on learning.

Speaker: Melissa McKenzie

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

The Basics of Child Care in 2023: Buckle Up, Buttercup!

Child Care in 2023 is not for the faint of heart. We cannot use 1995 methods to work with 2023 children and families. This training will give the honest answers on what is happening and what we can do to gain positive momentum. *Sessions 1 & 5.*

Speaker: Albert Wright

FA: Professional Development

STEM Supersized — the PE Way

MDO/PRES

Come join us for an interactive outdoor session to learn how to incorpo-

rate 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 multitasking at its finest. *Sessions 3, 4, 5.*

Speaker: Stella King

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Keep Kids Excited About Learning!

MDO/PRES

Kids are changing and we need to change with them! Children should be able to explore their ingenuity, creativity and their imagination. Learning could be and should be fun and involve children's natural interests and activities. This session is hands-on and gets educators to think outside the box to keep students engaged and learning at the same time. *Sessions 4 & 5.*

Speaker: Marci Sawyer

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Fine Motor Development—Facts & Fun!

PRES

What is one way children learn? By being involved in the process! Using their fine-motor skills to play, write, cut, glue, tear, manipulate, stack, sort, string, lace, and throw! There are many ways children use their hands and finger muscles to learn within their environment. In this training, participants will gather insight on the importance of fine-motor development in early childhood. They will have a blast building knowledge with a list of ways they can incorporate a fine-motor station into their classroom for their age-range of students with a variety of activity ideas! This is a hands-on workshop and not one educator will leave empty "handed" — literally!

Speaker: Kristin Miller

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Creating Your Own "Gab-A-Teria"

PRES

This "hands-on," "minds-on" workshop will serve up ideas to create a center that powerfully promotes language development through natural social interaction and get your children "gabbing"! Visit the Puppet Place, Whisper Window, and the Calling Corner! *Sessions 2 & 5.*

Speaker: Chris Smith

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Hooray for Habitats: Oceans & Grasslands

PRES

It's fun to learn about oceans & grasslands! An ocean sensory baggie, shell imprints, and interactive octopus and shark excite children about earning! Lessons include seed art, earthworm hotel, and making a cheerio worm. Children delight in the stinky skunk game, pouncing like foxes hunting mice, and listening to engaging books about each topic. Students also enjoy scavenger hunts and nature painting! *Sessions 1,2,4,5.*

Speaker: Barbara Cargill

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

MDO/Preschool Track

Motivate Me: Creating a Positive & Productive Preschool Learning Experience

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! Sessions 2 & 5.

Speaker: Dr. Rick Chromey

FA: Teacher-Child Interactions

The Joy: Just Own You In What You Do

PRES

This session combines storytelling and audiovisual aids to convey the message that teaching requires you to be your authentic self. When navigating the workplace through relationships with staff, administrators, and students in an ever-changing environment, we must find the joy that keeps us coming back so the pursuit to make the grass greener where you are planted is NOT lost! Sessions 2 & 5.

Speaker: Krystal Malachi

FA: Professional Development

Special Days

PRES

Kids always look forward to special days such as Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter, etc. You will leave this session with a whole year of special days that will go with your themes. Some are inside and some are outside. We will discuss all the ins and outs of planning for these days that your students will remember for years to come! Sessions 2 & 5.

Speaker: Julie Hamilton

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Check Your Face & Other Body Parts at the Door!

PRES

Spend this session checking out yourself and how your physical affect and actions may impact the young children you serve. A unique opportunity to reflect on your physical self and how that contributes to building esteem, rapport, and trust in young children.

Speaker: Dr. Marianne Gibbs, OT

FA: Teacher-Child Interactions

Bringing Children to Jesus

PRES

Workshop description to be provided at a later date.

Speaker: Karl Bastian

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Brainstorming Guidance - A Discussion Approach to Addressing Behaviors within the Early Childhood Classroom

PRES

Do you have challenging behaviors in your classroom? This engaging session will present scenarios based on anonymous personal experiences from participants and presenters. Using a guided framework we will brainstorm together ideas to work through classroom challenges. Discussions of the ABCs of behaviors (antecedent, behavior, consequence) will be incorporated to provide possible solutions to apply within the early childhood classroom. Resources for parents, teachers, and administrators will be provided. Sessions 2 & 5.

Speakers: Dr. Joanne Baham & Dr. Taylor Cook

: Behavior & Guidance

Maintaining Traditional Values

PRES

While Supporting DEI in a Preschool Classroom

This session will enable participants to identify ways to support diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in the classroom while supporting traditional values. Participants will be encouraged to extend their understanding of DEI and how it can be implemented in a classroom. Sessions 2 & 5.

Speaker: Ginny Watkins

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Managing in Stressful Times — Support for Educators

PRES

Engage in a hands-on experience as you learn about the complex, yet amazingly designed 8 sensory systems, peripheral and central nervous systems, and the human limbic system interactions that can throw a good day off course. Stress can be managed when you know how God has purposefully designed the human — it is AMAZING! You'll have a better understanding about environmental triggers, warning signs your body presents when you're about to meltdown, and research-based strategies to keep yourself regulated. Walk away with knowledge to utilize right away in your classroom, at home, and for yourself.

Speaker: Robin Rettie

FA: Professional Development

Child Development & the Learning Environment

PRES

Learn how to create a classroom environment that nurtures a child's development and sets both teacher and student up for success! This session focuses on a child's developmental needs from infancy to pre-k with lots of hands on ideas for creating a fun and challenging preschool experience for the little ones in your care. Sessions 4 & 5.

Speaker: Rebecca Mueller

FA: Professional Development

Disclaimer

The opinions expressed by presenters and/or exhibitors are their own, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Conference Planning Committee, The Adventure Preschool, or Windwood Presbyterian Church. The Conference Planning Committee does not officially endorse any particular product, program, teaching method, activity or handout presented at this conference.



Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Registration: 7:00 am

Praise & Worship: 7:50 —8:05 am

Welcome: 8:05—8:10 am

Keynote Speaker: 8:10—9:00 am



Keynote Speaker — Karl Bastian

As the founder of Kidology, Karl Bastian is a follower of Jesus Christ, the lucky husband of his best friend Sara, and the proud father of Luke. When he isn't with his family, or hurrying back to them, his second favorite thing is to creatively minister to kids, and to equip and encourage others who share that passion. Karl has been a thought leader in children's ministry for years. Karl has over twenty years of experience as a children's pastor in large, small and mobile churches. He is currently the children's pastor at Highpoint Church in Aurora, Colorado. From backyards to banquet halls, Karl has been entertaining and ministering to children around the country and around the world through puppets, magic, balloons, and other creative means since he was a kid! He is an author of and contributor to several children's ministry books and magazines. **His life mission is to reach and teach as many children as possible with the Good News of God's love, and in the process to enlist, equip and encourage others to do the same.**

Session 1 Workshops

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

9:30 am - 10:20 am

Director Track

Managing with Confidence, Creativity, and Class

Let's be honest, the life of administrators can be a lonely and challenging role. However, there are important things we can do as program leaders to boost our confidence in the role we have been given by God, increase our effectiveness by adopting new and creative ideas, and representing our programs with grace. While we wear many hats and our days are ever-changing, we have been equipped and called to face each day with confidence, creativity, and class!

Speaker: Kara Gore

FA: Professional Development

Increasing Your Enrollment

This session will include information on how to develop a marketing action plan — with five steps to power marketing & advertising in tough economic times. Participants will identify 20 no-to-low cost ways to advertise, discover how to convert inquiries into tours and prospects into guaranteed enrollment. We will discuss proven follow-up techniques and ways to determine your school's competitive edge.

Speaker: Kristy Thornton

FA: Business & Operation Management

Program Policies- Steps to Policy Development & Review

Quality policies and procedures support a program in providing clear direct communication and expectations. Well-designed policies and procedures provide clear expectations for how things function within a program for parents, staff, and administration. Bring your current policies or a list of policies you would like to create to this working session. In this session, we will review the components that policies should include, discuss the struggles & strengths of current policies, and begin the work on developing concise policies to support your programs' goals and missions.

Speakers: Dr. Joanne Baham & Dr. Taylor Cook

FA: Business & Operation Management

MDO/Preschool Track

Little People with Big Feelings & Big Behaviors: Supporting Emotional Regulation

Workshop description will be provided at a later date. Sessions 1 & 5.

Speaker: Casey Casteel

FA: Behavior & Guidance

MDO

tionships with the children, parents, and families in your care.

Speaker: Christi Priddy

FA: Teacher-Child Interactions

Rules of Engagement with an Angry Child

There is a limited window of opportunity for us to de-escalate when faced with an angry child. Our state of readiness and our understanding of how to guide young children through BIG feelings is key to helping them return to a calm state. This session will provide tools and strategies for successfully supporting an angry child. Sessions 1 & 3.

Speaker: Lori Buxton

FA: Behavior & Guidance

MDO

Every Student Can Learn

MDO

This workshop is focused on supporting children that have a home language other than English. We will discuss Early Language Learners - It's history, definitions and practical application strategies for the early childhood classroom. Sessions 1 & 5.

Speaker: Lynette Tello

FA: Professional Development

Understanding Child Development Birth to Age 3

In this session, we will discuss the developmental stages and developmental milestones for infants, toddlers, and 2 year olds. Sessions 1 & 4.

Speaker: Natasha Harris

FA: Child Growth & Development

MDO

Relationship Based Teaching

Educator-student relationships are key to student success at school. In order to build relationships, early childhood professionals must take an intentional approach to ensure all students and families feel heard and seen in their classroom. This session will provide strategies to build rela-

MDO

Fine Motor Development - Facts & Fun!

MDO

What is one way children learn? By being involved in the process! Using their fine-motor skills to play, write, cut, glue, tear, manipulate, stack, sort, string, lace, and throw! There are many ways children use their hands and finger muscles to learn within their environment. In this training, participants will gather insight on the importance of fine-motor development in early childhood. They will have a blast building knowledge with a list of ways they can incorporate a fine-motor station into their classroom for their age-range of students with a variety of activity ideas! This is a hands-on workshop and not one educator will leave empty "handed" – literally! Sessions 1 & 6.

Speaker: Kristin Miller

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

MDO/Preschool Track

Healthy Strategies for Resolving Potential Conflicts**MDO/PRES**

When two or more people are together, the occasional conflict is inevitable. Unfortunately, these conflicts can quickly escalate to damaging proportion. This fast-paced, interactive training will explore with whom conflicts can occur, possible causes for conflict, and techniques for peacefully resolving conflicts.

Speaker: *Marlyn Kramer***FA:** *Professional Development***The Importance of Parents:****MDO/PRES****How to Help Them Figure You Out**

Historically parents had an unspoken trust of teachers, but we are seeing more and more of a subtle distrust of educators. This session is designed to help teachers bridge the real or imaginary gap between school and home.

Speaker: *Albert Wright***FA:** *Parent Communications***Science? Magic? Check It Out!****PRES**

Can you "Soak It To Me"? Or will you try a "Meltdown"? This session is chockfull of "ooooo's" and "aaaaah's". So come along for a roller-coaster ride of science "quick tricks" and extended units that involve children in exploration and experience. Inquiring minds what to know! How about you? *Sessions 1 & 2.*

Speaker: *Chris Smith***FA:** *Math & Science***Hooray for Habitats: Oceans & Grasslands****PRES**

It's fun to learn about oceans & grasslands! An ocean sensory baggie, shell imprints, and interactive octopus and shark excite children about earning! Lessons include seed art, earthworm hotel, and making a cheerio worm. Children delight in the stinky skunk game, pouncing like foxes hunting mice, and listening to engaging books about each topic. Students also enjoy scavenger hunts and nature painting! *Sessions 1,2,4,5,6.*

Speaker: *Barbara Cargill***FA:** *Age Appropriate Curriculum***From Textbook to the Classroom****PRES**

Let's brush up on developmental theorists like Piaget, Vygotsky, and Erikson! How are they seen in the classroom each day? Are they biblically relevant? You'll learn how they drive the daily activity and curriculum in the classroom. We'll also see some easy to implement activities that help develop young brains. Bring your thinking caps! *Sessions 1 & 3.*

Speaker: *Frida Parson***FA:** *Professional Development***Guided Tour Through STEAM****PRES**

Come on a guided tour of STEAM centers that you can use with your students! Great for new or seasoned educators! We will 'tour' several classrooms which will be set up with examples of activities and centers related to science, technology, engineering, art, and math. Participants will be able to ask questions and interact with the centers — and will come away with ideas for use in their own classrooms! *Sessions 1,2,3,5,6.*

Tour Guide: *Leisha Davis***FA:** *Math & Science***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. *Sessions 1 & 4.*

Speaker: *Dr. Rick Chromey***FA:** *Behavior & Guidance***Rainy Day Activities****PRES**

Dread rainy days? Discover indoor activities that range from gross and fine motor skills to literacy, math, and science. You will go home with an abundance of hands-on ideas to use on a rainy day — or any day of the week! *Sessions 1 & 4.*

Speaker: *Julie Hamilton***FA:** *Age Appropriate Curriculum***Get Your Teacher Tech Ready!****PRES**

Set yourself up for a great year starting with your computer settings! Learn to turn off and on notifications in your email, group tabs, change Chrome settings so all of your tabs come back the next day, create and set a personalized background for your desktop — and much more! *Sessions 1 & 2.*

Speaker: *Meredith Akers***FA:** *Professional Development***Story with Props and Story Telling****PRES**

This session is about how to make your stories come to life through using stories with props. Homemade story props will be shown as ideas to recreate. Several stories will be told to help learners see how to utilize story props when story telling. *Sessions 1 & 5.*

Speaker: *Ginny Watkins***FA:** *Age Appropriate Curriculum***Young Scientists in Action: Explorations of Light, Color & Air****PRES**

Young children are natural explorers! Discover how to guide children through the scientific process and participate in many developmentally appropriate activities exploring the topics of light, color and air. You'll leave ready to encourage your children to be scientists and explore! *Sessions 1 & 2.*

Speaker: *Diane Goyette***FA:** *Math & Science***Errorless Learning. . . Who Knew?****PRES**

This session involves significant self-reflection and interaction using a strategy for reflective learning called Errorless Learning. The session engages learners in a meta-cognitive approach to assessing their own teaching strategies and shares a new way to evoke children's esteem during the process of acquiring academic mastery. *Sessions 1 & 3.*

Speaker: *Marianne Gibbs***FA:** *Age Appropriate Curriculum***Break Out of the Box with Your Bible Lessons****PRES**

Help share God's incredible Truth with children in fun, creative ways. Young children aren't grown-ups, so let's not try to teach them about God the way we teach grown-ups. This session will provide tons of ideas to bring Christ in the classroom as you break out of your box! *Sessions 1,4.*

Speaker: *Melissa McKenzie***FA:** *Age Appropriate Curriculum***Just Calm Down! Emotional Regulation Skills****PRES**

Just CALM DOWN! Have you ever thought or said this to your students? Calming down is harder than it seems and oftentimes our little friends need help to regulate their emotions. Anger, sadness, anxiety, being overwhelmed or even being excited can cause a kiddo to become dysregulated. Dysregulation can look like crying, hitting, biting, and more. In this session, we will talk about ways to help our little friends calm down using play therapy techniques. We will also talk about ways to help you stay calm too! *Sessions 1, 2, 4.*

Speaker: *Kirby Luna***FA:** *Behavior & Guidance*

Some Workshops are Repeated Each Day!

If you have several workshops that you want to go to — but they are all in the same Session — be sure to look for the italicized print after the workshop description. It will show you which other sessions that workshop is scheduled for.

Director Track

Stress Management

For years I tried to manage my stress and anxiety with all kinds of things that promised to bring me peace. However, working with people, while rewarding, is overwhelming and peace was hard to hold on to. We are not only directors, but counselors, friends, activity coordinators, truth tellers, trainers, protectors, and much more. Let's discuss ways to decompress, relax, let go of somethings, and truly find fulfillment in this amazing role we have been gifted!

Speaker: Kara Gore

FA: Professional Development

Top 10 Legal Mistakes

Workshop description to be provided at a later date.

Speaker: Kristy Thornton

FA: Business & Operation Management

Using Children's Portfolios to Build Connections

Capturing authentic assessment is critical to understanding the development and learning progression of the children. One way to understand each child's unique development is through the use of child portfolios. Creating these portfolios does not have to be difficult or time-consuming. This training presents a four-step process for creating child portfolios. The information provided will include a sample template that allows for an authentic assessment of each child based on the early learning program's philosophy. Furthermore, practices to incorporate to begin creating and using children's portfolios will be provided so educators can start creating, using, and maintaining portfolios immediately within their daily activities.

Speakers: Dr. Joanne Baham & Dr. Taylor Cook

FA: Observation & Assessment

MDO/Preschool Track

The Power of Play

Workshop description will be provided at a later date.

Speaker: Casey Casteel

FA: Professional Development

MDO

that are fun, age appropriate, and encourage STEAM through hands-on play, social interactions, and building leadership strategies! This training will help provide resources and ideas for staff to incorporate STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) into their afterschool programs. Using games, video examples, research, and participating in collaboration and interaction in small groups, attendees will have a blast learning and applying techniques back into their own programs! Participants will also be given follow-up resources to sustain knowledge and support their programs.

Speaker: Kristin Miller

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Choosing Love in the Classroom

Daniel Mackler said, "Every child needs to be loved in gigantic quantities and with unbelievable quality." We likely all agree with this statement, but what does it look like to bring that truth to life in your classroom? This session will explore how we can provide an environment of unconditional love where children thrive, learn, and grow into all that God created them to be!

Speaker: Lori Buxton

FA: Teacher-Child Interactions

MDO

Setting Up an Early Childhood Classroom That Encourages Exploration & Creativity

MDO/PRES

Creating an Engaging Learning Environment for Infants & Toddlers

Environment if everything! In this session, we will discuss tips on classroom set up, clutter management, and overstimulation — to make your classroom an engaging place for young children. Sessions 2 & 5.

Speaker: Natasha Harris

FA: Professional Development

MDO

Setting up an early childhood classroom is always a challenge! Setting up an early childhood classroom that encourages exploration, creativity, and free play is even more difficult!! This session will give teachers ideas, tips, and tricks to do just that! It will compare open-ended versus closed-ended activities, as well as discuss management & teacher organization.

Speaker: Marlyn Kramer

FA: Professional Development

Temper Tantrums 101

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

FA: Behavior & Guidance

MDO

Safety & Supervision

MDO/PRES

Safety and Supervision is one of the most important things to any program. Parents need to know that we will know what is best for their children, no matter what. This training will help teachers understand Minimum Standards definition of supervision and how it should be embraced in all aspects of a school.

Speaker: Albert Wright

FA: Health & Safety

Top 10 Reasons to Use Puppets in the Classroom

MDO/PRES

This workshop is focused on how we can use puppets to develop - vocabulary development, reading, writing and math skills in the early childhood classroom. Ideas and activities will be shared for daily use of a variety of puppets in the classroom. Sessions 2 & 6.

Speaker: Lynette Tello

FA: Professional Development

"Center"ed On Learning

PRES

This session is a hand-on, practical guide to setting up centers and "loading" them with dynamite learning skills!

Speaker: Chris Smith

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Managing Ministry Without Losing Your Mind

MDO/PRES

Workshop description will be provided at a later date.

Speaker: Karl Bastian

FA: Professional Development

Hooray for Habitats: Oceans & Grasslands

PRES

It's fun to learn about oceans & grasslands! An ocean sensory baggie, shell imprints, and interactive octopus and shark excite children about earning! Lessons include seed art, earthworm hotel, and making a cheerio worm. Children delight in the stinky skunk game, pouncing like foxes hunting mice, and listening to engaging books about each topic. Students also enjoy scavenger hunts and nature painting! Sessions 1,2,4,5,6.

Speaker: Barbara Cargill

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Incorporating STEAM into Afterschool Programs

MDO/PRES

Let's face it...after school programs begin at the end of the day. It is time to flip the switch and make the end the most dynamic part of the day. Discover resources for developing and maintaining after-school programs

MDO/Preschool Track

Sustainable Food Fun

Want to use cooking in the classroom but unsure of where to begin? We'll go over creative and responsible ways to use food in the classroom! We will look at edible engineering, art, science, and literacy-based cooking activities. Food is a unique way to incorporate independence and learning across the domains! Let's get cookin'!

Speaker: Frida Parson

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Guided Tour Through STEAM

Come on a guided tour of STEAM centers that you can use with your students! Great for new or seasoned educators! We will 'tour' several classrooms which will be set up with examples of activities and centers related to science, technology, engineering, art, and math. Participants will be able to ask questions and interact with the centers — and will come away with ideas for use in their own classrooms! Sessions 1,2,3,5,6.

Tour Guide: Leisha Davis

FA: Math & Science

How Preschoolers L.E.A.R.N.:**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

FA: Adv. Phy. & Intellectual Competence

Developing a Heart for Outdoor Teaching

This session is designed to share economical and practical ways to teach outside and will include everything from setting up the areas to implementing your teaching in these areas. Come on this journey filled with ideas that have been tested in a real outdoor classroom and learn from both mistake and successes! Sessions 2 & 5.

Speaker: Julie Hamilton

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Get Your Teacher Tech Ready!

Set yourself up for a great year starting with your computer settings! Learn to turn off and on notifications in your email, group tabs, change Chrome settings so all of your tabs come back the next day, create and set a personalized background for your desktop — and much more! Sessions 1 & 2.

Speaker: Meredith Akers

FA: Professional Development

PRES Magical Music Times

Come make your music times magical! We will learn a few new songs, learn how to engage your students with the classics, and learn the value of nursery rhymes. We will also talk about adding props and musical instruments to enhance the music time. Sessions 2 & 6.

Speaker: Ginny Watkins

FA: Music & Movement

Young Scientists in Action: Explorations of Light, Color & Air

Young children are natural explorers! Discover how to guide children through the scientific process and participate in many developmentally appropriate activities exploring the topics of light, color and air. You'll leave ready to encourage your children to be scientists and explore! Sessions 1 & 2.

Speaker: Diane Goyette

FA: Math & Science

Get Your Grit On!

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! Sessions 2 & 5.

Speaker: Dr. Marianne Gibbs, OT

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Attention-Getters and Transitions

Children spend a lot of time switching between activities throughout the school day. With a little preparation, we can take advantage of these time-tidbits and not only have fun, but also help the children learn along the way. Get ready for some fun, hands-on learning! Sessions 2 & 5.

Speaker: Melissa McKenzie

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Just Calm Down! Emotional Regulation Skills

Just CALM DOWN! Have you ever thought or said this to your students? Calming down is harder than it seems and oftentimes our little friends need help to regulate their emotions. Anger, sadness, anxiety, being overwhelmed or even being excited can cause a kiddo to become dysregulated. Dysregulation can look like crying, hitting, biting, and more. In this session, we will talk about ways to help our little friends calm down using play therapy techniques. We will also talk about ways to help you stay calm too! Sessions 1,2,4.

Speaker: Kirby Luna

FA: Teacher-Child Interactions

Director Track

****LUNCH #1 IS SERVED DURING THIS TIME****What's Your Legacy?**

The pressure to leave a bold, lasting legacy is often times overwhelming if we stop and think about it. No matter the busyness of life, we will in fact leave a mark on the world once we are gone. What will that legacy be? Should I care about a legacy? We will discuss the topic of legacies and the future-focused mission we are called to as Christian leaders.

Speaker: Kara Gore

FA: Leadership & Development

The Chick-fil-A Way

Workshop description will be provided at a later date.

Speaker: Kristy Thornton

FA: Business & Operation Management

What Does It Mean to be an Advocate in Early Childhood Education?

This session is designed to support early childhood educators with harnessing the tools needed to become an advocate at the program, local, state, and national levels. Come learn how to leverage the knowledge and skills you already possess, and learn new ones, to make a difference for children, families, and the field. One of the goals of this session is for early childhood professionals to leave feeling empowered and aware of how all their actions have a ripple effect on the classroom, program, and the early childhood field. Resources will be provided along with interactive experiences to learn from each other to grow as professionals within the field.

Speakers: Dr. Joanne Baham & Dr. Taylor Cook

FA: Leadership & Development

MDO/Preschool Track

****LUNCH #1 IS SERVED DURING THIS TIME****Rules of Engagement with an Angry Child**

MDO

There is a limited window of opportunity for us to de-escalate when faced with an angry child. Our state of readiness and our understanding of how to guide young children through BIG feelings is key to helping them return to a calm state. This session will provide tools and strategies for successfully supporting an angry child. *Sessions 1 & 3.*

Speaker: Lori Buxton**FA: Behavior & Guidance****Easing Into Transitions**

MDO

When working with young children, transitions can 'make or break' your day! This workshop will provide developmentally appropriate ways to make transitions a seamless part of your learning day.

Speaker: Christi Priddy**FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum****Your Puppet, Your Teaching Assistant**

MDO

Ventriloquism is NOT needed in order to use a puppet to introduce your lessons with a puppet as your teaching assistant. Learn how to create countless voices, a unique personality, and how to make a puppet seem like a real character to kids! Puppets are incredibly effective — when done well! So, learn the secrets to being a master puppeteer. It's not as hard as you think!

Speaker: Karl Bastian**FA: Professional Development****Understanding & Supporting Children with Disabilities in Early Childhood**

MDO/PRES

In this session, attendees will learn the different categories of special needs that are common in children's development, and how these needs are identified, screened and accommodated for. We will discuss ideas to help foster activities and considerations for children to help support their developmental needs and disabilities. Participants will research reliable community resources, such as ECI and developmental screener tools, which are available to help support children that may be identified with delays or disabilities. Participants will receive helpful tips to have hard conversations with parents about their children who may have a developmental delay, and learn how to create a documentation log of identifying patterns of behaviors to better support families. *Sessions 3 & 5.*

Speaker: Kristin Miller**FA: Care of Children with Special Needs****Albert's Guide to Transitions**

MDO/PRES

Behavior problems are happening everywhere — and teachers are struggling because so many are happening during transitions. This training is

designed to give age-appropriate strategies to deal with the different types of transitions you may experience.

Speaker: Albert Wright**FA: Professional Development****From Textbook to the Classroom**

PRES

Let's brush up on developmental theorists like Piaget, Vygotsky, and Erikson! How are they seen in the classroom each day? Are they biblically relevant? You'll learn how they drive the daily activity and curriculum in the classroom. We'll also see some easy to implement activities that help develop young brains. Bring your thinking caps! *Sessions 1 & 3.*

Speaker: Frida Parson**FA: Professional Development****Guided Tour Through STEAM**

PRES

Come on a guided tour of STEAM centers that you can use with your students! Great for new or seasoned educators! We will 'tour' several classrooms which will be set up with examples of activities and centers related to science, technology, engineering, art, and math. Participants will be able to ask questions and interact with the centers — and will come away with ideas for use in their own classrooms! *Sessions 1,2,3,5,6.*

Tour Guide: Leisha Davis**FA: Math & Science****Music Fun for Little Ones**

PRES

Music ignites all areas of child development and skills for school readiness, including intellectual, social-emotional, motor language, and overall literacy. Make music fun beyond "Wheels of the Bus". Come learn new songs incorporating puppets and movement that will keep the kids happy and engaged! *Sessions 3 & 4.*

Speaker: Shelley Akins**FA: Music & Movement****Transitioning Your Day**

PRES

Participants will learn developmentally appropriate transitions for Infants, Toddlers and Pre-K children. We will discover new capturing attention, waiting, moving, teaching and dismissing transitions. Participants will learn how to incorporate transitions into every aspect of their day.

Speaker: Ginny Watkins**FA: Professional Development****Errorless Learning... Who Knew?**

PRES

This session involves significant self-reflection and interaction using a strategy for reflective learning called Errorless Learning. The session engages learners in a meta-cognitive approach to assessing their own teaching strategies and shares a new way to evoke children's esteem during the process of acquiring academic mastery. *Sessions 1 & 3.*

Speaker: Marianne Gibbs**FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum**

Director Track

****LUNCH #2 IS SERVED DURING THIS TIME****Preschool/Church Relations**

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 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**FA: Professional Development****Create Communication That Stands OUT: Branding Your School**

Make your school stand OUT using a logo and specific colors on your pictures, slides, and communications. Learn how to create a simple logo in Google Drawings and how to add your logo to pictures and collages in Drawings, Canva, Pic Collage, and Adobe Spark Posts. Also learn how to use your logo in headers and backgrounds in Google Docs and Slides and how to color match your logo to perfection for professional-quality branded communications. *Sessions 4 & 6.*

Speaker: Meredith Akers**FA: Business & Operation Management**

MDO/Preschool Track

****LUNCH #2 IS SERVED DURING THIS TIME****Understanding Anxiety in the Classroom & at Home**

MDO

Workshop description will be provided at a later date.

Speaker: Casey Casteel**FA: Professional Development****Understanding Child Development Birth to Age 3**

MDO

In this session, we will discuss the developmental stages and developmental milestones for infants, toddlers, and 2 year olds. *Sessions 1 & 4.***Speaker: Natasha Harris****FA: Child Growth & Development****WOW! How Do We Manage It All?**

MDO

This workshop is focused on strategies to help our early childhood classrooms runs smoothly. Greeting Children at the door to End of the Day Reflection and everything in between will be discussed and classroom activities and ideas will be shared.

Speaker: Lynette Tello**FA: Professional Development****Developing Fine Motor Skills Utilizing**

MDO/PRES

Developmentally Appropriate ActivitiesMore and more demands are being placed on early childhood teachers to have children write at an early age. This requirement can sometimes have the effect of "putting the cart before the horse"! It is necessary for children to develop strong fine motor skills before they are able to correctly hold a crayon/pencil and write! This training will provide information on why fine motor skills are important and introduce a variety of fun activities to strengthen this development! *Sessions 4 & 6.***Speaker: Marlyn Kramer****FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum****Do You Ever Wonder Why? (Part 1)**

PRES

Do you ever wonder why. . . A child is angry . . . Is unkind. . . Is sad. . . Is withdrawn? Let's look at trauma, resilience and the amazing power of hope in changing a child's life. Through evaluation with ACES, creating relationship and connection, and explicit instruction in HOPE, we can move in a positive direction towards understanding and successful, fulfilled, joyful children! **This is a 2-part session — please plan to attend BOTH sessions 4 & 5.****Speaker: Chris Smith****FA: Behavior & Guidance****Hooray for Habitats: Oceans & Grasslands**

PRES

It's fun to learn about oceans & grasslands! An ocean sensory baggie, shell imprints, and interactive octopus and shark excite children about earning! Lessons include seed art, earthworm hotel, and making a cheerio worm. Children delight in the stinky skunk game, pouncing like foxes hunting mice, and listening to engaging books about each topic. Students also enjoy scavenger hunts and nature painting! *Sessions 1,2,4,5,6.***Speaker: Barbara Cargill****FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum****Music Fun for Little Ones**

PRES

Music ignites all areas of child development and skills for school readiness, including intellectual, social-emotional, motor language, and over-all literacy. Make music fun beyond "Wheels of the Bus". Come learn new songs incorporating puppets and movement that will keep the kids happy and engaged! *Sessions 3 & 4.***Speaker: Shelley Akins****FA: Music & Movement****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. *Sessions 1 & 4.***Speaker: Dr. Rick Chromey****FA: Behavior & Guidance****Rainy Day Activities**

PRES

Dread rainy days? Discover indoor activities that range from gross and fine motor skills to literacy, math, and science. You will go home with an abundance of hands-on ideas to use on a rainy day — or any day of the week! *Sessions 1 & 4.***Speaker: Julie Hamilton****FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum****Sensory Processing Disorder—A 24/7 Source of Stress**

PRES

Problems taking in information from the senses can cause children lots of stress — and it never ends! Explore many simple strategies, materials, and activities for helping children soothe each of their 8 — yes, 8 senses, especially those who are overly sensitive. You'll leave with a new understanding of how sensory processing problems affect children and how you can help.

Speaker: Diane Goyette**FA: Behavior & Guidance****Just Calm Down! Emotional Regulation Skills**

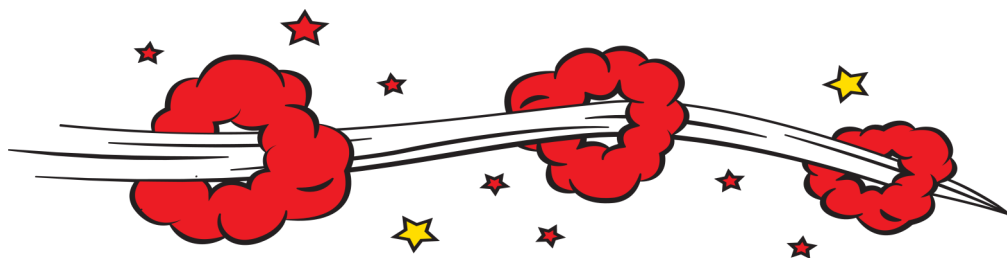
PRES

Just CALM DOWN! Have you ever thought or said this to your students? Calming down is harder than it seems and oftentimes our little friends need help to regulate their emotions. Anger, sadness, anxiety, being overwhelmed or even being excited can cause a kiddo to become dysregulated. Dysregulation can look like crying, hitting, biting, and more. In this session, we will talk about ways to help our little friends calm down using play therapy techniques. We will also talk about ways to help you stay calm too! *Sessions 1, 2, 4.***Speaker: Kirby Luna****FA: Teacher-Child Interactions****Break Out of the Box with Your Bible Lessons**

PRES

Help share God's incredible Truth with children in fun, creative ways. Young children aren't grown-ups so let's not try to teach them about God the way we teach grown-ups. This session will provide tons of ideas to bring Christ in the classroom as you break out of your box! *S. 1, 4.***Speaker: Melissa McKenzie****FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum****What's the Buzz? Science of Reading**

PRES

The term "Science of Reading" is being heard among administrators, educators, and even journalists. Come see what the buzz around Science of Reading is all about and how you can use it to help your young learners become future readers. Participants will receive practical early literacy strategies that align with 30 years of scientific research on how our brains learn to read. These strategies will lay a firm foundation of skills that lead to strong decoding and fluent reading as readers' skills develop throughout the grades. *Sessions 4,5,6.***Presenters: Peggy Drake & Haley Bruce FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum**

DirectorTrack

Expulsion: A Short-Term Solution with Long Term Effects

In this post-covid world, we are finding children exhibiting behaviors that are not common to ways they've acted previously. This session will openly address some of the perceived and possible pre-diagnosed problems and to help schools establish rules and policies that will help any child succeed.

Speaker: Albert Wright

FA: Professional Development

Becoming a Coaching Leader

Would you like to improve your team's performance, individual buy-in, and investment while elevating the quality of life both at work and outside of work? A coaching leader can do just that! In this engaging and interactive session, we'll compare past and current perspectives and identify steps, strategies, and coaching techniques for developing a highly motivated, effective, and inspired team.

Speaker: Lori Buxton

FA: Leadership & Development

Google Maker: Tips, Tricks, and Hacks to Create Amazing Content!

Create amazing and beautiful slides and docs more quickly and efficiently with the tips, shortcuts, and creation strategies shared in this Google Maker session. Whether you already love to create content within Google apps or if you wish you could make your ideas for slides, docs, and learning activities a reality, this session is for you! Basic and little-known tips, tricks, and hacks to you can be a pro MAKER of content within google apps!

Speaker: Meredith Akers

FA: Professional Development

MDO/Preschool Track

Meaningful Movement

MDO

Workshop description will be provided at a later date.

Speaker: Casey Casteel **FA:** Adv. Physical & Intellectual Competence

Communicating and Connecting with Families

MDO

Parents and their children come to your program with various personalities, habits, unique family cultures, and life experiences. We will discuss how to facilitate authentic communication with families, how to offer developmental tips to parents, and how to handle communication when challenges arise. Let's talk about the benefits of connecting with families; you are, in fact, in the business of Family Ministry!

Speaker: Kara Gore

FA: Parent Communications

Creating an Engaging Learning Environment for Infants & Toddlers

MDO

Environment if everything! In this session, we will discuss tips on classroom set up, clutter management, overstimulation — to make your classroom an engaging place for young children. Sessions 2 & 5.

Speaker: Natasha Harris

FA: Professional Development

Developmental Milestones 1.0

MDO

This session is an overview of developmental milestones for MDO aged children ages birth through 12 months of age. Sessions 1 & 4.

Speaker: Christi Priddy

FA: Child Growth & Development

Every Student Can Learn

MDO

This workshop is focused on supporting children that have a home language other than English. We will discuss Early Language Learners - It's history, definitions and practical application strategies for the early childhood classroom. Sessions 1 & 5.

Speaker: Lynette Tello

FA: Professional Development

Leading Children to Jesus

MDO

Workshop description to be provided at a later date.

Speaker: Karl Bastian

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Understanding & Supporting Children with Disabilities in Early Childhood

MDO/PRES

In this session, attendees will learn the different categories of special needs that are common in children's development, and how these needs are identified, screened and accommodated for. We will discuss ideas to help foster activities and considerations for children to help support their developmental needs and disabilities. Participants will research reliable community resources, such as ECI and developmental screener tools, which are available to help support children that may be identified with

delays or disabilities. Participants will receive helpful tips to have hard conversations with parents about their children who may have a developmental delay, and learn how to create a documentation log of identifying patterns of behaviors to better support families. Sessions 3 & 5.

Speaker: Kristin Miller

FA: Care of Children with Special Needs

Addressing Challenging Behaviors in the Early Childhood Classroom

MDO/PRES

All of us have had that one (or more) student whose behavior has challenged and frustrated us! While some disruptive behaviors are intentional, many are not. Differing behaviors is a common characteristic of young children --- and a source of stress for the early childhood teacher. This training will discuss common disruptive behaviors and how to recognize when they become aggressive. Tips on changing the classroom environment and adapting teaching techniques to better meet the needs of all students will be shared.

Speaker: Marlyn Kramer

FA: Behavior & Guidance

Supervision—The Super 7 of Supervision

MDO/PRES

Did you know that 40% of all injuries in childcare facilities could have been prevented if the teacher was supervising properly? In this session, we will discuss what Licensing means by "supervising children at all times" — as well as discovering what your staff's responsibility in supervision really is — as well as ways to reduce liability for your center. Learn the "Super Seven of Supervision", as well as classroom and playground strategies.

Speaker: Kristy Thornton

FA: Health & Safety

Do You Ever Wonder. . . What You Can Do? (Part 2)

PRES

Do you ever wonder why. . . A child is angry . . . Is unkind. . . Is sad. . . Is withdrawn? What can you, as an educator do to help? This session will continue where we left off in Part 1. **This is a 2-part session — please plan to attend BOTH sessions 4 & 5.**

Speaker: Chris Smith

FA: Behavior & Guidance

Hooray for Habitats: Oceans & Grasslands

PRES

It's fun to learn about oceans & grasslands! An ocean sensory baggie, shell imprints, and interactive octopus and shark excite children about earning! Lessons include seed art, earthworm hotel, and making a cheerio worm. Children delight in the stinky skunk game, pouncing like foxes hunting mice, and listening to engaging books about each topic. Students also enjoy scavenger hunts and nature painting! Sessions 1,2,4,5,6.

Speaker: Barbara Cargill

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Keep Kids Excited About Learning!

MDO/PRES

Kids are changing and we need to change with them! Children should be able to explore their ingenuity, creativity and their imagination. Learning

MDO/Preschool Track

could be and should be fun and involve children's natural interests and activities. This session is hands-on and gets educators to think outside the box to keep students engaged and learning at the same time. Sessions 5 & 6.

Speaker: Marci Sawyer

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Guided Tour Through STEAM

PRES

Come on a guided tour of STEAM centers that you can use with your students! Great for new or seasoned educators! We will 'tour' several classrooms which will be set up with examples of activities and centers related to science, technology, engineering, art, and math. Participants will be able to ask questions and interact with the centers — and will come away with ideas for use in their own classrooms! Sessions 1,2,3,5,6.

Tour Guide: Leisha Davis

FA: Math & Science

Holy Cow: A Survey of World Religions

PRES

As postmodern culture continues to become more religiously diverse, it's critical for those who serve families and children of different faiths to understand what they believe and how to create healthy, helpful conversations. In this session, discover the primary beliefs of the world's greatest religions — Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, and Buddhism — and how they contrast with orthodox, historic Christianity.

Speaker: Dr. Rick Chromey

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Developing a Heart for Outdoor Teaching

PRES

This session is designed to share economical and practical ways to teach outside and will include everything from setting up the areas to implementing your teaching in these areas. Come on this journey filled with ideas that have been tested in a real outdoor classroom and learn from both mistake and successes! Sessions 2 & 5.

Speaker: Julie Hamilton

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Story with Props and Story Telling

PRES

This session is about how to make your stories come to life through using stories with props. Homemade story props will be shown as ideas to recreate. Several stories will be told to help learners see how to utilize story props when story telling. Sessions 1 & 5.

Speaker: Ginny Watkins

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

1 Book, 2 Book, 3 Book, More

PRES

Books open the door to imagination and lifetime learning! Come discover how to create children's lending libraries in your program. Learn about resources that may be available to obtain free or low-cost children's literature.

Speakers: Dr. Joanne Baham & Dr. Taylor Cook **FA:** Professional Dev.

Supporting Children with ADHD in the Classroom

PRES

Are you familiar with the 3 major difficulties affecting children with ADHD? Learn ways to help these children better cope with these challenges and build their lagging executive functioning skills. You'll leave with support strategies for not only children with ADHD, but also many other children, too!

Speaker: Diane Goyette

FA: Care of Children with Special Needs

Get Your Grit On!

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! Sessions 2 & 5.

Speaker: Dr. Marianne Gibbs, OT

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Attention-Getters and Transitions

PRES

Children spend a lot of time switching between activities throughout the school day. With a little preparation, we can take advantage of these time-tidbits and not only have fun, but also help the children learn along the way. Get ready for some fun, hands-on learning! Sessions 2 & 5.

Speaker: Melissa McKenzie

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

What's the Buzz? Science of Reading

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The term "Science of Reading" is being heard among administrators, educators, and even journalists. Come see what the buzz around Science of Reading is all about and how you can use it to help your young learners become future readers. Participants will receive practical early literacy strategies that align with 30 years of scientific research on how our brains learn to read. These strategies will lay a firm foundation of skills that lead to strong decoding and fluent reading as readers' skills develop throughout the grades. Sessions 4,5,6.

Presenters: Peggy Drake & Haley Bruce **FA:** Age Appropriate Curriculum

DirectorTrack

The Importance of Staff Training: It's Needed, But It Doesn't Fix Everything!

Training can be one of the most effective tools in a management team's tool belt — if used correctly! And with the inception of training modules, pre-recorded videos, and self-study items — it can be hard to pick what's right for your staff. This session is geared to help directors figure out what training type is useful and why we need training.

Speaker: Albert Wright

FA: Professional Development

Leaning In

We can't do this alone. We know leaders need a team — but before we can "lean on" our team, we have to "lean in" to our people. Delegation can be a valuable tool for leaders as long as we invest first! In this session, we will talk through the process of effectively inviting, equipping, and empowering each person to contribute to your team in meaningful ways.

Speaker: Lori Buxton

FA: Leadership & Development

Create Communication That Stands OUT: Branding Your School

Make your school stand OUT using a logo and specific colors on your pictures, slides, and communications. Learn how to create a simple logo in Google Drawings and how to add your logo to pictures and collages in Drawings, Canva, Pic Collage, and Adobe Spark Posts. Also learn how to use your logo in headers and backgrounds in Google Docs and Slides and how to color match your logo to perfection for professional-quality branded communications. Sessions 4 & 6.

Speaker: Meredith Akers

FA: Business & Operation Management

MDO/Preschool Track

Little People with Big Feelings & Big Behaviors:

MDO

Supporting Emotional RegulationWorkshop description will be provided at a later date. *Sessions 1 & 5.***Speaker:** Casey Casteel**FA:** Behavior & Guidance**SLOW DOWN: Appreciating a Child's Natural Development**

MDO

Workshop description will be provided at a later date.

Speaker: Kara Gore**FA:** Child Growth & Development**Positive & Engaging Teacher/Child Interactions**

MDO

Our daily interactions with children must be positive and engaging to enhance their educational milestones. In this session, we will discuss our voice, classroom management, discipline, and positive guidance.

Speaker: Natasha Harris**FA:** Teacher-Child Interactions**Developmental Milestones 2.0 (12 months—3 years)**

MDO

This session contains an overview of developmental milestones for children aged 12 months to 3 years.

Speaker: Christi Priddy**FA:** Child Growth & Development**Top 10 Reasons to Use Puppets in the Classroom**

MDO/PRES

This workshop is focused on how we can use puppets to develop - vocabulary development, reading, writing and math skills in the early childhood classroom. Ideas and activities will be shared for daily use of a variety of puppets in the classroom. *Sessions 2 & 6.***Speaker:** Lynette Tello**FA:** Professional Development**Ministry is People — Not Programs**

MDO/PRES

Workshop description to be provided at a later date.

Speaker: Karl Bastian**FA:** Professional Development**Fine Motor Development - Facts & Fun!**

MDO/PRES

What is one way children learn? By being involved in the process! Using their fine-motor skills to play, write, cut, glue, tear, manipulate, stack, sort, string, lace, and throw! There are many ways children use their hands and finger muscles to learn within their environment. In this training, participants will gather insight on the importance of fine-motor development in early childhood. They will have a blast building knowledge with a list of ways they can incorporate a fine-motor station into their classroom for their age-range of students with a variety of activity ideas! This is a hands-on workshop and not one educator will leave empty "handed" – literally! *Sessions 1 & 6.***Speaker:** Kristin Miller**FA:** Age Appropriate Curriculum**Developing Fine Motor Skills Utilizing**

MDO/PRES

Developmentally Appropriate ActivitiesMore and more demands are being placed on early childhood teachers to have children write at an early age. This requirement can sometimes have the effect of "putting the cart before the horse"! It is necessary for children to develop strong fine motor skills before they are able to correctly hold a crayon/pencil and write! This training will provide information on why fine motor skills are important and introduce a variety of fun activities to strengthen this development! *Sessions 4 & 6.***Speaker:** Marlyn Kramer**FA:** Age Appropriate Curriculum**Professionalism in Early Childhood Education**

MDO/PRES

This session will define what a "true" professional is! We will explore the history of professionalism in Early Childhood Education as it began in the early 1920's. We will discuss the commitment needed by childcare professionals, as well as learn a Code of Ethics for teachers. We will also look at the qualities and dedication of a true professional in our industry.

Speaker: Kristy Thornton**FA:** Professional Development**Science? Magic? Check It Out!**

PRES

Can you "Soak-It-To-Me"? Or will you try a "Meltdown"? This session is chockfull of ooooo's and aaaaaah's. So, come along for a rollercoaster ride of science "quick tricks" and extended units that involve children in exploration and experience. Inquiring minds want to know! How about you? *Sessions 1 & 6.***Speaker:** Chris Smith**FA:** Math & Science**Hooray for Habitats: Oceans & Grasslands**

PRES

It's fun to learn about oceans & grasslands! An ocean sensory baggie, shell imprints, and interactive octopus and shark excite children about earning! Lessons include seed art, earthworm hotel, and making a cheerio worm. Children delight in the stinky skunk game, pouncing like foxes hunting mice, and listening to engaging books about each topic. Students also enjoy scavenger hunts and nature painting! *Sessions 1,2,4,5,6.***Speaker:** Barbara Cargill**FA:** Age Appropriate Curriculum**Keep Kids Excited About Learning!**

MDO/PRES

Kids are changing and we need to change with them! Children should be able to explore their ingenuity, creativity and their imagination. Learning could be and should be fun and involve children's natural interests and activities. This session is hands-on and gets educators to think outside the box to keep students engaged and learning at the same time. *Sessions 5 & 6.***Speaker:** Marci Sawyer**FA:** Age Appropriate Curriculum**Guided Tour Through STEAM**

PRES

Come on a guided tour of STEAM centers that you can use with your students! Great for new or seasoned educators! We will 'tour' several classrooms which will be set up with examples of activities and centers related to science, technology, engineering, art, and math. Participants will be able to ask questions and interact with the centers — and will come away with ideas for use in their own classrooms! *Sessions 1,2,3,5,6.***Tour Guide:** Leisha Davis**FA:** Math & Science**Jurassic Parked: The Bible & Dinosaurs**

PRES

Diplodocus. Tyrannosaurus Rex. Stegosaurus. These dinosaurs are all popular with preschool children. But how do they fit within the Bible? And how can preschool teachers answer basic questions for how dinosaurs lived and died? In this fun, engaging and insightful session, learn how God's Word helps us understand dinosaurs, as well as solve the great mysteries that still haunt modern science about these ancient beasts.**Speaker:** Dr. Rick Chromey**FA:** Age Appropriate Curriculum**Dollar Store Fun: Is Your Budget Tight?**

PRES

Come to this session and learn about great dollar store finds that can be used to teach math, science, fine motor, literacy, etc. Join us for some great ideas that can be used in every area of your curriculum!

Speaker: Julie Hamilton**FA:** Professional Development**Magical Music Times**

PRES

Come make your music times magical! We will learn a few new songs, learn how to engage your students with the classics, and learn the value of nursery rhymes. We will also talk about adding props and musical instruments to enhance the music time. *Sessions 2 & 6.***Speaker:** Ginny Watkins**FA:** Music & Movement**Supporting Second Language Learning in the Early Childhood Classroom**

PRES

With an increasing number of children coming to early childhood programs with English as their second language, it is important that we, as

MDO/Preschool Track

early childhood educators, know how to support these children. Come inquire and brainstorm ways to incorporate support for second language learners in the early childhood classroom.

Speakers: Dr. Joanne Baham & Dr. Taylor Cook **FA:** Professional Dev.

Supporting Children with Autism in the Classroom**PRES**

Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder have two main deficits in social functioning. Learn four basic teaching strategies and two environmental supports to help these children. You'll leave with easy-to-implement interventions to accommodate them!

Speaker: Diane Goyette

FA: Care of Children with Special Needs

I Can Do It Myself!**PRES**

Interactive and self-reflective session that focuses on techniques you can use immediately in the classroom to support children's independence skill-building. This session will increase your ability to facilitate self-help mastery and self-efficacy development in your children, which are building blocks for future academic achievement.

Speaker: Marianne Gibbs, OT

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Get Up & Move**PRES**

Getting children to move and have fun — in your classroom — doesn't need to be complicated or scary. Come learn some fun, easy songs and activities, with inexpensive props, that you can quickly integrate into your daily classroom routine!

Speaker: Melissa McKenzie

FA: Music & Movement

What's the Buzz? Science of Reading**PRES**

The term "Science of Reading" is being heard among administrators, educators, and even journalists. Come see what the buzz around Science of Reading is all about and how you can use it to help your young learners become future readers. Participants will receive practical early literacy strategies that align with 30 years of scientific research on how our brains learn to read. These strategies will lay a firm foundation of skills that lead to strong decoding and fluent reading as readers' skills develop throughout the grades. Sessions 4,5,6.

Presenters: Peggy Drake & Haley Bruce **FA:** Age Appropriate Curriculum

The Outdoor Learning Center

Where the Bible Comes to Life!

While you are here for PTAC, be sure to visit our Outdoor Learning Center!

Located on the northwest side of our Children's Building, the Outdoor Learning Center is home to God's Rainbow Promise, Noah's Ark, Jonah's Big Fish — and much more! The area provides a wonderful setting for children of all ages to learn about the Bible. The atmosphere, alive with structure and water features, appeals to all the senses!

If you are interested in doing something similar on your own campus — we would be happy to share our experiences with you!



Thursday, July 27, 2023

Registration: 7:00 am

Praise & Worship: 7:50—8:05 am

Welcome: 8:05—8:10 am

Keynote Speaker: 8:10—9:00 am



Keynote Speaker — Tom Wilbeck

Tom Wilbeck had stopped playing music at local clubs and churches and was seeking a new musical outlet. His twins, Josh and Abby provided all the inspiration that he needed. In just a few short months Fun Band headquarters was buzzing with new songs about bath time, breakfast, taking rides in the wagon and silly monsters in the mirror. Word got out and requests for shows came in! Tom found that performing for children was exactly what he was born to do! Tom is not only an energetic multi-instrumentalist, he is a professional therapist and public speaker. He hopes to expand his reach to all areas of the US that require fun music, inspirational messages and a reminder that LOVE wins every time!

Footnote Performer

Go Fish started in 1995 when Jamison Statema and a friend from church started an acappella group in Minnesota. Their goal was to use music to follow Christ's call to be "fishers of men". That has never changed! Go Fish has been providing great music for kids— that won't drive parents bonkers for over 20 years.



Session 1 Workshops

Thursday, July 27, 2023

9:30 am - 10:20 am

Director Track

Director Roundtable

Open discussion facilitated by Natasha Harris with topics relevant to childcare.

Speaker: Natasha Harris

FA: Professional Development

Rebuilding Organizational Trust—Part 1

Organizational trust is something that is very real to employees. In 2023, getting some employees to take their jobs seriously can be hard, but it can be accomplished. This session will start the process of understanding why it's important for companies to invest in helping their employees trust them.

Speaker: Albert Wright

FA: Leadership & Development

Hiring Your Dream Team

It starts from Day 1! Let's discuss onboarding techniques to ensure that new teachers get off on the right foot!

Speaker: Lakeshia Nnamani

FA: Business & Operation Management

MDO/Preschool Track

Obesity Prevention & Implementing Healthy Practices in Early Childhood Education

In this workshop, attendees will be equipped with statistics and research to help support the what, how, and why benefits of preventing childhood obesity. We will look at the importance of prevention supported by practical tips, discuss strategies and policy implementation to help support early childhood educators and classroom programs to help optimize physical exercise, limiting screen time, and healthy nutritional options. Participants will enjoy incorporating best practices of planning healthy menu ideas, DAP physical indoor and outdoor activities, and participating in both independent & collaborative activities to extend learning of best practices for obesity prevention.

Speaker: Kristin Miller

MDO

FA: Health & Safety

Motor Development for 'On the Move' Littles

Gross motor and fine motor skills are equally important to build well-rounded young people. Come learn a variety of activities that can get our littles moving and assist in their intellectual, emotional, and social growth using fine and gross motor skills. *Sessions 1, 2, 3.*

Speaker: Stella King **FA: Advance Physical & Intellectual Competence**

MDO

Signs of Child Abuse

Child abuse often goes unnoticed, overlooked, or ignored. This session is designed to provide knowledge and enhance awareness for childcare professionals on identifying child abuse, connecting with resources for families, and reporting suspected abuse and neglect. *Sessions 1 & 2.*

Speaker: Wykesha Dixon

FA: Health & Safety

MDO

Engaging Infants and Toddlers in Early Math Skills

From the day they are born, children are making brain connections and learning from their environment. It is the role of the early childhood teacher to provide stimuli and an environment where these infants and toddlers can explore, learn, and expand awareness of their surroundings. This training will give teachers a variety of ideas as to how they can start to develop math skills in their young students while demonstrating that learning is ongoing and fun!!

Speaker: Marlyn Kramer

MDO

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Support Development from Birth to 3 Years

This session will help participants understand how a young child develops and explore ways to support children in ways that are appropriate.

Speaker: Alba Bunnell

FA: Child Growth & Development

MDO

They are Tools Not Toys

When the first *Narnia* movie came out, our church hosted a large screening at a local theater. When Father Christmas handed out his gifts to the Sons and Daughters of Adam and Eve and said solemnly to them, "These

MDO

MDO/Preschool Track

are tools, not toys,” the children in the audience with me all turned and looked at me, for they had heard me say those very words many times! They understood that I viewed my toys not as mere playthings but as my ministry tools.

Speaker: Karl Bastian

FA: Professional Development

cover what our Founding Fathers really thought of Christianity, how they framed our nation from the Old and New Testaments and why we need to restore the true story of America's founding (starting with preschool education).

Speaker: Dr. Rick Chromey

FA: Professional Development

When We Mess Up, We Fess Up

MDO/PRES

1 John 1:9 says, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” As childcare providers, we take care of the most precious gift God gave us — children! We have a duty and responsibility to continually act in their best interest. None of us are perfect, nor do we do everything right. In this session, we will discuss the biblical and ethical ways to handle mistakes.

Speaker: Annette Collins

FA: Professional Development

Fine Motor Fun!

PRES

The session is designed to offer creative, effective fine motor activities. We will talk about ways to incorporate fine motor skills throughout your day and curriculum to help your students be ready to write when it is developmentally appropriate. *Sessions 1 & 3.*

Speaker: Julie Hamilton

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Face Painting 101

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.

Speaker: Jessica Salas

FA: Professional Development

Choosing Love in the Classroom

PRES

Daniel Mackler said, “Every child needs to be loved in gigantic quantities and with unbelievable quality.” We likely all agree with this statement, but what does it look like to bring that truth to life in your classroom? This session will explore how we can provide an environment of unconditional love where children thrive, learn, and grow into all that God created them to be! *Sessions 1 & 3.*

Speaker: Lori Buxton

FA: Professional Development

Heartstrings & Butterfly Wings — Setting Children

PRES

Free to be Life-Long Learners

Have you ever done the “Hula Hoop Hop”? Made music with names? Played gobs of games? Or — created a story kit to help a child wiggle their way into a good book? These ideas and more will help to foster a heartfelt love for listening, speaking, reading, and writing. So, come join the action — give your children wings!

Speaker: Chris Smith

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Handwriting Prerequisites & Scissor Skills

PRES

Sequenced for Success

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 sessions 1 & 2.**

Speaker: Dr. Marianne Gibbs, OT

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Preschool Stressors

PRES

Preschoolers often face challenges in their personal lives that greatly impact not only their perspectives, but also their development. Divorce, illness or death of a family member, the birth of a new sibling, and much more can occur while a child is still in the delicate early childhood stages. We must know how to relate to families who are grieving or facing new challenges and how we, as caregivers, can advocate for the child during these various life experiences. *Sessions 1 & 3.*

Speaker: Kara Gore

FA: Behavior & Guidance

1 Book, 2 Book, 3 Book, More

PRES

Books open the door to imagination and lifetime learning! Come discover how to create children's lending libraries in your program. Learn about resources that may be available to obtain free or low-cost children's literature. *Sessions 1 & 3.*

Speakers: Dr. Joanne Baham & Dr. Taylor Cook **FA:** Prof. Development

Sensory Stimulation & Creative Development:

PRES

Don't Be Afraid to Make a Mess!

For young children, sensory play includes any activity that stimulates a child's sense of touch, smell, taste, sight, movement, and hearing. Warning: It can and probably should be messy! This kind of play helps create connections in the brain that allow for more complex thoughts and tasks. This session discusses how sensory stimulation can be an essential part of your classroom day.

Speaker: Christi Priddy

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Organizing a DYNAMIC Classroom

PRES

Do you need help with lesson plans, technology, implementation, classroom clutter, and maintaining order? Don't stress! This session is designed to help teachers organize curriculum in their classrooms with new ideas, including technology and organizational routines with music/visuals via Digital Lesson planning. Participants will learn the benefits of having their books, songs, videos, and pocket charts in one accessible, engaging format for flawless daily routines. *Sessions 1 & 4.*

Speaker: Krystal Malichi

FA: Professional Development

One Nation, Under God: Why American History Matters

PRES

In the past fifty years, America has turned secular, losing its foundational roots of Judeo-Christian religion and morality. Americans, particularly our children, are now taught the Founding Fathers were agnostic or atheist, the U.S. Constitution was wholly secular, and that America never was a “Christian” nation. But is that true? In this insightful session, dis-

The World is Not Flat:

PRES

Ideas to Add 3-D and Texture to Art Projects

Young children enjoy exploring three-dimensional shapes and textures. Let's explore simple ways to use form and tactile materials to help preschool children create art that is not flat! *Sessions 1 & 3.*

Speaker: Barbara Lynn

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum



Remember, some workshops are repeated each day!

Look for the *italicized print* at the end of the description!

Director Track

Where Did the Time Go? Effective Time Management & Daily Planning

Being busy is an understatement in a Director's life. The day-to-day challenges, conversations, and engagement can cause us to lose valuable time that could be allocated for administrative duties. In this session, we will discuss effective ways to get the most out of your day!

Speaker: *Natasha Harris*

FA: *Professional Development*

Rebuilding Organizational Trust — Part 2

This session picks up where Session 1 left off. In the previous session, we discussed why organizational trust is important. In this session, we will take a deeper dive into strategies to help employees.

Speaker: *Albert Wright*

FA: *Leadership & Development*

Training Your Dream Team

Sometimes it's not the teachers, it's us as the directors. Let's discuss strategies to ensure we are training, modeling, and providing ongoing support to our team.

Speaker: *Lakeshia Nnamani*

FA: *Leadership & Development*

MDO/Preschool Track

A Child's Well-Being

MDO

Speaker: *Alba Bunnell*

FA: *Professional Development*

Children deserve the best care. They deserve high quality. The purpose of this training is to educate other professionals of positive strategies to help all children in their care become successful individuals in a growing society, and enhance their overall well-being from birth through early childhood. In this training workshop we will focus on the topics of child abuse and neglect, maintaining healthy and high quality safe standards based on high quality standards & State licensing guidelines for child care centers, learn positive behavior & response strategies when communicating with our children, and we will discuss the importance of understanding the 4 parenting styles and their effects in relation to a child's growth and development overall. At the end, participants will enjoy collaborating solutions to child well-being problem scenarios in small groups with like-minded professionals! *Sessions 2 & 3.*

Speaker: *Kristin Miller*

FA: *Health & Safety*

Bringing Stories to Life

MDO/PRES

There is a reason Jesus used stories to life. Life IS a story. History is "His story". Learn the secrets on how to be an amazing story teller and how to have students on the edge of their seats when you tell stories.

Speaker: *Karl Bastian*

FA: *Age Appropriate Curriculum*

Turning Every Lesson/Theme in to a Biblical Lesson

MDO/PRES

Many schools, due to budgets, do not have all of the needed Bible-based or God-centered materials on hand. Let's put on our thinking caps and dive into God's word and learn how we can incorporate God into every lesson, including Dr. Seuss!

Speaker: *Annette Collins*

FA: *Age Appropriate Curriculum*

Face Painting 201

MDO/PRES

Time to put away the stencils! Let's learn some basic face painting designs that you can do quickly in your classroom or school events! *Sessions 2 & 4.*

Speaker: *Jessica Salas*

FA: *Professional Development*

Using Nursery Rhymes to Build Literacy Skills from Infancy Through Kindergarten

MDO

The participants of this workshop will learn fun activities that use those beloved ---- and often forgotten ---- nursery rhymes of our childhood to teach a large number of objectives in language arts, expressive language, reading writing, creative dramatics, science, math, etc. *Sessions 2 & 5.*

Speaker: *Marlyn Kramer*

FA: *Age Appropriate Curriculum*

Come "Calm" With Me

PRES

Have you ever thought that your children could use a calming moment in the midst of uncontrollable behavior or an anxiety-filled experience? Then let's offer them some "Mindful Moments" that will promote children's calm, improve social skills, and increase the ability to self-regulate. Watch their self-esteem grow and — maybe — just maybe — offer you some calming strategies as well.

Speaker: *Chris Smith*

FA: *Child Growth & Development*

Motor Development for 'On the Move' Littles

MDO

Gross motor and fine motor skills are equally important to build well-rounded young people. Come learn a variety of activities that can get our littles moving and assist in their intellectual, emotional, and social growth using fine and gross motor skills. *Sessions 1, 2, 3.*

Speaker: *Stella King* **FA:** *Advance Physical & Intellectual Competence*

Wonderfully Made Preschoolers

PRES

While preschoolers might like to live in the beauty of imagination all day long, early childhood programs and parents have educational and developmental goals in mind in preparation for the future. Let's discuss how we can find a way to preserve the joy and innocence of early childhood while also setting age-appropriate expectations that are to be celebrated along the way. *Sessions 2 & 5.*

Speaker: *Kara Gore*

FA: *Child Growth & Development*

Signs of Child Abuse

MDO

Child abuse often goes unnoticed, overlooked, or ignored. This session is designed to provide knowledge and enhance awareness for childcare professionals on identifying child abuse, connecting with resources for families, and reporting suspected abuse and neglect. *Sessions 1 & 2.*

Speaker: *Wykesha Dixon*

FA: *Health & Safety*

Social and Emotional Interaction

MDO

This session will reinforce ways to regulate and balance social and emotional development for infants and toddlers using adult-child interaction. For success, we all need ways to recognize how regulation and balance between social and emotional interactions affect early childhood development.

Effective Communication

PRES

Communication is key! Effective communication is vital in building relationships with your student and their parents. Join us as we dive in to the ins and outs of effective communication! *Sessions 2 & 5.*

Speaker: *Christi Priddy*

FA: *Parent Communication*

MDO/Preschool Track

Holy Cow: A Survey of World Religions

PRES

As postmodern culture continues to become more religiously diverse, it's critical for those who serve families and children of different faiths to understand what they believe and how to create healthy, helpful conversations. In this session, discover the primary beliefs of the world's greatest religions — Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, and Buddhism — and how they contrast with orthodox, historic Christianity.

Speaker: Dr. Rick Chromey

FA: Professional Development

Loose Parts: What Are They, Why Are They Important & What Do I Do With Them?

PRES

You will leave this session with a long list of loose parts to use in your own indoor and outdoor classrooms. Come participate in discussions about storage, how to incorporate loose parts into your classroom, where to find loose parts — and much more! Sessions 2 & 5.

Speaker: Julie Hamilton

FA: Advance Intellectual Competence

Eat Cake for Breakfast - Picking the Right Battles with Children

PRES

There are no shortage of opportunities to engage in battles of wills and wits with the children in our classroom. These battles have the ability to consume mass quantities of our time, patience, and sanity, so picking the right battles matters. How do we know when to engage and when to pass? Are the battles we are choosing based on our values or on our preferences, and what difference does it make anyway? If you find yourself battling more than teaching, this session was created for you! S. 2,5.

Speaker: Lori Buxton

FA: Teacher-Child Interactions

Handwriting Prerequisites & Scissor Skills 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 — Please stay for both sessions 1 & 2.

Speaker: Dr. Marianne Gibbs, OT

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Using Children's Portfolios to Build Connections

PRES

Capturing authentic assessment is critical to understanding the development and learning progression of the children. One way to understand each child's unique development is through the use of child portfolios. Creating these portfolios does not have to be difficult or time-consuming. This training presents a four-step process for creating child portfolios. The information provided will include a sample template that allows for an authentic assessment of each child based on the early learning program's philosophy. Furthermore, practices to incorporate to begin creating and using children's portfolios will be provided so educators can start creating, using, and maintaining portfolios immediately within their daily activities.

Speakers: Dr. J. Baham & Dr. T. Cook

FA: Observation & Assessment

The Joy: Just Own You In What You Do

PRES

This session combines storytelling and audiovisual aids to convey the message that teaching requires you to be your authentic self. When navigating the workplace through relationships with staff, administrators, and students in an ever-changing environment, we must find the joy that keeps us coming back so the pursuit to make the grass greener where you are planted is NOT lost!

Speaker: Krystal Malachi

FA: Professional Development

What's Always in Style? Professional Demeanor!

PRES

In today's casual, "tell-it-like-it-is" world, professional behavior and communication can be hard to find. Let's re-examine the definition of professional demeanor (based on a philosophy of compassion and respect) and practice ways to communicate by our appearance, habits, body language, and words that we care about children, families, and co-workers.

Speaker: Barbara Lynn

FA: Professional Development

Director Track

****LUNCH #2 IS SERVED DURING THIS TIME****The Importance of Staff Training: It's Needed, But It Doesn't Fix Everything!**

Training can be one of the most effective tools in a management team's tool belt — if used correctly! And with the inception of training modules, pre-recorded videos, and self-study items — it can be hard to pick what's right for your staff. This session is geared to help directors figure out what training type is useful and why we need training.

Speaker: Albert Wright

FA: Professional Development

Rewarding Your Team

Don't forget to reward those that take care of you! Staffing shortages are happening everywhere. If you go out to eat or shop — you will more than likely see a "Hiring" sign. Just like it's important to bring in new teachers, it's equally important to retain the teachers that you have! Let's discuss ways to show appreciation that don't break the bank!

Speaker: Lakeshia Nnamani

FA: Leadership & Development



MDO/Preschool Track

****LUNCH #1 IS SERVED DURING THIS TIME****Supporting Social & Emotional Development in Early Childhood MDO**

Do you work with young children and want to provide them the highest quality of care? Providers will be equipped with practical, reliable, and engaging strategies to generate overall understanding of social and emotional learning (SEL) development during the formative years. Participants will be equipped with research-based knowledge, based on Maslow's and Erikson's psychological SEL theories, to build understanding of what social and emotional growth is and what it looks like in early childhood. You will learn how children's brains work to develop these skills and process emotions and self-regulation. We will discuss high quality classroom environments which foster social and emotional development, teaching strategy practices that provide developmentally appropriate learning activities to support these skills, effective teacher-child interactions, and review helpful developmental milestones and screener tools to support all children's social and emotional needs.

Speaker: Kristin Miller**FA: Professional Development****Motor Development for 'On the Move' Littles MDO**

Gross motor and fine motor skills are equally important to build well-rounded young people. Come learn a variety of activities that can get our littles moving and assist in their intellectual, emotional, and social growth using fine and gross motor skills. *Sessions 1, 2, 3.*

Speaker: Stella King FA: Advance Physical & Intellectual Competence**How to Guide My Attitude in My Class & My Center MDO**

This session will go over strategies to use when communicating and interacting with parents, peers, and staff to foster a positive, professional relationships. Understand your role as a professional in the field of early childhood and how the way you communicate makes a big difference in both personal and professional relationships. Tips and strategies will be discussed.

Speaker: Alba Bunnell**FA: Professional Development****Preschool Stressors PRES**

Preschoolers often face challenges in their personal lives that greatly impact not only their perspectives, but also their development. Divorce, illness or death of a family member, the birth of a new sibling, and much more can occur while a child is still in the delicate early childhood stages. We must know how to relate to families who are grieving or facing new

challenges and how we, as caregivers, can advocate for the child during these various life experiences. *Sessions 1 & 3.*

Speaker: Kara Gore**FA: Behavior & Guidance****Relationship Based Teaching PRES**

Educator-student relationships are key to student success at school. In order to build relationships, early childhood professionals must take an intentional approach to ensure all students and families feel heard and seen in their classroom. This session will provide strategies to build relationships with the children, parents, and families in your care.

Speaker: Christi Priddy**FA: Teacher-Child Interactions****Fine Motor Fun! PRES**

The session is designed to offer creative, effective fine motor activities. We will talk about ways to incorporate fine motor skills throughout your day and curriculum to help your students be ready to write when it is developmentally appropriate. *Sessions 1 & 3.*

Speaker: Julie Hamilton**FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum****Choosing Love in the Classroom PRES**

Daniel Mackler said, "Every child needs to be loved in gigantic quantities and with unbelievable quality." We likely all agree with this statement, but what does it look like to bring that truth to life in your classroom? This session will explore how we can provide an environment of unconditional love where children thrive, learn, and grow into all that God created them to be! *Sessions 1 & 3.*

Speaker: Lori Buxton**FA: Professional Development****1 Book, 2 Book, 3 Book, More PRES**

Books open the door to imagination and lifetime learning! Come discover how to create children's lending libraries in your program. Learn about resources that may be available to obtain free or low-cost children's literature. *Sessions 1 & 3.*

Speakers: Dr. Joanne Baham & Dr. Taylor Cook FA: Prof. Development**The World is Not Flat: PRES****Ideas to Add 3-D and Texture to Art Projects**

Young children enjoy exploring three-dimensional shapes and textures. Let's explore simple ways to use form and tactile materials to help preschool children create art that is not flat! *Sessions 1 & 3.*

Speaker: Barbara Lynn**FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum**

Director Track

****LUNCH #2 IS SERVED DURING THIS TIME****Talent Coaching**

This session provides strategies and practices to foster and encourage individuals under your leadership. These strategies will unlock, enhance, and strengthen the individual and your workgroup — ultimately enabling everyone to give their best performance, leading to an effective workplace.

Speaker: Wykesha Dixon**FA: Leadership & Development****Intentionality**

In this session, we will discuss biblical ways to be intentional in our daily lives, both at home and work. You will walk away asking yourself, "Who/what is my assignment?"

Speaker: Annette Collins**FA: Professional Development**

MDO/Preschool Track

****LUNCH #2 IS SERVED DURING THIS TIME****Connecting with Infants & Toddlers Through Movement & Play MDO**

Children are active by nature!! They enjoy singing, dancing, mimicking, playing, and so much more! We as early childhood educators want to take advantage of this enthusiasm by providing multiple developmentally

appropriate opportunities for their "activeness" to take place! This training will help teachers understand the many things they are already doing to foster learning in their classroom, as well as discover additional ideas to immediately implement!

Speaker: Marilyn Kramer**FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum**

Session 4 Workshops**Thursday, July 27, 2023****12:30 pm - 1:20 pm****MDO/Preschool Track****Understanding Child Development Birth to Age 3****MDO**

In this session, we will discuss the developmental stages and developmental milestones for infants, toddlers, and 2 year olds. *Sessions 1 & 4.*

Speaker: Natasha Harris**FA: Child Growth & Development****BEHAVIOR! The Human Brain and Body Interactions****MDO**

Baffled by behaviors that affect learning and social interactions? Then this presentation is for you. Engage in a hands-on experience as we learn about the complex, yet amazingly designed 8 sensory systems, peripheral and central nervous systems, and the human limbic system interactions that can throw a good day off course. Walk away with knowledge to utilize right away in your classroom, at home, and with yourself.

Speaker: Robin Rettie**FA: Behavior & Guidance****Ministry is People — Not Programs****MDO/PRES**

Workshop description will be provided at a later date.

Speaker: Karl Bastian**FA: Professional Development****Let's Put On a Music Program!****MDO/PRES**

A parent's joy is to watch their child on the stage performing for that special holiday or event. Come learn how to start from the ground up incorporating props and musical instruments to teach preschoolers a music program that will leave lasting memories for the whole family!

*Sessions 4 & 5.***Speaker: Shelley Akins****FA: Music & Movement****Face Painting 201****MDO/PRES**

Time to put away the stencils! Let's learn some basic face painting designs that you can do quickly in your classroom or school events! *Sessions 2 & 4.*

Speaker: Jessica Salas**FA: Professional Development****Creating Your Own "Gab-A-Teria"****PRES**

This "hands-on," "minds-on" workshop will serve up ideas to create a center that powerfully promotes language development through natural social interaction and get your children "gabbing"! Visit the Puppet Place, Whisper Window, and the Calling Corner!

Speaker: Chris Smith**FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum****Teaching with Power****PRES**

Master teachers engage and empower their students. They teach with power and now you can learn the secret sauce to effective teaching in any context and to any class. During this interactive and experiential workshop participants will discover the four parts of power teaching.

Speaker: Dr. Rick Chromey**FA: Professional Development****More Fine Motor Skills. . . Write Out of the Box!****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 4 & 5.**

Speaker: Dr. Marianne Gibbs, OT**FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum****Organizing a DYNAMIC Classroom****PRES**

Do you need help with lesson plans, technology, implementation, classroom clutter, and maintaining order? Don't stress! This session is designed to help teachers organize curriculum in their classrooms with new ideas, including technology and organizational routines with music/visuals via Digital Lesson planning. Participants will learn the benefits of having their books, songs, videos, and pocket charts in one accessible, engaging format for flawless daily routines. *Sessions 1 & 4.*

Speaker: Krystal Malichi**FA: Professional Development****Session 5 Workshops****Thursday, July 27, 2023****1:30 pm - 2:20 pm****Director Track****Organization Process Development**

This session discusses tactics that aid in aligning your team skillset while creating best practices and processes for overall organizational growth. Focusing on how to prepare your team to handle operations and contribute towards the development of the business.

Speaker: Wykeshia Dixon**FA: Professional Development****How to Run an Effective Staff Meeting — It Matters!**

Sometimes asking staff to stay late can be hard. Also getting staff to buy in can be difficult and frustrating for everyone. This session will give you strategies on how to both organize and entertain — to get the most out of your staff training.

Speaker: Albert Wright**FA: Business & Operation Management****When We Mess Up, We Fess Up**

1 John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." As childcare providers, we take care of the most precious gift God gave us — children! We have a duty and responsibility to continually act in their best interest. Non of us are perfect, nor do we do everything right. In this session, we will discuss the biblical and ethical ways to handle mistakes.

Speaker: Annette Collins**FA: Professional Development****MDO/Preschool Track****A Child's Well-Being****MDO**

The purpose of this training is to educate other professionals of positive strategies to help all children in their care become successful individuals in a growing society, and enhance their overall well-being from birth through early childhood. In this workshop we will focus on the topics of child abuse and neglect, maintaining healthy and high quality safe standards based on high quality standards & State licensing guidelines for child care centers, learn positive behavior & response strategies when communicating with our children, and we will discuss the importance of understanding the 4 parenting styles and their effects in relation to a child's

growth and development overall. *Sessions 2 & 5.*

Speaker: Kristin Miller**FA: Health & Safety****Using Nursery Rhymes to Build Literacy Skills from Infancy Through Kindergarten****MDO**

The participants of this workshop will learn fun activities that use those beloved — and often forgotten — nursery rhymes of our childhood to teach a large number of objectives in language arts, expressive language, reading writing, creative dramatics, science, math, etc. *Sessions 2 & 5.*

Speaker: Marilyn Kramer**FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum**

MDO/Preschool Track

Creating an Engaging Learning Environment for Infants & Toddlers

Environment is everything! In this session, we will discuss tips on classroom set up, clutter management, overstimulation — to make your classroom an engaging place for young children.

Speaker: *Natasha Harris*

FA: *Professional Development*

MDO

we can find a way to preserve the joy and innocence of early childhood while also setting age-appropriate expectations that are to be celebrated along the way. *Sessions 2 & 5.*

Speaker: *Kara Gore*

FA: *Child Growth & Development*

Identifying a Disability

What is a disability? Do you question how disabilities are determined, what's the role of an early childhood teacher, how is a disability recognized, and what do I do when I have a suspicion about a child's learning, social, and emotional development? Identifying a child's challenges early in life is critical and may make a positive difference in the life of a child in need. Attending this session will answer your questions and provide insight to research-based strategies to help children. You will walk away knowing you are better equipped to support all levels of learning.

Speaker: *Robin Rettie*

FA: *Care of Children with Special Needs*

PRES

Effective Communication

Communication is key! Effective communication is vital in building relationships with your student and their parents. Join us as we dive in to the in's and out's of effective communication! *Sessions 2 & 5.*

Speaker: *Christi Priddy*

FA: *Parent Communication*

PRES

Teaching With Style

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! *Sessions 1,4.*

Speaker: *Dr. Rick Chromey*

FA: *Professional Development*

PRES

Building Strong Foundations in Early Childhood

This session will reinforce how your role as an early childhood educator helps infants, toddlers, and preschoolers establish a strong foundation. We will discuss brain development in early childhood, windows of opportunity, as well as the consequences of missing these windows. As the engineers of a child's development, we should take pride in giving their developing brains tools to create a strong foundation. For success, all we need is a clear understanding of our role, knowledge of brain development, and the conviction that what we do daily gives each child a strong foundation for their future.

Speaker: *Alba Bunnell*

FA: *Adv. Physical & Intellectual Competence*

MDO

Loose Parts: What Are They, Why Are They Important & What Do I Do With Them?

You will leave this session with a long list of loose parts to use in your own indoor and outdoor classrooms. Come participate in discussions about storage, how to incorporate loose parts into your classroom, where to find loose parts — and much more! *Sessions 2 & 5.*

Speaker: *Julie Hamilton*

FA: *Advance Intellectual Competence*

PRES

Managing Ministry Without Losing Your Mind

Workshop description will be provided at a later date.

Speaker: *Karl Bastian*—**FA:** *Professional Development*

MDO/PRES

Let's Put On a Music Program!

A parent's joy is to watch their child on the stage performing for that special holiday or event. Come learn how to start from the ground up incorporating props and musical instruments to teach preschoolers a music program that will leave lasting memories for the whole family! *Sessions 4 & 5.*

Speaker: *Shelley Akins*

FA: *Music & Movement*

MDO/PRES

Face Painting Gone Wild!

Time to go on the wild side! Come learn how to paint animal designs! This session is for those who want to go a little deeper — or those who just want to see all the fun!

Speaker: *Jessica Salas*

FA: *Professional Development*

MDO/PRES

Giving Children Their "VOICE"

For children to be successful at school, they need to have developed strong language skills. . .so let's give children the tools and explicit instruction they need. . . With activities that are Engaging, Enriching and Exciting! We will explore language that asks questions, provides rich descriptive words, includes language experiences that compare and contrast, and more — using games, drama, songs, art, and read-a-louds! Join in the fun and learn at the same time!

Speaker: *Chris Smith*

FA: *Age Appropriate Curriculum*

PRES

Wonderfully Made Preschoolers

While preschoolers might like to live in the beauty of imagination all day long, early childhood programs and parents have educational and developmental goals in mind in preparation for the future. Let's discuss how

PRES

Why Productive Struggle is Productive to Promote Rigorous Learning

This session will showcase the fantastic journey the teachers at my school are traveling to find out if students are capable of working with groups of other students and individuals to create, design and problem-solve to make learning in our classrooms more rigorous. We were shocked to find that our preschoolers are capable of much more than we gave them credit for. Now we are looking at ways to design and imple-

PRES

Understanding Our Own Biases:**What Lens Do You Use?**

Each person is impacted by their past experiences that influence them as a professional. Through interactive scenarios, participants will evaluate the different lenses they use in situations that shape their interactions with children, parents, and coworkers. Then strategies will be developed for creating change to meet the needs of all.

Speakers: *Dr. Joanne Baham & Dr. Taylor Cook* **FA:** *Prof. Development*

PRES

More Fine Motor Skills. . . Write Out of the Box!

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 4 & 5.**

Speaker: *Dr. Marianne Gibbs, OT*

FA: *Age Appropriate Curriculum*

PRES

Eat Cake for Breakfast - Picking the Right Battles with Children

There are no shortage of opportunities to engage in battles of wills and wits with the children in our classroom. These battles have the ability to consume mass quantities of our time, patience, and sanity, so picking the right battles matters. How do we know when to engage and when to pass? Are the battles we are choosing based on our values or on our preferences, and what difference does it make anyway? If you find yourself battling more than teaching, this session was created for you! *S. 2,5.*

Speaker: *Lori Buxton*

FA: *Behavior & Guidance*

PRES

MDO/Preschool Track

ment lessons that inspire students to think on the highest levels. Through collaboration, we will showcase examples of rigorous learning and how it can be implemented in teachers' classrooms using your own imagination.

Speaker: *Krystal Malichi*

FA: *Advance Intellectual Competence*

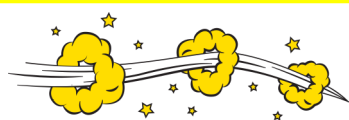
used at school. This workshop will discuss the stages of second language acquisition and ways for preschool teachers to support dual language learners through conversations, games, songs, and activities. Children are ready to learn a second language, so let's get ready too!

Speaker: *Barbara Lynn*

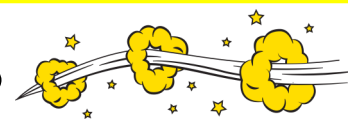
FA: *Age Appropriate Curriculum*

Building a Bridge to Second Language Acquisition in Preschoolers PRES

Many young children come to school with a home language other than English, and they are ready to expand their proficiency in the language



Workshop Leaders



Meredith Akers is a wife, mom, Christ-follower and elementary school administrator whose daily aspiration is to make a positive impact and to leave those she serves better off for having interacted with her. Meredith serves as Principal at Rennell Elementary in Cypress-Fairbanks ISD outside of Houston, Texas. She is a google Certified Educator Level 1 & 2 and a FlipGrid Certified Educator.

Shelley Akins started her professional career in Dallas at 8 years old in theatre. After high school, she toured the country opening for a variety of groups, including the Beach Boys. After meeting her husband in California, they began leading worship in Presbyterian Church of the Master in Mission Viejo. After work transferred them back to Texas, she found her passion for leading children and is currently the Music Director at The Adventure Preschool.

Dr. Joanne Baham has worked in early childhood for the past twenty years. Previously, she spent ten years as the Director of Early Childhood at Bishop Dunne Catholic School. Currently, she is the Program Coordinator for the Education Pathways at Hill College.

Haley Bruce is an educator with 20 years of experience. She is a fully certified Academic Language Therapist and holds a master's degree in Curriculum Instruction focused in Literacy Studies. Haley currently works as a dyslexia therapist providing small group intervention services to students K-4th. Prior to her current role, she taught PreK, Kindergarten, and 1st grade for a combined 17 years.

Alba Bunnell is a Master Registered Trainer in Early Childhood Education with over 27 years of experience dedicated to inspiring educators to develop young minds. She is passionate about understanding brain development in children infant through 12 years old in order to optimize when learning windows of opportunity are present in each child.

Lori Buxton is the Executive Director of the Association for Early Learning and has been involved in early care and education since 1995. She has served children and their families on many levels, including classroom teacher, program director, children's pastor, executive administrator and

national training consultant. Lori has been a featured guest on Preschool Podcast, Rock Star Radio with Kris Murray, and is the co-host of a weekly AELL webcast.

Barbara Cargill earned her undergraduate degree in education from Baylor University and a Master of Science Education degree from Texas Woman's University. Barbara's interest in creative learning for children and a love of science motivated her to create the WOW! Program in 1994. Every summer, over 1,100 children attend WOW Science Camp. She has served on and was the Chair for the Texas State Board of Education. Barbara has been training educators for over 30 years.

Dr. Rick Chromey is a best-selling author, international speaker, cultural historian, Christian education and leadership professor. His specialty topics include American history, biblical apologetics, classroom management, human motivation, and creative teaching. In 2017, Rick launched MANNA! Educational Services International to serve churches, schools and faith-based organizations with creative, transformative and affordable training. He has authored over a dozen books, including *Why Kids Really Misbehave*, *Energizing Children's Ministry in the Smaller Church*, and his most recent work *GenTech: An American Story of Technology, Change and Who We Really Are*.

Annette Collins is the founder and Executive Director of God's Grace Learning Center. She is no stranger to early education, having spent 22 years as a teacher and licensed child care director. In her free time, she is a passionate Bible Journaling instructor, women's ministry team leader, and author of several ladies' retreat curriculums, speaker, and trainer.

Dr. Talyor Cook is an Assistant Professor at Tarleton State University in Fort Worth, Texas. She teaches courses for the Child and Family Studies Program. She has worked in the education/early childhood field for over 20 years. He research focuses on literacy, social interactions, and teaching practices.

Wykesha Dixon is the CEO and Founder of The Motivating, Empowering, and Inspiring Project, also termed The M.E.I. Project. She has a BA in Sociology with a minor in Criminal Justice from Sam Houston State University, along with a Mas-

ter's in Business Administration from Texas Woman's University. Wykesha advocates for enhancing, cultivating, and uplifting individuals to use their experience, resources, voice, and inner strength to help improve the lives of others.

Peggy Drake has been giving successful and full capacity presentations for national and international conferences in the early education, speech and language, and autism field for over 15 years. She has taught preschool and most recently retired as Bridge teacher at a private school. Ms. Drake has over 30 years' experience and has authored the present science curriculum for the preschool department of Cornerstone Christian Academy. She has authored three resource books, plus over 60 interactive books and poems for young children.

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. As an entrepreneurial educator since 2004, Dr. Gibbs supports the appropriate development of young children by providing "once in a lifetime workshops — every time" with the goal of elevating educational practices and life-long outcomes for children beyond expectations!

Kara Gore As a Jesus-loving wife and mother, Kara values authentic conversations about life, love, and early childhood. She has a passion for people and the field of ECE. Kara has held a wide variety of positions during her 25 years in early childhood, including caregiver, Child Licensing Inspector, Trainer, Director, Legal Consultant, and Adjunct Professor. She relies daily on Jesus to make something beautiful out of her mess!

Diane Goyette is a Master Registered Level Trainer with the Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System, a Child Development Specialist, & a certified Child Care Health Consultant. She is the owner of Early Childhood Specialties LLC, & serves as adjunct profession at Sam Houston State University.

Julie Hamilton has served as an elementary physical education teacher, church preschool teacher, Mothers Day Out director, and Head Start teacher



Workshop Leaders — Continued



during her professional career. Julie serves as a consultant to churches and private programs in regard to program analysis, teacher training, and facility design. Julie's true passion is in learning through outdoor classrooms. She is happiest when she and her students are covered in mud, goo, or water; even better — all three!

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.

Andrew Keyes is a husband and father to four young children who has served in two different churches as a Family Pastor for 10+ 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 20 years, serving as a recreation coordinator, directing day camps, sleep away camps and special events. She currently teaches Fit & Fun and P.E. at The Adventure Preschool. She graduated from Oklahoma University, where the motto was, "We don't learn to play — we play to learn!". Stella has adapted this motto into her lifestyle and tries to teach her students and family that learning and exercising your heart is fun and enjoyable!

Marlyn Kramer has been passionate about children and teaching her whole life! She has a Masters Degree in Early Childhood Education, as well as an undergraduate degree in ECE. She currently teaches pre-kindergarten at a private Christian school in Georgetown, Texas. Prior to that, she taught hearing impaired in Hays ISD and first grade for Austin ISD.

Kirby Luna, MA, LMFT, is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and play therapist. She is the owner of Kirby Luna Counseling and Play Therapy, PLLC, an online practice. She is also a clinician at Joyful Hearts Play Therapy & Counseling Center, LLC in The Woodlands and teaches therapeutic play skills at Sam Houston State University. Kirby has experience working with a variety of clients including those who struggle with ADHS, anxiety, grief, trauma, and divorce. She prides herself in using a variety of modalities to meet individual family needs.

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.

Krystal Malichi has been involved in education for the past 20 years. She has working in both public and private schools, including Montessori, and spent 10 years teaching Kindergarten. Krystal is

currently in her third year as a Primary Instructional Specialist at Bane Elementary, working with teachers and students from Pre-K to 2nd grade.

Melissa McKenzie is an Early Childhood Professional who is committed to making learning a joyful journey. Melissa is the FCS Child Guidance/Human Resources Practicum Teacher and Preschool Director for Cypress Ranch Preschool. Melissa holds a Master's Degree in Early Childhood from Stephen F. Austin University. She also is a member of the Texas Trainer Registry and currently is responsible for writing the faith-based curriculum for Nabor House Centers.

Kristin Miller holds a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education and a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction. She has over 19 years of professional, direct experience in education and is a registered state early childhood professional development Master Trainer.

Rebecca Mueller has a master's degree in educational leadership and is a registered trainer with Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System, as well as the Director of BridgePoint Early Learning Academy.

Lakeshia Nnamani, M.Ed., has over a decade of experience as an early childhood educator. She is adept in identifying and implementing high-quality instruction for young children. Lakeshia has served as a preK and kindergarten teacher, preschool owner, child development professor, and early childhood trainer. While her on-the-job experience has afforded her a well-rounded skill set, Lakeshia also has a solid educational foundation and has a passion for teaching our youngest learners and supporting early childhood professionals.

Frida Parson, originally from Hawai'i, has been in early childhood education since 2010. She is currently serving as the Education Specialist at Kepler STEM School. Frida has a BA in ECE from Vanguard University and is a grad student in the Early Childhood Services program at Arkansas State University.

Christi Priddy is a 2006 graduate of the University of Mary Harden-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.

Robin Rettie, M.Ed., Special Education, has a lifelong history supporting individuals with neurological and genetic differences. Her sister, Laurie Lorraine Rettie (LLR), was challenged in her life due to microcephaly. In her honor, Robin founded Lighthouse Learning Resources (LLR), an educational consulting business supportive of collaborative relationships between parents and schools. Her professional training includes a BA in General Education and a Master's in Special Education, extensive training in

autism, curriculum, sensory processing, behavior, All Kinds of Minds; 8 neurological constructs of learning, Mediation and Negotiation Training, and Special Education Law.

Jessica Salas has been a PK teacher for 14 years. She has taught 9 of those years at The Adventure Preschool. Jessica loves art and is always finding 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!

Marci Sawyer has been in childcare for 20 years, starting with in-home childcare and now with a thriving childcare center in Mesa, Arizona. Having been involved with children and their families for so long, Marci has noticed generational changes — and understands that teaching strategies need to be adapted to the times. She loves producing out-of-the-box ideas to keep kids excited and engaged in their learning. She is the owner of Barn of Crafts, which features educational toys.

Chris Smith is the Early Childhood Consultant for Enid Public Schools in Oklahoma, and a national workshop presenter with over 30 years experience. She combines current brain research and "best practice" strategies to create exciting and innovative learning activities for young children.

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.

Dr. Ginny Watkins is an early childhood professor at Stephen F. Austin State University. Ginny is a mommy, wife, professor, and lifelong learner. She has over 14 years of teaching experience with toddlers, preschool students, and college students.

Melissa Williamson, EdD, CTP, is a faculty member at The University of Texas at San Antonio and Odesa College. She is the founder and CEO of At the Heart of Teaching, Learning, & Leadership. Melissa possesses an extensive career in early childhood education, leadership, family engagement, and trauma-informed practices. In addition, she is a certified leadership trainer for Maxwell Leadership and has been an advocate for children and families for over 30 years.

Albert Wright, Master Trainer, author, and host of a popular YouTube show, is the epitome of someone who refuses to be defined by his circumstances. After growing up in poverty, he spent more than 20 years in the field as everything from a teacher, director, regional director, and most recently as an advocate speaking to lawmakers and other professionals. Albert holds a BS in Child Development, as well as a Master's of Education in ECE. Albert is a 3-time Trainer of the Year award winner. Albert seeks to train with the perfect balance of laughter and learning.

Additional Information

- For each day that you attend PTAC you will be eligible to receive 6 clock hours, for a total of 18 clock hours for the 3 day conference. The clock hours certificate will be handed to you at registration. There will be stickers passed out for each workshop that you attend.
- The cost of PTAC includes admission to speakers and workshops, continental breakfast and a catered lunch. Register **EARLY** for the best prices — see the General Information section or the registration page for more information!
- The Director's Track is available **only** to Directors. Workshops will be available for Administrators, Mother's Day Out Providers and Preschool Teachers.
- **We are GREEN! You'll be able to download additional brochures, forms, and workshop handouts from our website listed above. Participants will be responsible for downloading and printing the workshop handouts that they want for their personal use.**
- If you have any questions regarding the Preschool Teachers Adventure Conference, please call The Adventure Preschool at 281-378-4080. Fax: 281-378-4081
- Our website also will have up-to-date information: www.ptacconference.org

Need a Place to Stay?

La Quinta Inn & Suites
18828 State Hwy 249
Houston, TX 77070
1-800-230-4134

Comfort Suites Hwy 249 at Louetta
21222 Tomball Parkway
Highway 249 & Louetta
Houston, TX 77070
1-800-230-4134

Element Vintage Park
14555 Vintage Preserve Pkwy
Houston, TX 77070
1-800-997-5148

Staybridge Suites Houston NW
18828 Hwy 249
Houston, TX 77070
1-888-305-3366

Home 2 Suites by Hilton—Willowbrook
7815 Willowchase Blvd.
Houston, TX 77070
1-281-897-8200
**** Mention PTAC when making reservations**



Summer Preschool Teachers Adventure Conference

July 25th, 26th, 27th

Registration Form

2023

Person Completing Registration : _____ Position: _____

School or Organization _____

School Address _____

School City, State, Zip _____ Phone _____

Please note that all communications regarding Summer PTAC will be done via email.

Registration Discount for 3 Day registration only - Now through May 30th: 3 Day = \$325 (June 1st = \$350)

1 Day = \$150; 2 Days = \$275

New Registration:

I Registered online, providing attendee names:

	Name:	Position:	Email	1 to 2 Days circle days	All 3 Days Note T-Shirt Size	CPR/1st Aid + \$30 July 24th	Total Due
1.				Tu W Th	S M L XL 2XL		
2.				Tu W Th	S M L XL 2XL		
3.				Tu W Th	S M L XL 2XL		
4.				Tu W Th	S M L XL 2XL		
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7.				Tu W Th	S M L XL 2XL		
8.				Tu W Th	S M L XL 2XL		
9.				Tu W Th	S M L XL 2XL		
10.				Tu W Th	S M L XL 2XL		

*You may use the back for additional attendees.

Attendees Registered: _____

Input Total Conference Cost: \$_____

Free T-shirt for 3 day registrations through May 30th.

Send completed forms and make checks payable to:

WPC Conference Account

10555 Spring Cypress, Houston, TX 77070

Questions may be directed to The Adventure Preschool at 281-378-4080 or Email : ptac@windwoodpc.org

Summer Preschool Teachers Adventure Conference

July 25th, 26th, 27th

2023

Registration Form

Please note that all communications regarding Summer PTAC will be done via email.

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11.				Tu W Th	S M L XL 2XL		
12.				Tu W Th	S M L XL 2XL		
13.				Tu W Th	S M L XL 2XL		
14.				Tu W Th	S M L XL 2XL		
15.				Tu W Th	S M L XL 2XL		
16.				Tu W Th	S M L XL 2XL		
17.				Tu W Th	S M L XL 2XL		
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24.				Tu W Th	S M L XL 2XL		
25.				Tu W Th	S M L XL 2XL		
26.				Tu W Th	S M L XL 2XL		

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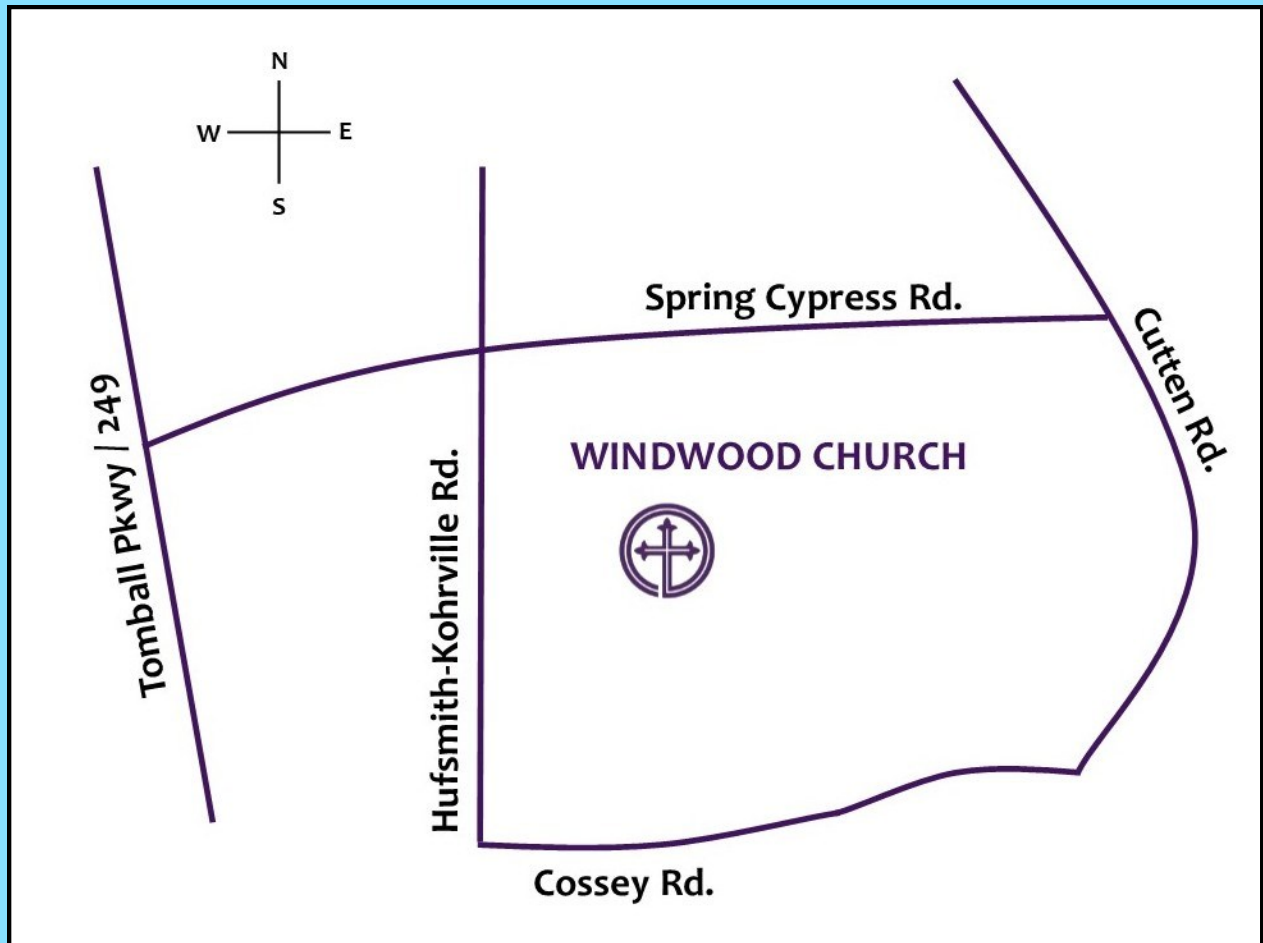
NOTES

NOTES



Conference Location

The Adventure Preschool
A *Ministry* of Windwood Presbyterian Church
10555 Spring Cypress Road
Houston, TX 77070
Phone: 281-378-4080



Directions

The easiest approach to our facility is to follow State Highway 249 (also called the Tomball Parkway) west towards Tomball. Take the Spring Cypress Road exit and turn right on Spring Cypress. Windwood Presbyterian Church is about one mile down on the right.

