

FOR THE LOVE OF CHILDREN



Child Care Regulation Annual Early Childhood Conference

February 7, 2026

8:45 am - 4:00 pm

San Jacinto College - Central Campus



TEXAS
Health and Human Services

Information You Need To Know!

On behalf of Child Care Regulation, we want to thank you for attending the third annual “For the Love of Children” Conference! We are excited to be back at San Jacinto College for this year’s conference and have a group of incredible speakers lined up for the day. As always, we promise many opportunities to learn, share, network and have FUN! Your career in working with young children is an extremely important one and we cannot thank you enough for all of your hard work and dedication to our profession. If you have any questions or needs throughout the day, please do not hesitate to let us know! Enjoy the conference!

— 2026 For the Love of Children Conference Planning Committee

- ★ You must scan your registration ticket QR code upon arrival at the conference. This was sent to you when you registered for the conference.
- ★ Many of our exhibitors have generously donated door prizes. Please register for these prizes at the exhibitor booths. Names of winners will be posted in the exhibitor area.
- ★ Please understand that sometimes speakers cancel their presentations. In the event of a cancellation, we will make every effort to schedule a substitute.
- ★ Certificates will be issued through a QR code system with the TECPDS. Please visit the next page or the TECPDS table for any assistance you need with this.

**THANK YOU FOR
ATTENDING!**



- ★ Information given at these workshop sessions does not necessarily reflect the philosophy of Child Care Regulation or any of the entities sponsoring this event. Child Care Regulation does not endorse any product or speaker.

QR CODES FOR CERTIFICATES!

Certificates for the Conference will be awarded through the Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System (TECPDS) and will be sent directly to the “Conference” section of your TECPDS profile as well as to your email address!

We encourage you to setup your TECPDS account prior to attending sessions if possible. QR codes will be available in each session to allow you to track the sessions you attend.

See page 12 or visit the TECPDS table in the lobby if you need to create a TECPDS account!

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE EXHIBIT AREA, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

- 8:00 am - 8:45 am Registration
- 8:45 am - 10:00 am Keynote
- 10:15 am - 11:30 am Session II
- 11:45 am - 1:00 pm Session III
- 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm Lunch
- 1:30 pm - 2:45 pm Session IV
- 3:00 pm - 4:00 p.m. Session V

FOR THE LOVE OF CHILDREN



Dr. Precious Parks

The Hard Heart Work of Building Brighter Futures

8:45 am - 10:00 am

Slocumb Auditorium

Every classroom has that child: the one who hits when overwhelmed, shuts down during transitions, or melt downs without warning. You see the signs of trauma, developmental delay, or undiagnosed needs, but you're managing challenging behaviors with minimal training, no mental health support, and impossible ratios. Critical intervention windows are closing. Without action, these children face expulsion, kindergarten delays, and lifelong struggles while you're left exhausted and heartbroken. This keynote provides practical solutions. Dr. Parks introduces two evidence-based frameworks: CARE for responding to challenging behavior and SHARE for partnering with families about developmental concerns. Through real classroom stories, guided reflections, table scenarios, and hands-on practice, participants move from information to immediate action. Attendees leave with concrete strategies, Texas-specific resources, renewed hope, and a personalized commitment to transform outcomes for their most vulnerable children. One child, one conversation, one day at a time.

Dr. Precious W. Parks is the Chief Programs Officer at Collaborative for Children, where she leads initiatives that strengthen early childhood education across Greater Houston. With over 20 years of experience as a teacher, principal, consultant, and program leader, she has dedicated her career to enhancing learning outcomes for young children and developing systems that support educators' success.

Dr. Parks holds a Doctorate in Education Leadership from the University of Houston–Clear Lake. She is known for her collaborative approach, strong record of measurable results, and passion for empowering both children and the adults who serve them.

**Minimum Standards Training: Personnel/Child Care Giver Ratio
Child Care Regulations
Lecture Hall - 2nd floor**

1st Floor Classrooms 1st Hallway		2nd Floor Classrooms 1st Hallway	
Classroom 1101	<i>Play-Along Songs! Movement, Music & Learning to Support Standards</i> Georgia & Kenneth Frawley	Classroom 2101	<i>Knock, Knock! Who's There? Licensing. Improving the Provider-Licensing Relationship</i> Shante Potts - Gaskill & Kelley Wyatt
Classroom 1103	<i>Understanding Autism with Strategies for Inclusion</i> Marlyn Kramer	Classroom 2103	<i>Effective Supervision Strategies for ECE Staff</i> Tamyra Belo & Ashley Lee
Classroom 1105	<i>The Power of Social-Emotional Learning through Play</i> Sarai Smith	Classroom 2105	<i>Bridging the Gap: Effective Communication for Administrators, Teachers, and Families</i> Natoya Carroll
Classroom 1107	<i>Rocking this Director Life!</i> Cynthia Landry	Classroom 2107	<i>Beyond the Job: Professionalism in Early Childhood Education</i> Maggie De La Cruz
Classroom 1109	<i>Behavior and Classroom Management</i> Britani Machala	Classroom 2109	<i>Professionalism in Action: Building a Reputation That Lasts</i> Dawn Fobbs
Classroom 1111	<i>Creating a Calm Room</i> Dawn Hallman & Denise Collins	Classroom 2111	<i>Intentional Coaching for Childcare Leaders: Empower, Engage, Elevate</i> Natasha Harris
Classroom 1113	<i>SCRIBBLE Your Way to Successful Classroom Connections, Creativity, and Calm-downs</i> Lauren Burrow	Classroom 2113	<i>Positive Guidance for Neurodiverse Learners</i> Latoris Teague
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Classroom 1211	<i>Say What?! Words as Teaching Tools</i> Bev Reed	Classroom 2213	<i>The Very Composed Communicator</i> Sandra Martinez
Classroom 1212	<i>Creating Language-Rich Classrooms for Children with Disabilities</i> Winn Castagno	Classroom 2214	<i>Smooth Transitions, Strong Connections</i> Lakeshia Nnamani
Classroom 1213	<i>Let's Process Art!</i> Kendolyn Cooper Pope	Classroom 2215	<i>Child Growth and Development with Family Engagement</i> Aubri Simpson, Partners Resource Network
Classroom 1214	<i>Beyond the Milestones: What Every Educator Should Know About Child Development</i> Zona M Dargan	Classroom 2219	<i>Play to Learn: How Dramatic Play Can Ignite Learning in the Classroom</i> Emily Perez
Classroom 1215	<i>Your Playbook for Behavior Challenges</i> Vickie Maertz & Wyatt Hanath, PTA	Classroom 2221	<i>How to get it all done? Creating Systems That Work</i> Sheika Petteway
Classroom 1217	<i>What is the Role of Child Care Enforcement (CCE)</i> Christina Harvey HHSC Regulatory Enforcement Division	Classroom 2223	<i>Respectful, Responsive, Relevant: The Power of DAP in Early Childhood</i> Andrea Poehl

Minimum Standards Training: Personnel/Child Care Giver Ratio

Lecture Hall 2nd Floor

Join us for a comprehensive review and become familiar with Chapter 746 of the Minimum Standards related to Personnel/Child/Caregiver ratios for Child Care Centers.

Child Care Regulation Staff



Target Audience: All Attendees

Play-Along Songs! Movement, Music & Learning to Support Standards

Classroom 1101

Engaging children in a variety of really fun songs and playful activities that teach various core concepts is the ideal teaching strategy. Children can learn so much and retain so much if they are having fun while doing it – and they won't even know it.

Georgia & Kenneth Frawley

Target Audience: Teachers



The Power of Social-Emotional Learning through Play

Classroom 1105

This interactive training explores how intentional play experiences support preschoolers' social and emotional development. Through hands-on activities and reflective discussion, participants will examine how responsive teacher-child interactions during play strengthen emotional regulation, empathy, and social problem-solving skills. Educators will leave equipped with strategies to guide behavior positively, foster peer connections, and embed social-emotional learning into everyday play routines.

Sarai Smith

Target Audience: Teachers

Behavior and Classroom Management

Classroom 1109

Effective behavior and classroom management in early childhood is key to learning and development. It involves proactively supporting positive behavior through environmental adjustments and using positive guidance strategies to encourage prosocial skills. A well-managed setting minimizes reactive discipline, maximizes learning time, and directly supports children's social-emotional growth and independence.

Britani Machala

Target Audience: Teachers

SCRIBBLE Your Way to Successful Classroom Connections, Creativity, and Calm-downs

Classroom 1113

Grab a crayon and "scribble" your way to meaningful art-making that promotes community, connections, calmness, and creativity in your classroom! Participants will transform "scribbling" from just fine motor development into opportunities to expand young children's self-regulation, teamwork, and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) skills with intentional questioning and academic follow-ups. No art experience required!

Lauren Burrow

Target Audience: Teachers



Understanding Autism with Strategies for Inclusion

Classroom 1103

The number of autistic children enrolling in the early childhood classroom is increasing each year. Working with these children can be intimidating and frustrating to the classroom educator. This training will help educators better understand autism, as well as, give strategies for successfully including these unique children in their classroom.

Marlyn Kramer

Target Audience: Teachers



Rocking this Director Life!

Classroom 1107

This session will cover the many ways that we can get overwhelmed in the day-to-day operations as a Director. Participants will discuss and brainstorm ways to incorporate organizational techniques while creating a positive environment for staff and families. With planning and self-motivation, we all have the opportunity to Rock this Director Life!

Cynthia Landry

Target Audience: Directors, Owners, Administration

Creating a Calm Room

Classroom 1111

Discover ways to remain calm in the midst of a busy early childhood classroom. Learn how adults can practice co-regulation and help young children with the big emotions that can overpower small humans. This session will teach easy-to-learn calm down techniques that you don't have to close your eyes to do. Learn how to turn the chaos to calm.

Dawn Hallman & Denise Collins

Target Audience: Teachers

Life on the Move: Supporting Children During Transitions

Classroom 1209

Children's lives are a constant journey, filled with moments of change from shifts of daily routines to the significant milestones of growth. This training invites early childhood professionals to navigate these essential passages with intention and insight. We will explore the interplay of brain and child development during times of change, and understand the unique needs of children during transitions. Participants will gain the tools to transform transitions into opportunities for growth, ensuring every child feels secure and supported on their unique journey.

Cheryl Carey

Target Audience: Teachers

Session II: 10:15 am - 11:30 am Breakout Descriptions

Say What?! Words as Teaching Tools

Classroom 1211

Discover how everyday language can build big learning. This session highlights the power of rich vocabulary, both spoken and printed, as a tool for cognitive and language development. Learn simple, practical ways to weave sophisticated words into daily routines, conversations, and play to help young children's brains and language skills grow.

Bev Reed

Target Audience: Teachers



Let's Process Art!

Classroom 1213

Participants in this workshop will learn the benefits of open ended materials explorations and how to guide these explorations for their students. Further, participants will learn how to describe the benefits of these experiences to those who may view them as simply "making a mess."

Kendolyn Cooper Pope

Target Audience: Teachers

Your Playbook for Behavior Challenges

Classroom 1215

This training provides practical strategies for working with 3 to 10 year olds. Learn to identify the function of challenging behaviors, techniques for de-escalation, and create a proactive "playbook" to build children's emotional intelligence and self-regulation.

Vickie Maertz & Wyatt Hanath, PTA

Target Audience: Teachers



Knock, Knock! Who's There? Licensing. Improving the Provider-Licensing Relationship

Classroom 2101

This session explores the inspection process and the relationship between child care providers and licensing. In this safe space, participants will engage in guided open dialogue on the inspection process; discuss challenges and successes to regulation; what to do if you disagree with a licensing decision or action; and ways to improve communication while reducing risk to children.

Shante Potts - Gaskill & Kelley Wyatt

Target Audience: Directors, Owners, Administration

Bridging the Gap: Effective Communication for Administrators, Teachers, and Families

Classroom 2105

Clear communication is the foundation of strong childcare programs. This session equips participants with practical strategies for building professional relationships, strengthening family partnerships, and addressing conflicts with confidence and respect.

Natoya Carroll

Target Audience: Directors, Owners, Administration

Creating Language-Rich Classrooms for Children with Disabilities

Classroom 1212

Every child deserves to be heard. This session equips caregivers with tools to create language-rich classrooms that support communication for children with disabilities and strengthen inclusive practices.

Winn Castagno

Target Audience: Teachers

Beyond the Milestones: What Every Educator Should Know About Child Development

Classroom 1214

Child development is more than checking off milestones - it is about understanding how children grow, learn, and thrive through every stage. In this session, educators will explore the "why" behind behavior, the stages of development, and practical strategies to nurture growth in every child - beyond the milestones.

Zona M Dargan

Target Audience: Teachers

What is the Role of Child Care Enforcement (CCE)

Classroom 1217

A discussion of the roles of the Child Care Enforcement (CCE) division. CCE reviews recommendations for and decides on corrective actions, adverse actions, and administrative penalties within the residential and daycare regulatory programs. CCE also conducts administrative reviews within these programs when an operation disagrees with a Child Care Regulation (CCR) deficiency or decision.

Christina Harvey – HHSC Regulatory Enforcement Division

Target Audience: Directors, Owners, Administration

Effective Supervision Strategies for ECE Staff

Classroom 2103

Equip supervisors with practical strategies to enhance communication, accountability, and professional growth while fostering a collaborative and supportive team environment in Early Childhood Education (ECE) settings. This session will also focus on building a successful Conscious Discipline Action Team, assigning strong mentors for onboarding, and fostering open communication to establish trust and support.

Tamyra Belo & Ashley Lee

Target Audience: Directors

Beyond the Job: Professionalism in Early Childhood Education

Classroom 2107

Professionalism elevates childcare quality and strengthens trust. This session examines practical ways educators can demonstrate professionalism daily, from ethical decision-making to respectful communication and continuous growth.

Maggie De La Cruz

Target Audience: Directors, Owners, Administration

Session II: 10:15 am - 11:30 am Breakout Descriptions

Professionalism in Action: Building a Reputation That Lasts

Classroom 2109

Competencies will include: Professionalism and Ethics: Demonstrating integrity, ethical conduct, and reflective practices. Communication: Using clear, respectful, and professional communication with colleagues, families, and the community. Collaboration and Teamwork: Building positive working relationships to support program goals. Leadership Skills: Modeling professionalism and contributing to a positive organizational culture.

Dawn Fobbs

Target Audience: Teachers

Positive Guidance for Neurodiverse Learners

Classroom 2113

Challenging behaviors can become opportunities for growth. This session explores positive guidance strategies that respect neurodiverse learners and empower caregivers with tools to redirect behavior while supporting social-emotional development.

Latoris Teague

Target Audience: Teachers



The Very Composed Communicator

Classroom 2213

"The Very Composed Communicator" helps directors master the fine art of sounding professional when they're one email away from losing it. Learn to handle parents, staff, and chaos with grace, humor, and just enough caffeine to keep your tone calm...even when your patience isn't.

Sandra Martinez

Target Audience: Directors, Owners, Administration

Child Growth and Development with Family Engagement

Classroom 2215

The Texas Early Childhood Professional Development Certified Course will teach practitioners how to identify typical and atypical behaviors, support various learning styles and foster a collaborative classroom. This training is a 3 hour class jam packed into a 1 hour course to support the growing need of those experiencing developmental challenges in preschool. Manifest Academy not only supports early childhood, but will also provide information on how to go beyond preschool years, to help families start off strong.

Aubri Simpson - Partners Resource Network

Target Audience: Teachers

How to Get it All Done? Creating Systems That Work

Classroom 2221

This course is for leaders, business owners, freelancers, etc., who are ready for extreme PRODUCTIVITY. How do you know this training is for you? You are ready to see your profits and results at full capacity. You do not want to miss out on booking a potential customer, and you would like to learn the best follow-up techniques. You are willing to create systems that function without you and strategies that can help grow your organization, company, and/or project.

Sheika Petteway

Target Audience: Directors, Owners, Administration

Intentional Coaching for Childcare Leaders: Empower, Engage, Elevate

Classroom 2111

This session is designed specifically for childcare directors who are ready to strengthen their leadership impact through intentional staff coaching. Directors will explore how to model excellence, coach with clarity, and build a culture of encouragement and growth. With a focus on positive open communication, team-building, and performance improvement, this training will equip directors with the tools they need to reduce burnout, foster accountability, and elevate their teams with purpose. Through practical strategies and real-world examples, directors will learn to create a positive, growth-focused environment that empowers their staff—and ultimately benefits the children and families they serve.

Natasha Harris

Target Audience: Directors, Owners, Administration

Sticking Together: A Movement Uplifting Caregivers

Classroom 2212

Sticking Together, led by the Houston Infant Toddler Coalition, is a movement to uplift caregivers. We aim to celebrate caregivers for the amazing things done daily - talking, singing, playing, and reading. By uplifting these moments, we are creating a ripple effect, transforming Houston into a city where every baby thrives.

Renee Mirick

Play to Learn: How Dramatic Play Can Ignite Learning in the Classroom

Classroom 2219

Has learning taken a stagnant turn in your classroom? Come "play to learn" exciting and practical ways to bring learning to life again! Dramatic play is essential to success, so let's have fun! Join Emily Perez for this fun and informational training on dramatic play!

Emily Perez

Target Audience: Teachers



Smooth Transitions, Strong Connections

Classroom 2214

Managing a classroom starts with how teachers connect with children. In this workshop, you'll learn how your voice, words, and body language can help guide transitions and improve behavior. We'll explore fun and easy transition songs and activities you can use to keep things running smoothly. Walk away with simple tools that help you stay calm, keep children engaged, and build stronger relationships throughout the day.

Lakeshia Nnamani

Target Audience: Teachers

Respectful, Responsive, Relevant: The Power of DAP in Early Childhood

Classroom 2223

Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP) is a framework grounded in research on child development, individual differences, and the social and cultural contexts in which children grow. This training provides a deep understanding of DAP principles and practical strategies for applying them in diverse classroom settings. The training focuses on planning intentional, inclusive learning experiences that support the whole child—socially, emotionally, cognitively, and physically.

Andrea Poehl

Target Audience: Teachers

Minimum Standards Training: Nutrition/Active Play
Child Care Regulations Staff
Lecture Hall - 2nd floor

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Classroom 1212	<i>Supporting Speech and Language Development in Early Learners</i> Winn Castagno	Classroom 2214	<i>Making Learning Fun!</i> Lakeshia Nnamani
Classroom 1213	<i>Communicable Illnesses, Allergies & Medications, Oh My!: CCL Required Training</i> Kendolyn Cooper Pope	Classroom 2215	<i>Child Growth and Development with Family Engagement</i> Aubri Simpson, Partners Resource Network
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Minimum Standards Training: Nutrition/Active Play

Lecture Hall 2nd Floor

Join us for a comprehensive review and become familiar with Chapter 746 of the Minimum Standards related to Nutrition/Active Play for Child Care Centers.

Child Care Regulation Staff



Target Audience: All attendees

Say, Sing & Sign! How ASL and Music Benefit Infants and Toddlers

Classroom 1101

This is truly a hands-on workshop! Attendees will be actively involved with singing and signing songs that teach important vocabulary words for infants and toddlers. In addition, we will teach how to incorporate signing into the daily routine. Children can sign before they can talk if given the opportunity.

Georgia & Kenneth Frawley

Target Audience: Teachers

Understanding Autism with Strategies for Inclusion

Classroom 1103

The number of autistic children enrolling in the early childhood classroom is increasing each year. Working with these children can be intimidating and frustrating to the classroom educator. This training will help educators better understand autism, as well as, give strategies for successfully including these unique children in their classroom.

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Sarai Smith

Target Audience: Teachers

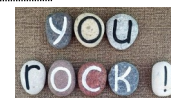
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Life on the Move: Supporting Children During Transitions

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Cheryl Carey

Target Audience: Teachers

From Tension to Trust: Difficult Conversations with Families and Staff

Classroom 1211

Challenging conversations and meeting difficult situations head on are some of the biggest undertakings that a director faces. This session will help you discover steps to make the path easier to walk through appropriate preparation, compassionate interactions and meaningful follow-through.

Sharon Jackson

Target Audience: Directors, Owners, Administration

Communicable Illnesses, Allergies & Medications, Oh My!

Classroom 1213

Each year, child care professionals are required to obtain training related to the prevention and control of communicable illnesses, proper medication administration and preventing and responding to allergic reaction. The goal of this training is to share required information that is not only informative but fun!

Kendolyn Cooper Pope

Target Audience: Teachers



Your Playbook for Behavior Challenges

Classroom 1215

This training, provides practical strategies for working with 3 to 10 year-olds. Learn to identify the function of challenging behaviors, techniques for de-escalation, and create a proactive "playbook" to build children's emotional intelligence and self-regulation.

Vickie Maertz & Wyatt Hanath, PTA

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Knock, Knock! Who's There? Licensing. Improving the Provider-Licensing Relationship

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This session explores the inspection process and the relationship between child care providers and licensing. In this safe space, participants will engage in guided open dialogue on the inspection process; discuss challenges and successes to regulation; what to do if you disagree with a licensing decision or action; and ways to improve communication while reducing risk to children.

Shante Potts - Gaskill & Kelley Wyatt

Target Audience: Directors, Owners, Administration



Leading with Purpose: Supervision Strategies that Inspire and Support Staff

Classroom 2105

Strong supervision creates thriving childcare programs. This session explores practical strategies for motivating staff, fostering accountability, and delivering supportive feedback. Participants will leave with tools to inspire their teams and create a positive workplace culture.

Natoya Carroll

Target Audience: Directors, Owners, Administration

Supporting Speech and Language Development in Early Learners

Classroom 1212

Strong language skills are the foundation of learning. This session helps participants recognize speech milestones, identify concerns early, and use practical strategies to foster language growth in daily routines.

Winn Castagno

Target Audience: Teachers

Leading with Purpose: Mastering the Art of Staff Supervision

Classroom 1214

Effective supervision is more than oversight—it's purposeful leadership that builds trust, inspires growth, and enhances program quality. This training helps childcare directors strengthen their supervision skills through practical strategies, real-life scenarios, and reflective discussions that transform everyday supervision into meaningful opportunities for coaching, accountability, and professional growth.

Zona M Dargan

Target Audience: Directors, Owners, Administration

What is the Role of Child Care Enforcement (CCE)

Classroom 1217

A discussion of the roles of the Child Care Enforcement (CCE) division. CCE reviews recommendations for and decides on corrective actions, adverse actions, and administrative penalties within the residential and daycare regulatory programs. CCE also conducts administrative reviews within these programs when an operation disagrees with a Child Care Regulation (CCR) deficiency or decision.

Christina Harvey – HHSC Regulatory Enforcement Division

Target Audience: Directors, Owners, Administration

Effective Supervision Strategies for ECE Staff

Classroom 2103

Equip supervisors with practical strategies to enhance communication, accountability, and professional growth while fostering a collaborative and supportive team environment in Early Childhood Education (ECE) settings. This session will also focus on building a successful Conscious Discipline Action Team, assigning strong mentors for onboarding, and fostering open communication to establish trust and support.

Tamyra Belo & Ashley Lee

Target Audience: Directors, Owners, Administration

Responsive Caregiving: Building Strong Foundations in the First Three Years

Classroom 2107

Early experiences shape lifelong development. This session explores responsive caregiving practices that nurture infants and toddlers, strengthen relationships, and promote emotional and cognitive growth.

Maggie De La Cruz

Target Audience: Teachers



Turning Conflict into Collaboration: Resolving Differences at Work

Classroom 2109

As we are aligned with the Texas Core Competencies we will be offering strategies to discover practical strategies to transform workplace conflict into opportunities for collaboration. This session explores communication, problem-solving, and professional relationships, equipping early childhood professionals with tools to resolve differences constructively and strengthen teamwork.

Dawn Fobbs

Target Audience: Mentors/Coaches



Supporting Children with Autism: Practical Tools for the Child Care Classroom

Classroom 2113

This session provides practical tools for supporting children with autism in childcare classrooms. Participants will learn strategies to create inclusive environments that encourage communication, social interaction, and learning success.

Latoris Teague

Target Audience: Teachers

The Very Composed Communicator

Classroom 2213

"The Very Composed Communicator" helps directors master the fine art of sounding professional when they're one email away from losing it. Learn to handle parents, staff, and chaos with grace, humor, and just enough caffeine to keep your tone calm...even when your patience isn't.

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Child Growth and Development with Family Engagement

Classroom 2215

The Texas Early Childhood Professional Development Certified Course will teach practitioners how to identify typical and atypical behaviors, support various learning styles and foster a collaborative classroom. This training is a 3 hour class jam packed into a 1 hour course to support the growing need of those experiencing developmental challenges in preschool. Manifest Academy not only supports early childhood, but will also provide information on how to go beyond preschool years, to help families start off strong.

Aubri Simpson - Partners Resource Network

Target Audience: Mentors/Coaches

Above the Minimum: Elevating Compliance and Culture Beyond the Basics

Classroom 2221

This powerful leadership training is designed for childcare directors and administrators who are ready to go beyond "checking the box" and start building a culture of excellence rooted in licensing compliance. "Above the Minimum" challenges leaders to shift their mindset, inspire their team, and elevate their program's quality by using Texas Minimum Standards not as a ceiling - but as a springboard for success. Through real-life scenarios, practical tools, and a renewed perspective, participants will learn how to make compliance meaningful, empower their staff, and set the tone for a high-standard, high-impact early childhood environment

Sheika Petteway

Target Audience: Mentors/Coaches



Leading with Intention: Mastering Time, Tasks, and Team Needs (A Productivity & Stress Management Workshop for Childcare Directors and Owners)

Classroom 2111

Childcare leaders can do it all! We are our childcare administrators, team mentors, problem-solvers, and we do it all without falling apart. Our days are filled with interruptions, endless to-do lists, it's easy to feel busy but not productive. This hands-on training is designed to help childcare directors and owners reclaim their time, lead with clarity, and maintain a healthy balance while meeting the needs of children, families, and staff. Leaders will walk away with concrete strategies for time-blocking, priority management, and personal energy tracking. You'll also learn how to create systems that support your leadership—so you can be more present, more effective, and less overwhelmed.

Natasha Harris

Target Audience: Mentors/Coaches

Sticking Together: A Movement Uplifting Caregivers

Classroom 2212

Sticking Together, led by the Houston Infant Toddler Coalition, is a movement to uplift caregivers. We aim to celebrate caregivers for the amazing things done daily - talking, singing, playing, and reading. By uplifting these moments, we are creating a ripple effect, transforming Houston into a city where every baby thrives.

Renee Mirick

Target Audience: Mentors/Coaches

Making Learning Fun

Classroom 2214



Discover how to turn everyday lessons into exciting, hands-on experiences! This workshop offers practical, play-based strategies and creative ideas to help preschool teachers create a fun, engaging classroom where young learners can explore, imagine, and grow. Perfect for educators looking to spark joy and creativity in their teaching!

Lakeshia Nnamani

Target Audience: Teachers

Play to Learn: How Dramatic Play Can Ignite Learning in the Classroom

Classroom 2219

Has learning taken a stagnant turn in your classroom? Come "play to learn" exciting and practical ways to bring learning to life again! Dramatic play is essential to success so let's have fun! Join Emily Perez for this fun and informational training on dramatic play!

Emily Perez

Target Audience: Teachers



Healing Starts Here: Trauma-Aware Practices for Early Childhood Educators

Classroom 2223

Early childhood educators are often the first to notice signs of trauma in young children. This training is designed to equip educators with the tools to recognize trauma responses, foster emotionally safe learning environments, and build strong, secure relationships with children. By adopting a trauma-informed lens, educators can improve classroom behavior, enhance learning outcomes, and support children's emotional development during critical early years.

Andrea Poehl

Target Audience: Teachers

I Need to Create a TECPDS Account

All early childhood professionals can register for a **FREE TECPDS Account**, regardless of their role in the sector in which they work. A TECPDS Account can help you keep track of your professional development; creating and updating your professional development report and link it to your center/facility of employment.

VISIT THE TECPDS BOOTH IN THE HALL IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE CREATING YOUR ACCOUNT!



WWW.TECPDS.ORG



A SPECIAL THANK YOU

To **CHILD** and the **Gulf Coast Chapter of Texas AEYC** for assisting with planning logistics related to the **For the Love of Children Conference**



Disclaimer: Child Care Regulation (CCR) does not assess, collect, or manage any fees related to the For the Love of Children Conference. All questions or concerns regarding fees should be directed to CHILD at Aaron.Carrara@DiscoverCHILD.org or 832-643-7304 (text preferred)



**LUNCH will be served
starting at 1:00 pm!**

The Exhibitor Area will be
OPEN as well, so please be
sure to visit our vendors!

**Grab a lunch and find a
space to eat!**

Remember, sessions begin again
promptly at 1:30 pm, so feel free to
take your lunch to a classroom if that is
easier!

LUNCH OPTIONS: *Turkey Avocado Sandwich (turkey, bacon, tomato, lettuce and mayonnaise)*



Veggie Sandwich (veggies, cheese, tomato, lettuce and dressing)

Ham and Cheese Sandwich (ham, cheddar cheese, tomato, lettuce, mustard)



**Remember to throw your trash away in
one of the many trash receptacles
located throughout the facility!**



**Did you receive a Scholarship
to attend today's conference?**

Be sure to stop by the
Workforce Solutions - Gulf Coast
booth and thank them!



Minimum Standards Training: Activities/Discipline
Child Care Regulations Staff

Lecture Hall - 2nd floor

1st Floor Classrooms 1st Hallway		2nd Floor Classrooms 1st Hallway	
Classroom 1101	<i>Say, Sing & Sign! How ASL and Music Benefit Infants and Toddlers</i> Georgia & Kenneth Frawley	Classroom 2101	<i>Leading with Purpose: Coaching Tools to Elevate Supervision and Staff Development</i> Lucia Martinez
Classroom 1103	<i>All Kinds of Eaters: Feeding Support for Neurodivergent Toddlers & Preschoolers</i> Jean Hawney	Classroom 2103	<i>AI for Child Care Center Management</i> Amy Musick
Classroom 1105	<i>Building Brains from the Beginning: Connecting I/T Developmental Milestones to Classroom Practices & Activities</i> Christina Alton & Martha Gonzales	Classroom 2105	<i>Partnering for Progress: Navigating Conversations about Developmental Concerns with Parents</i> Margaret Sachs
Classroom 1107	<i>Observation and Assessment of Young Children</i> Esperanza Baldwin	Classroom 2107	<i>Circle Time That Connects: Engaging Every Child, Every Day</i> Re'Shaun Webb
Classroom 1109	<i>Building Bridges of Language</i> Marisa Barrett	Classroom 2109	<i>Bridging the Gap: Mastering Workplace Communication Skills</i> Dawn Fobbs
Classroom 1111	<i>Creating a Calm Room</i> Dawn Hallman & Denise Collins	Classroom 2111	<i>Positive Behavior Strategies for Preschoolers 3 - 5 years</i> Natasha Harris
Classroom 1113	<i>Building Brilliant Minds: Practical Skill-Building Strategies for Early Childhood</i> Cybriel Bonner	Classroom 2113	<i>Positive Guidance for Neurodiverse Learners</i> Latoris Teague
1st Floor Classrooms 2nd Hallway		2nd Floor Classrooms 2nd Hallway	
Classroom 1209	<i>The Art of Supervision: Masterful Engagement & Safety in Early Childhood</i> Cheryl Carey	Classroom 2212	<i>Managing Off-Task Behaviors in the Early Childhood Classroom</i> Lakisha Hickerson
Classroom 1211	<i>Margin Mastery: Leading with Space to Breathe</i> Sharon Jackson	Classroom 2213	<i>Growing Together: Effective Staff Supervision for Early Childhood</i> Traci Houston
Classroom 1212	<i>Creating Language-Rich Classrooms for Children with Disabilities</i> Winn Castagno	Classroom 2214	<i>The Boss Blueprint</i> Lakeshia Nnamani
Classroom 1213	<i>Let's Talk: Communicating with Parents About Suspected Special Needs</i> Kendolyn Cooper Pope	Classroom 2215	<i>Positive Behavior 1,2,3</i> Charkeiro Parker
Classroom 1214	<i>Beyond the Milestones: What Every Educator Should Know About Child Development</i> Zona M Dargan	Classroom 2219	<i>Canvas & Curriculum: Bringing Magic to Life!</i> Emily Perez
Classroom 1215	<i>Developmental Milestones 2 yrs to 4 yrs</i> Vickie Maertz & Wyatt Hanath, PTA	Classroom 2221	<i>Leveraging Community Partnerships: Building and Utilizing Relationships to Expand Reach and Enrollment</i> Sheika Petteway
Classroom 1217	<i>From Budget to Impact: Smarter Investments for Stronger Centers</i> Shawn Harmon	Classroom 2223	<i>Leading with Compassion: Empowering Your Team to Support Trauma-Affected Children</i> Andrea Poehl

Session IV: 1:30 pm - 2:45 pm Breakout Descriptions

Minimum Standards Training: Activities/Discipline

Lecture Hall 2nd Floor

Join us for a comprehensive review and become familiar with Chapter 746 of the Minimum Standards related to Activities/Discipline for Child Care Centers.

Child Care Regulation Staff



Target Audience: All Attendees



Say, Sing & Sign! How ASL and Music Benefit Infants and Toddlers

Classroom 1101

This is truly a hands-on workshop! Attendees will be actively involved with singing and signing songs that teach important vocabulary words for infants and toddlers. In addition, we will teach how to incorporate signing into the daily routine. Children can sign before they can talk if given the opportunity.

Georgia & Kenneth Frawley

Target Audience: Teachers

Building Brains from the Beginning: Connecting I/T Developmental Milestones to Classroom Practices & Activities

Classroom 1105

This session will explore infant and toddler development through interactive, exploratory activities and connect these activities to developmental and age-appropriate milestones. In addition, we will discuss effective strategies in documenting these activities and milestones for families to understand.

Christina Alton & Martha Gonzales

Target Audience: Teachers

Building Bridges of Language

Classroom 1109

Every coo, giggle, and "uh-oh!" is a bridge in progress. Discover how everyday talk builds early communication. Learn to model language that stretches thinking, expands vocabulary, and transforms simple moments into foundations for confident, connected communication.

Marisa Barrett

Target Audience: Teachers

Building Brilliant Minds: Practical Skill-Building Strategies for Early Childhood

Classroom 1113

Discover practical, hands-on ways to help young children grow, learn, and thrive. In this engaging workshop, educators will explore how everyday moments, from playtime to circle time can nurture children's thinking, communication, creativity, and confidence. Participants will walk away with simple, intentional strategies to support skill development in every domain.

Cybiel Bonner

Target Audience: Teachers

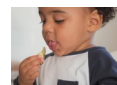
All Kinds of Eaters: Feeding Support for Neurodivergent Toddlers & Preschoolers

Classroom 1103

Learn how to support toddlers with diverse feeding needs in early childhood settings. Identify red flags in chewing, swallowing, and mealtime behavior, and understand when sensory or motor skills - not "picky eating" - are the cause. Gain practical, play-based strategies and caregiver communication tips to promote safe, joyful participation at the table for every toddler.

Jean Hawney

Target Audience: Teachers



Observation and Assessment of Young Children

Classroom 1107

Educators will learn how to use observation data to inform curriculum planning, identify developmental milestones, and communicate effectively with families about children's progress. Real-world scenarios, video analysis, and hands-on activities will empower participants to enhance their observation skills and use assessments to support every child's growth in a meaningful way.

Esperanza Baldwin

Target Audience: Teachers

Creating a Calm Room

Classroom 1111

Discover ways to remain calm in the midst of a busy early childhood classroom. Learn how adults can practice co-regulation and help young children with the big emotions that can overpower small humans. This session will teach easy- to- learn calm down techniques that you don't have to close your eyes to do. Learn how to turn the chaos to calm.

Dawn Hallman & Denise Collins

Target Audience: Teachers

The Art of Supervision: Masterful Engagement & Safety in Early Childhood

Classroom 1209

"The Art of Supervision," invites early childhood providers to master the subtle techniques of effective supervision. We'll explore research-based strategies, delve into how knowing each child's unique developmental stage enhances safety and engagement, and learn to create a picture of vigilance in every indoor and outdoor space. From daily routines in the classroom to the outdoor spaces, discover how to create environments where children can explore, learn, and thrive, all while being supervised. Get ready to elevate your supervision from a task to a true masterpiece!

Target Audience: Teachers

Cheryl Carey



Session IV: 1:30 pm - 2:45 pm Breakout Descriptions

Margin Mastery: Leading with Space to Breathe

Classroom 1211

Directing an early childhood program requires constant energy and attention, often at the expense of your own well-being. This session introduces the concept of margin (the space between your load and your limit) and explores simple, powerful ways to reclaim time, energy, and calm so you can lead with clarity and confidence.

Sharon Jackson

Target Audience: Mentors/Coaches



Let's Talk: Communicating with Parents About Suspected Special Needs

Classroom 1213

Neurodivergence is a hot topic, but how do we address this topic with families in our community? These are sensitive topics. Come develop a tool box of ideas for how to communicate with parents when you suspect that their child may have developmental delays that influence the school experience.

Kendolyn Cooper Pope

Target Audience: Mentors/Coaches

Developmental Milestones 2 yrs to 4 yrs

Classroom 1215

This training provides an essential overview of developmental milestones from Birth to 24 Months. Participants will learn to identify key achievements in motor, language, and social-emotional domains. We will explore age-appropriate activities to support development and recognize potential "red flags," ensuring quality care for 2 to 4 year olds.

Vickie Maertz & Wyatt Hanath, PTA

Target Audience: Teachers



Leading with Purpose: Coaching Tools to Elevate Supervision and Staff Development

Classroom 2101

Effective supervision is one of the most powerful ways administrators can strengthen program quality, staff well-being, and child outcomes. This session equips administrators with practical, evidence informed coaching tools and frameworks they can apply to their supervision practices. Participants will explore four coaching-based approaches grounded in early childhood research and professional guidance: Each technique will be paired with examples, discussion, and take-home tools showing how and when to use them most effectively in early childhood settings.

Lucia Martinez

Target Audience: Mentors/Coaches

AI for Child Care Center Management

Classroom 2103

AI is everywhere and is advancing rapidly. Learn how to harness the power of this incredible tool without putting you or your center at risk. Let AI take hours off your to-do list!

Amy Musick

Target Audience: Directors



Creating Language-Rich Classrooms for Children with Disabilities

Classroom 1212

Every child deserves to be heard. This session equips caregivers with tools to create language-rich classrooms that support communication for children with disabilities and strengthen inclusive practices.

Winn Castagno

Target Audience: Teachers

Beyond the Milestones: What Every Educator Should Know About Child Development

Classroom 1214

Child development is more than checking off milestones, it is about understanding how children grow, learn, and thrive through every stage. In this session, educators will explore the "why" behind behavior, the stages of development, and practical strategies to nurture growth in every child - beyond the milestones.

Zona M Dargan

Target Audience: Teachers

From Budget to Impact: Smarter Investments for Stronger Centers

Classroom 1217

Learn how to make every dollar count! This session helps child care owners and directors evaluate the return on investment (ROI) of classroom materials and staffing. Discover practical tools to track impact, prioritize high-value spending, and build stronger, more sustainable centers through smarter, data-driven financial decisions.

Shawn Harmon

Target Audience: Directors, Owners, Administration



Circle Time That Connects: Engaging Every Child, Every Day

Classroom 2107

Circle time can be the heartbeat of the classroom when it is intentional, interactive, and inclusive. This session introduces creative strategies to make circle time meaningful for all children. Educators will leave with fresh songs, movement activities, and storytelling ideas to boost engagement.

Re'Shaun Webb

Target Audience: Teachers

Partnering for Progress: Navigating Conversations about Developmental Concerns with Parents

Classroom 2105

This session focuses on the critical role that child care professionals play in identifying early developmental challenges and how to approach these conversations with sensitivity, empathy, and clarity. Participants will gain practical tools for discussing developmental concerns with parents in a supportive and non-judgmental way, empowering parents to take action and seek the resources they need to support their child's growth.

Margaret Sachs

Target Audience: Teachers

Bridging the Gap: Mastering Workplace Communication Skills

Classroom 2109

Strengthen your professional toolkit by mastering effective workplace communication. This session highlights strategies to bridge communication gaps, foster collaboration, and build stronger relationships, aligning with Texas Core Competencies to support early childhood professionals in creating positive, productive work environments.

Dawn Fobbs

Target Audience: Mentors/Coaches



Positive Guidance for Neurodiverse Learners

Classroom 2113

Challenging behaviors can become opportunities for growth. This session explores positive guidance strategies that respect neurodiverse learners and empower caregivers with tools to redirect behavior while supporting social-emotional development.

Latoris Teague

Target Audience: Teachers

Growing Together: Effective Staff Supervision for Early Childhood

Classroom 2213

The training on staff supervision in an early childhood environment focuses on developing effective leadership, reflective supervision, and active supervision skills. It equips supervisors to support staff growth, ensure child safety, provide constructive feedback, and build a positive, collaborative workplace culture that enhances teaching quality and overall program performance.

Traci Houston

Target Audience: Directors, Owners, Administration



Positive Behavior 1,2,3

Classroom 2215

This training will be a fun and interactive experience. You will learn how to run a smooth and effective classroom by setting strong, clear, and consistent expectations that your students will follow. You will learn to build and foster healthy relationships with your students. Teachers will be given strategies and techniques to improve and grow in the guidance and discipline sector of education.

Charkeiro Parker

Target Audience: Teachers

Leveraging Community Partnerships: Building and Utilizing Relationships to Expand Reach and Enrollment

Classroom 2221

Strong community partnerships are essential for any early childhood program or organization seeking to grow, sustain, and thrive. This session equips leaders with strategies to identify, build, and nurture mutually beneficial relationships with businesses, schools, faith-based organizations, and community stakeholders. Participants will discover how to align their mission with community needs, create win-win collaborations, and use partnerships as powerful tools to expand program visibility, increase enrollment, and strengthen long-term impact.

Sheika Petteway

Target Audience: Directors, Owners, Administration

Positive Behavior Strategies for Preschoolers 3-5 years

Classroom 2111

This session focuses on positive behavior strategies specifically designed for preschool children. Educators will learn practical techniques to cultivate a positive classroom environment that encourages social-emotional development and effective learning. We will discuss methods to reinforce good behavior, manage classroom interactions, and foster a sense of community among young learners. By implementing these strategies, teachers can help children develop essential skills such as cooperation, self-regulation, and empathy.

Natasha Harris

Target Audience: Teachers

Managing Off-Task Behaviors in the Early Childhood Classroom

Classroom 2212

Are you ready to transform your learning environment from chaos to calm? If so, this is the training for you! This professional development course covers practical age-appropriate behavior strategies that can be used in ECH classrooms to maximize classroom management. During this training, we will cover four prevalent off-task behaviors, their causes, and strategies that can be implemented immediately to restore order to your classroom.

Lakisha Hickerson

Target Audience: Teachers

The Boss Blueprint

Classroom 2214

This breakout session is for an early childhood owner seeking to increase efficiency at your program, building systems is the ultimate solution. With systems, you will have more time to focus on what you love – whether that is growing and scaling your business or family and friends! Come ready to learn the top 5 systems you need in your business, so you have more time to pour into yourself!

Lakeshia Nnamani

Target Audience: Mentors/Coaches

B.O.S.S.

Canvas & Curriculum: Bringing Magic to Life!

Classroom 2219

Discover the magic of teaching art to your little learners! Explore how to create joyful and age appropriate art experiences that spark creativity and imagination in the classroom.

Emily Perez

Target Audience: Teachers



Leading with Compassion: Empowering Your Team to Support Trauma-Affected Children

Classroom 2223

School directors and principals play a critical role in creating trauma-informed learning communities. When leaders understand the impact of trauma on young children, they can better support their teaching staff, implement effective policies, and build a culture of compassion and resilience throughout their schools.

This training equips leaders with the knowledge and strategies to recognize trauma responses in children, guide their teams in implementing trauma-informed practices, and create systemic supports that benefit both educators and students.

Andrea Poehl

**Minimum Standards Training: Health/Fire/Safety/Field Trips/Transportation
Child Care Regulations Staff**

Lecture Hall - 2nd floor

1st Floor Classrooms 1st Hallway		2nd Floor Classrooms 1st Hallway	
Classroom 1101	<i>Play-Along Songs! Movement, Music & Learning to Support Standards</i> Georgia & Kenneth Frawley	Classroom 2101	<i>STREAM en Accion: Activando Mentes a Traves del Juego</i> Lucia Martinez
Classroom 1103	<i>Tiny Mouths, Big Skills: What Educators Need to Know About Chewing, Drinking & Oral Motor Development</i> Jean Hawney	Classroom 2103	<i>AI for Child Care Center Management</i> Amy Musick
Classroom 1105	<i>Building Brains from the Beginning: Connecting I/T Developmental Milestones to Classroom Practices & Activities</i> Christina Alton & Martha Gonzales	Classroom 2105	<i>Spotting the Signs: Early Identification of Autism</i> Margaret Sachs
Classroom 1107	<i>Observation and Assessment of Young Children</i> Esperanza Baldwin	Classroom 2107	<i>Circle Time That Connects: Engaging Every Child, Every Day</i> Re'Shaun Webb
Classroom 1109	<i>Cognitive Construction Zone</i> Marisa Barrett	Classroom 2109	<i>Bridging the Gap: Mastering Workplace Communication Skills</i> Dawn Fobbs
Classroom 1111	<i>Creating a Calm Room</i> Dawn Hallman & Denise Collins	Classroom 2111	<i>Moment By Moment: Defining Busy vs Productive</i> Natasha Harris
Classroom 1113	<i>Building Brilliant Minds: Practical Skill-Building Strategies for Early Childhood</i> Cybriel Bonner	Classroom 2113	<i>Supporting Children with Autism: Practical Tools for the Child Care Classroom</i> Latoris Teague
1st Floor Classrooms 2nd Hallway		2nd Floor Classrooms 2nd Hallway	
Classroom 1209	<i>Below the Surface: Exploring the Hidden Depths of Child Development</i> Cheryl Carey	Classroom 2212	<i>Inclusion in the Early Childhood Classroom: Supporting ALL Learners!</i> Lakisha Hickerson
Classroom 1211	<i>From Tension to Trust: Difficult Conversations with Families and Staff</i> Sharon Jackson	Classroom 2213	<i>Growing Together: Effective Staff Supervision for Early Childhood</i> Traci Houston
Classroom 1212	<i>Supporting Speech and Language Development in Early Learners</i> Winn Castagno	Classroom 2214	<i>Wiggles & Giggles: Tools for Teaching Infants & Toddlers</i> Lakeshia Nnamani
Classroom 1213	<i>Building Your Team: Hiring and Retaining a High-Quality Staff</i> Kendolyn Cooper Pope	Classroom 2215	<i>Positive Behavior 1,2,3</i> Charkeiro Parker
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Classroom 1217	<i>From Budget to Impact: Smarter Investments for Stronger Centers</i> Shawn Harmon	Classroom 2223	<i>Leading with Compassion: Empowering Your Team to Support Trauma-Affected Children</i> Andrea Poehl

Minimum Standards Training: Health/Fire Safety/Field trips/Transportation

Lecture Hall 2nd Floor

Join us for a comprehensive review and become familiar with Chapter 746 of the Minimum Standards related to Health/Fire Safety/Field Trips/Transportation for Child Care Centers.

Child Care Regulation Staff



Target Audience: All Attendees

Play-Along Songs! Movement, Music & Learning to Support Standards



Classroom 1101

Engaging children in a variety of really fun songs and playful activities that teach various core concepts is the ideal teaching strategy. Children can learn so much and retain so much if they are having fun while doing it – and they won't even know it.

Georgia & Kenneth Frawley

Target Audience: Teachers

Building Brains from the Beginning: Connecting I/T Developmental Milestones to Classroom Practices & Activities

Classroom 1105

This session will explore infant and toddler development through interactive, exploratory activities and connect these activities to developmental and age-appropriate milestones. In addition, we will discuss effective strategies in documenting these activities and milestones for families to understand.

Christina Alton & Martha Gonzales

Target Audience: Teachers

Cognitive Construction Zone

Classroom 1109



Thinking starts early! Discover how infants and toddlers build knowledge through touch, movement, and playful exploration. Learn to design sensory-rich environments that spark curiosity, encourage problem-solving, and transform everyday routines into powerful learning moments — one giggle, grasp, and "I can do it!" at a time.

Marisa Barrett

Target Audience: Teachers

Building Brilliant Minds: Practical Skill-Building Strategies for Early Childhood

Classroom 1113

Discover practical, hands-on ways to help young children grow, learn, and thrive. In this engaging workshop, educators will explore how everyday moments, from playtime to circle time can nurture children's thinking, communication, creativity, and confidence. Participants will walk away with simple, intentional strategies to support skill development in every domain.

Cybriel Bonner



Target Audience: Teachers

Tiny Mouths, Big Skills: What Educators Need to Know About Chewing, Drinking & Oral Motor Development

Classroom 1103

Discover how chewing, drinking, and oral-motor skills develop in toddlers and preschoolers—and why they matter for safety, nutrition, and participation. Learn to spot red flags, prevent choking risks, and support skill practice in everyday routines. Gain practical classroom strategies to help every child feel confident and capable at the table.

Jean Hawney

Target Audience: Teachers

Observation and Assessment of Young Children

Classroom 1107

Educators will learn how to use observation data to inform curriculum planning, identify developmental milestones, and communicate effectively with families about children's progress. Real-world scenarios, video analysis, and hands-on activities will empower participants to enhance observation skills and use assessments to support every child's growth in a meaningful way.

Esperanza Baldwin

Target Audience: Teachers

Creating a Calm Room

Classroom 1111

Discover ways to remain calm in the midst of a busy early childhood classroom. Learn how adults can practice co-regulation and help young children with the big emotions that can overpower small humans. This session will teach easy-to-learn calm down techniques that you do not have to close your eyes to do. Learn how to turn the chaos to calm.

Dawn Hallman & Denise Collins

Target Audience: Teachers



Below the Surface: Exploring the Hidden Depths of Child Development

Classroom 1209

Just as scuba divers explore the hidden wonders beneath the ocean's surface, educators delve into the fascinating world of child development. This training, invites you on a journey of discovery, exploring the depths of how children grow, learn, and develop. Like charting a course through unfamiliar waters, understanding child development requires careful observation, keen awareness, and a willingness to explore the intricate ecosystem of influences that shape a child's growth. Let's take a deep dive into the world of child development, uncovering the hidden potential within each child and surfacing with a renewed understanding of how to support their growth and learning.

Cheryl Carey

Target Audience: Teachers

From Tension to Trust: Difficult Conversations with Families and Staff

Classroom 1211

Challenging conversations and meeting difficult situations head on are some of the biggest undertakings that a director faces. This session will help you discover steps to make the path easier to walk through appropriate preparation, compassionate interactions and meaningful follow-through.

Sharon Jackson

Target Audience: Mentors/Coaches



Building Your Team: Hiring and Retaining a High-Quality Staff

Classroom 1213

Early childhood programs offer many benefits to children, families and society at large, and these programs are most effective when staffed by well-prepared and highly qualified teachers. The challenge? Finding and retaining excellent team members. Participants will learn practical tips for recruitment, retention, and team building.

Kendolyn Cooper Pope

Target Audience: Directors, Owners, Administration

Developmental Milestones Birth to 24 months

Classroom 1215

This training provides an essential overview of developmental milestones from birth to 24 Months. Participants will learn to identify key achievements in motor, language, and social-emotional domains. We will explore age-appropriate activities to support development and recognize potential "red flags," ensuring quality care for infants and toddlers

Vickie Maertz & Wyatt Hanath, PTA

Target Audience: Teachers

STREAM en Accion: Activando Mentas a Traves del Juego

Classroom 2101

This session demonstrates how playful, hands-on experience can introduce children to STREAM concepts. Participants will explore practical strategies to foster creativity, problem-solving, and exploration, creating learning environments where curiosity and play drive meaningful educational outcomes.

Lucia Martinez



Target Audience: Teachers

Spotting the Signs: Early Identification of Autism

Classroom 2105

This interactive and informative session is designed for child care providers to better understand and recognize the early signs of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in young children. Participants will learn about common developmental red flags, how to observe key behaviors, and the importance of early intervention. Through real-life examples, activities, and group discussions, child care providers will gain practical tools to identify potential signs of autism, how to approach parents with sensitivity, and foster a more inclusive and supportive environment for all children.

Margaret Sachs

Target Audience: Teachers

Supporting Speech and Language Development in Early Learners

Classroom 1212

Strong language skills are the foundation of learning. This session helps participants recognize speech milestones, identify concerns early, and use practical strategies to foster language growth in daily routines.

Winn Castagno

Target Audience: Teachers



Leading with Purpose: Mastering the Art of Staff Supervision

Classroom 1214

Effective supervision is more than oversight—it is purposeful leadership that builds trust, inspires growth, and enhances program quality. This training helps directors strengthen supervision skills through practical strategies, real-life scenarios, and reflective discussions that transform everyday supervision into meaningful opportunities for coaching, accountability, and professional growth.

Zona M Dargan

Target Audience: Directors, Owners, Administration

From Budget to Impact: Smarter Investments for Stronger Centers

Classroom 1217

Learn how to make every dollar count! This session helps child care owners and directors evaluate the return on investment (ROI) of classroom materials and staffing. Discover practical tools to track impact, prioritize high-value spending, and build stronger, more sustainable centers through smarter, data-driven financial decisions.



Shawn Harmon

Target Audience: Directors, Owners, Administration

AI for Child Care Center Management

Classroom 2103

AI is everywhere and is advancing rapidly. Learn how to harness the power of this incredible tool without putting you or your center at risk. Let AI take hours off your to-do list!

Amy Musick

Target Audience: Directors, Owners, Administration

Circle Time That Connects: Engaging Every Child, Every Day

Classroom 2107

Circle time can be the heartbeat of the classroom when it is intentional, interactive, and inclusive. This session introduces creative strategies to make circle time meaningful for all children. Educators will leave with fresh songs, movement activities, and storytelling ideas to boost engagement.

Re'Shaun Webb

Target Audience: Teachers



Session V: 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Breakout Descriptions



Bridging the Gap: Mastering Workplace Communication Skills

Classroom 2109

Strengthen your professional toolkit by mastering effective workplace communication. This session highlights strategies to bridge communication gaps, foster collaboration, and build stronger relationships, aligning with Texas Core Competencies to support early childhood professionals in creating positive, productive work environments.

Dawn Fobbs

Target Audience: Mentors/Coaches

Supporting Children with Autism: Practical Tools for the Child Care Classroom

Classroom 2113

This session provides practical tools for supporting children with autism in childcare classrooms. Participants will learn strategies to create inclusive environments that encourage communication, social interaction, and learning success.

Latoris Teague

Target Audience: Teachers

Growing Together: Effective Staff Supervision for Early Childhood

Classroom 2213

Training of staff supervision in an early childhood environment focuses on developing effective leadership, reflective/active supervision skills. It equips supervisors to support staff growth, ensure child safety, provide constructive feedback, and build a positive, collaborative workplace culture that enhances teaching quality and overall program performance.

Traci Houston

Target Audience: Directors, Owners, Administration



Positive Behavior 1,2,3

Classroom 2215

This training will be a fun and interactive experience. Learn how to run a smooth and effective classroom by setting strong, clear, and consistent expectations that your students will follow. Come learn to build and foster healthy relationships with your students. Teachers will be given strategies and techniques to improve and grow in the guidance and discipline sector of education.

Charkeiro Parker

Target Audience: Teachers

From Hire to Inspire: Mastering Onboarding, Training, and Policy Transformation

Classroom 2221

This interactive and engaging training is designed to equip childcare leaders and directors with the tools to optimize employee success. Learn how to design a structured and effective onboarding process, implement engaging training techniques that promote retention and understanding, and transform outdated policies into actionable and relatable standards that align with modern workplace needs. Participants will gain strategies to foster a thriving workplace culture, enhance team performance, and ensure organizational compliance.

Sheika Petteway

Target Audience: Directors, Owners, Administration

Moment By Moment: Defining Busy vs Productive

Classroom 2111

The "Moment-by-Moment" approach focuses on teaching daycare teachers to identify and navigate their daily tasks with intention. This means distinguishing between tasks that simply keep them busy and those that are truly productive in fostering child development, safety, and overall classroom management.

Natasha Harris

Target Audience: Teachers



Inclusion in the Early Childhood Classroom: Supporting ALL Learners!

Classroom 2212

This training will explore how to include children with diverse needs in early childhood settings effectively. During this interactive training, participants will discuss and engage in five relevant inclusive practices and two strategies for each that can be implemented in their pre-school classrooms.

Lakisha Hickerson

Target Audience: Teachers



Wiggles & Giggles: Tools for Teaching Infants & Toddlers

Classroom 2214

This breakout session is designed especially for teachers caring for infants and toddlers. This hands-on workshop will provide you with tips and tricks to enhance your infant/toddler classroom. Come ready to sing and dance as we share strategies on how to keep your classroom calm and children happy.

Lakeshia Nnamani

Target Audience: Teachers

Canvas & Curriculum: Bringing Magic to Life!

Classroom 2219

Discover the magic of teaching art to your little learners! Explore how to create joyful and age appropriate art experiences that spark creativity and imagination in the classroom.

Emily Perez

Target Audience: Teachers



Leading with Compassion: Empowering Your Team to Support Trauma-Affected Children

Classroom 2223

School directors and principals play a critical role in creating trauma-informed learning communities. When leaders understand the impact of trauma on young children, they can better support their teaching staff, implement effective policies, and build a culture of compassion and resilience throughout their schools. This training equips educational leaders with the knowledge and strategies to recognize trauma responses in children, guide their teams in implementing trauma-informed practices, and create systemic supports that benefit both educators and students.

Andrea Poehl

Target Audience: Mentors/Coaches

AS AN EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONAL, YOU ARE:

- *Vital for building strong futures in young children**
- *Critical in shaping young minds**
- *Essential in instilling confidence and community**
- *Helping prepare children for life's challenges**
- *Igniting their passion for lifelong learning**

YOU ARE IMPORTANT!

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE



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