

GENERAL INTEREST SESSION 1; THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14; 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Early Geometry Concepts

Melinda Schwartz

Clipper

What geometry concepts are important for young children? What is the appropriate developmental approach to teaching these concepts? Participants will discover the answers to these questions as they listen, talk, and engage in playful activities such as building a tabletop obstacle course.

P3: Learning Environments, Planning Frameworks, Curriculum and Standards

Fostering Executive Functioning in Children and the Adults in their Lives

Sara Kline

Harbor

Executive Function skills rely on social/emotional and intellectual capacities necessary to achieve goals in school and life. These teachable skills can be fostered from infancy through adulthood. Support children and the adults in their lives with self-management strategies to create a level playing field for people from diverse backgrounds.

P2: Responsive Interactions and Guidance

Building Strong Foundations in Mathematics for

Pre-K and Beyond

Brian Mowry

Spinnaker

Participants will learn strategies to support young children's acquisition of foundational math content and executive level functioning skills. Activities that teach counting, classification, patterning and spatial temporal reasoning provide foundational skills preschoolers need to be successful in formal school mathematics. Executive level functioning skills include working memory, attention, and interest.

P1: Child Growth and Development

Greening Your Space and Creating Outdoor Learning Environments

Sarah Coles

Yacht

Outdoor Learning Environments are a great way to increase student learning and health. This session will introduce OLE! Texas, the 12 best practice indicators and give centers the opportunity to look at your outdoor space and how to start the transformation into an outdoor learning environment.

A5: Implementing a Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum and Environment

Directors, Take Care of Yourselves, or Else!

Debbie Tonne Jones

Galleon I

The last 1.5 years has taken a toll on directors and teachers. It's the big thing no one wants to talk about. We're going to take a vulnerable look at how we take care of ourselves (or fail to) as directors, consequences of not, and how to invest in ourselves.

A1: Establishing and Maintaining an Effective Organization

Planning for Diversity: Creating Hands-On Standards Based Experiences with Diversity in Mind

Toni Sturdivant

Galleon II

Participants will first learn about the power and benefits of planning for diversity, as reported in early childhood research. Following that, they will engage in a hands-on lesson planning activity using the Texas Pre-Kindergarten Guidelines, principles of developmentally appropriate practice, and student profiles that show a range of human diversity.

P3: Learning Environments, Planning Frameworks, Curriculum and Standards

Losing Your Way? “Hold On” and Still Treat Yourself Right!

Jessica Carrier, Alicia Mahlow, and Tamsyn Morrison
Galleon III

As early childhood educators, we encounter children that have experienced trauma. Trauma shows itself in a variety of ways in young children (challenging behaviors, difficulties with attention), causing caregivers to be physically and mentally exhausted. Taking care of ourselves may be the best way to prevent burnout and compassion fatigue.

P9: Professionalism and Ethics

GENERAL INTEREST SESSION 2; THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14; 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Reframing Learning Loss

Jessica Murdter-Atkinson and Angie House
Schooner

This past year, children have been wrapped in love, culture, community, and language. When we think about all that children may have missed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we forget to pause and reflect on what children have learned. We want to center the child in our teaching.

P3: Learning Environments, Planning Frameworks, Curriculum and Standards

Whole Leadership, Role Strain, and Strategic Coping Among Early Childhood Administrators

Amy Bryan and Mary Jamsek
Clipper

Many early childhood professionals fall into leadership roles without a clear understanding of expectations, best practices, and essential skills related to leadership. We'll explore the domains of Whole Leadership and key competencies within each domain. We'll discuss role strain and strategies for self-care—including shared leadership and peer coaching/mentoring.

A1: Establishing and Maintaining an Effective Organization

The Importance of Intentionality in the Pre-K Classroom

Tracey Roden
Harbor

Children grow and thrive when provided opportunities to initiate activities and follow their interests, but they also need active teachers to guide their learning through intentional and meaningful classroom experiences. Join this important session to receive guidance and best practices focused on the importance of intentionality in the classroom.

P4: Supporting Skill Development

Pairing Social and Emotional Skills Between School and Home

Doris Cardenas
Spinnaker

This training will promote understanding in creating meaningful partnerships and two-way communication that invites families to support their child's social and emotional development fostering social competence, emotional regulation, and self-regulation through classroom and home activities. There will be make-and-take activities that can be used at school and home.

P7: Family and Community Relationships

Texas Rising Star Update

Lindsay Hill and Karen Killian
Galleon I

Are you Texas Rising Star certified? If not, you should be! Join us and learn how you can improve the quality of your center/home for the children and families you serve and get rewarded for it as we talk all about Texas' Quality Rating and Improvement System – Texas Rising Star. We'll also review the recent revisions made to the Texas Rising Star standards.

A1: Establishing and Maintaining an Effective Organization

Culture and Diversity

ReShaun Webb
Galleon II

This course is designed to enhance the knowledge of Culture and Diversity and how to include it in the classroom. This class will also address microaggressions and how we should be mindful of all races that enroll in our program. As educators our job is to teach every child.

P1: Child Growth and Development

Let's Get Thinking: How to Expand Children's Thought Processes and Document Learning

Sarah Ozuna
Galleon III

Explore your own thinking habits, deepen children's thought processes, and examine ways to document learning. Explore strategies for sparking curiosity and analyze examples of documentation as authentic assessment. Self-reflect and participate in discussions and activities and take away ideas to implement to create a culture of thinking in the classroom.

P5: Observation and Assessment

The Impact of Toxic Stress on Children, Adverse Childhood Experiences, and Resiliency

Dr. Gregory Williams
Grand Ballroom A

The presentation will give an in-depth look at toxic stress and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) and the research that has been done. The research shows the impact of toxic stress on the development of the brain in children and how to build resiliency in children to help overcome that trauma.

P2: Responsive Interactions and Guidance

Early Childhood Educators Career Development

Jerletha McDonald
Grand Ballroom B

Professional development is an ongoing process, which prepares early childhood educators to develop and expand upon their skills and knowledge. This session we will discuss ways to document, retain and implement what you have learned while attending workshops and conferences. We will also discuss tips on creating a professional portfolio to showcase your work, talents, accomplishments and how to advocate for YOURSELF and our PROFESSION! Join this session to learn ways to elevate and expand your career in the field of early care and education.

P9: Professionalism and Ethics

Do, Re, Mi and A, B, C: Moving and Musicking Through the Alphabet

Jeannette Fresne
Grand Ballroom C

Incorporating music and movement into the daily routine – from transitions to read alouds – provides many meaningful opportunities to increase young children's alphabetic knowledge and phonemic awareness. Presenters will share enjoyable, engaging ideas for playfully promoting auditory and visual discrimination, eye-motor coordination, visual sequential memory, language reception and vocabulary.

P3: Learning Environments, Planning Frameworks, Curriculum and Standards

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION; THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14; 1:30 PM- 3:00 PM**Do You Want Diversity or Inclusion?**

Albert Wright
Exhibit Hall A

Diversity is representation, while inclusion means allowed to contribute. This training will address the difference between diversity and inclusion and why it is imperative to embrace both in order for your facility to thrive. We will identify some of the most common barriers to inclusion and cultural competence, as well as give guidelines to having constructive conversations among your team members and communities.

P6: Diversity and Dual Language Learners

GENERAL INTEREST SESSION 3; THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14; 3:30 PM- 5:00 PM**Engaging Linguistically Diverse Children and Families in the Early Childhood Classroom**

Lisa Self
Schooner

In an interactive session, attendees will learn best practices teaching and working with linguistically diverse children and families in their early childhood classroom.

P6: Diversity and Dual Language Learners

Optimizing Your Formative Assessment to Support Individualized Instruction and Family Engagement

Kimberly Howard
Harbor

This session will explore how to conduct ongoing formative assessments to assist the understanding of children's development and learning, how to use assessment information to effectively guide instructional planning, and how to engage families. Participants will also be introduced to resources provided through the TWC Texas PII Project.

P1: Child Growth and Development

Hard Conversations with Families: Getting Ready, Getting Started, Getting it Done

Sharon Jackson
Helm

Hard conversations with families may come without warning but with intention and care, they can also be prepared for, handled well and they can result in a supported and realistic relationship. Join this session to find ways to make hard conversations easier to deal with and more positive for all.

P1: Child Growth and Development

Introduction to T.E.A.C.H.

Laurie Adams and Lesli Itz
Spinnaker

The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Texas Scholarship Program links education, compensation, and commitment together to improve the quality of early care and education experiences for young children across Texas. T.E.A.C.H. provides scholarship opportunities for early childhood professionals working towards earning a CDA Credential, Associate's, or Bachelor's degree in early childhood.

T.E.A.C.H. Texas is more than a scholarship. It is a partnership between the scholarship recipient, sponsoring center and T.E.A.C.H. to ensure the recipient has financial help with educational expenses and success with their educational goals. Come learn how T.E.A.C.H. Texas can help support you on your educational journey.

P9: Professionalism and Ethics

Identifying Temperament and Play Strategies to Encourage Healthy Social-Emotional Growth

Susan Hancock and Marlyn Kramer
Yacht

Temperament and play therapy are the focus of this session since these topics are so inter-related. We'll explore play therapy and how it addresses characteristics and adapts behaviors for the most common temperaments of young children. This session will focus on nature of temperament and the impact of nurturing environment.

P1: Child Growth and Development

What's New at Child Care Licensing

Corey Garza
Galleon I

Join seasoned Child Care Regulation (Licensing) Program Specialist who will share information on the most recent changes with CCR. We will discuss recent rules changes and suggestions for program improvement. Our discussion will conclude with updates related to COVID-19 and how we can help our Early Childhood industry recover as we move forward. Hope you can join us!

A1: Establishing and Maintaining an Effective Organization

Just Imagine- A World Where Every Child is Cherished and Nurtured

Diane Goyette
Galleon II

Is your program a model for the more inclusive, equitable and compassionate world we envision for our children? Explore the mission, vision and philosophy that guide your organization.

Discuss how they encompass your values, contribute toward your program goals, and relate to the roles and responsibilities of your staff.

A1: Establishing and Maintaining an Effective Organization

Understanding Our Own Biases- What Lenses Do You Use?

Lisa Taylor Cook and Joanne Baham
Galleon III

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.

P9: Professionalism and Ethics

Building Communities Through Compassion: Accessing Empathy in Shared Experience

Cori Berg
Grand Ballroom A

In this session, we will discuss the brain science of threat and why people respond in difficult ways when they feel vulnerable. We will discuss common situations of vulnerability in our communities and share compassion strategies for supporting others in challenging situations. We will discuss the importance of self-compassion.

P7: Family and Community Relationships

Fight the Fray with Resilience

Melissa Williamson

Grand Ballroom B

Have you ever stopped to think about the dynamics of brain development and the impact that ones early experiences has on their developing brain? Come and capture what it may mean to be frayed when those experiences are toxic. Together, we will discover some steps to promoting resiliency.

P1: Child Growth and Development

Improving Access to High-Quality Child Care Through a Racial Equity Lens

Kaeleigh Hernandez and Kim Kofron
Grand Ballroom C

Systemic racism and discriminatory practices disproportionately expose communities of color to less than optimal early care and education opportunities. Providing an overview of the early childhood education workforce in Texas, this presentation will explore the opportunities and challenges, that exist to address racial disparities in the early childhood education workforce.

A1: Establishing and Maintaining an Effective Organization

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION; FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15; 8:00 AM- 9:15 AM

The SHARED Experience of Healing

Wes Porter

Exhibit Hall A

In normal times, we can rely on community to share in our sorrow during personal tragedy; however the journey toward healing is usually navigated alone. The extraordinary events of the past 18 months have cultivated a new dynamic...shared tragedies, along with shared sorrows. Prior to the pandemic, pain and misfortune would isolate and marginalize; we now realize a universal suffering that many still endure. During this suffering, an important truth has emerged...regardless of type, duration or source, pain is pain, and loss is loss. If we can find solace through sharing in our suffering, why not through sharing in our quest for healing? Healing provides the opportunity to become sound and/or healthy again. How much more powerful could the process be if we embrace the notion of sharing the journey from personal pain to restoration? And what if SHARED healing provided the opportunity to enhance our resolve, our passion to achieve even more than before?

P9: Professionalism and Ethics

GENERAL INTEREST SESSION 4; FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15; 9:45 AM- 11:15 AM

A Texas Sized Solution for Professional Development

Jennifer Lindley
Schooner

A Texas Sized Solution has been developed to provide the attendee with information about TECPDS, the Workforce Registry and records validation. Learn how accounts are created, accessed and completed. With this information you will be able to best assist your TRS teachers and directors in completing their profiles.

A3: Human Resource Leadership and Development

We Are Different, But We Are One

Kelly Techo and Kim Martin-Raymond
Clipper
Increasing diversity among the American childcare programs is not just reflected in society, but also in the children and families of our early care and education programs. To continue to support families of various cultures and ideals by educating each other we are one.

P6: Diversity and Dual Language Learners

CDEA Business Meeting

Helm

By Invitation Only.

Connecting with Nature to Promote Overall Well-Being

Joanne Osterland
Harbor

Learn and experience how connecting with nature both indoors and out can benefit both children and the adults who care for them by providing opportunities for peace, health, healing, and restoration of overall well-being.

P8: Health, Safety, and Nutrition

What Does Equity Look Like in the Classroom?

Thao Yoder
Spinnaker

Early childhood programs offer meaningful contexts for children's learning on how to treat other people with fairness and respect. We will discuss areas to consider for promoting equity in an early childhood environment and practices that promote a caring, equitable community of engaged learners.

P2: Responsive Interactions and Guidance

Using Brain Science to Become a Better Teacher

Lara Pauley
Yacht

This training will focus on using basic brain science to understand how the brain works and how this understanding can lead to more effective guidance and discipline in the classroom. Brain-based discipline strategies are provided and discussed in detail.

P2: Responsive Interactions and Guidance

T.E.A.C.H. Advisory Meeting

Windward

By Invitation Only.

How to Rebuild Organizational Trust, for Directors

Albert Wright
Galleon I

Organizational trust is the confidence employees have that their company will act in ways that are fair and aligned with their own ethical priorities. In dealing with new rules and regulations, leaders need to rebuild trust with their employees. This training gives ways to rebuild trust, and reasons trust was lost.

A1: Establishing and Maintaining an Effective Organization

Four Steps Observation Cycle and Child Portfolio Process for Authentic Assessment

Joanne Baham and Lisa Taylor Cook
Galleon II

Capturing authentic assessment supports understanding the development and learning progression of children. One way to understand each child's unique development is using the observation cycle and child portfolios. Through a variety of activities participants will increase their understanding of how authentic assessment can be incorporated into their daily classroom activities.

P1: Child Growth and Development

Books, Children, and Diversity

Belinda Cotton
Galleon III

Participants will learn ways to stimulate children's thinking using books to explore the diversity of the world. This will be accomplished through hands on activities that write a 4-part story that includes the participant, children and families. Children will learn to become caring and socially aware.

P6: Diversity and Dual Language Learners

Unlocking Teachable Moments: Supporting Infant and Toddler Teachers Using Social-Emotional Development

Anna Burton
Grand Ballroom A

Dynamic specialists play a critical role in supporting infant and toddler teachers as they navigate children's social-emotional development and challenging behaviors. This is an interactive training for coaches, trainers, and mentors to learn how to use social-emotional teaching strategies and Texas Infant-Toddler Specialist Network resources when training and coaching teachers.

T3: Transfer of Learning

Emotionally Healing Environments: Designing Classrooms for COVID-19 and Beyond

Sandra Duncan and Zlata Stankovic-Ramirez
Grand Ballroom B

The unexpected journey of COVID-19 has presented challenges about designing environments that promote healing, hope, and harmony. The purpose of this presentation is to discuss the importance of built environments and how they impact children's lives; connections between brain development and classroom design; and strategies for brain-based classrooms.

P3: Learning Environments, Planning Frameworks, Curriculum and Standards

Maximizing the Outdoor Environment for the Whole Child

Mat Dusza

Grand Ballroom C

Is your outdoors being used to excite, stimulate and motivate our children and teachers alike? Let's find out some practical ways to get more out the outdoors without large costs and for the betterment of the whole child.

P1: Child Growth and Development

GENERAL INTEREST SESSION 5; FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15; 11:45 AM- 1:15 PM

Establishing Healthy Behavior in Children: Preventing Chronic Disease

Sherry Hahn
Schooner

Many chronic diseases are caused by key health risk behaviors. Helping children learn healthy behaviors is easier during childhood than trying to change unhealthy behaviors as adults. This training provides current, factual, research-based information that gives practitioners the knowledge and skills to help children achieve lifelong healthy behaviors.

P1: Child Growth and Development

Building a Print-Rich Environment in Pre-K

Sarah Scrivens
Clipper

Children learn to read when they engage with print. Learn how to guide students through authentic reading and writing experiences. We will discuss the many purposes of reading and writing. Join us for this professional development experience where participants will examine the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines and use to guide instruction.

P3: Learning Environments, Planning Frameworks, Curriculum and Standards

CDEA Business Meeting

Helm

By Invitation Only.

Fostering Creativity Through a Thematic Centers-Based Curriculum

Elizabeth Lee
Harbor

This is a hands-on session where attendees engage in various activities in order to learn how to use the fine arts to teach the curriculum through the use of experience-based thematic centers. Attendees will be provided with materials to make and take.

P3: Learning Environments, Planning Frameworks, Curriculum and Standards

Healthy Touch for Children and Youth

Nena Sopher
Spinnaker

Awareness of the prevalence, consequences and circumstances of child sexual abuse, mindfulness of children's needs for affection and safe, respectful interaction, stages of healthy sexual development and behaviors associated with each stage, and policies that promote best practices of healthy touch.

P8: Health, Safety, and Nutrition

A Guidance Strategy that Works! BSP- An Evidence Based Practice: Why, When, How

Preeti Jain
Yacht

Behavior Specific Praise (BSP) is an evidence-based strategy that has been well researched for its effectiveness in improving classroom behavior. You will learn about the benefits of this strategy and when and how to use it. When applied, you will notice a positive change in your classroom climate!

P2: Responsive Interactions and Guidance

All Together Now: Working to Create Positive Learning Environments for All Children

Paul Johnson
Galleon I

This interactive presentation, presented by Texas Part C, Health and Human Services, Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) staff, will provide participants with strategies for implementing effective early childhood interventions to create an inclusive childcare classroom.

A6: Instituting Family and Community-Centered Programming

Reimagining Your Environment: Using Experiences to Develop Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Spaces

Iliana Alanis, Irasema Salinas-Gonzalez, and Maria Arreguin
Galleon II

Classroom environments impact how comfortable and secure young children feel. This is particularly true for young emergent bilinguals who experience their first environment outside their home and in an unfamiliar language. In this session, we show educators how to reflect children's home language(s) and culture throughout their classroom space using practical strategies.

P6: Diversity and Dual Language Learners

Fill Your Cup: Self-Care for Educators

Cori Berg
Galleon III

Beyond massages and bubble baths, educators need culturally relevant self-care strategies to keep their nervous system balanced and available to respond to children. This session discusses obstacles to self-care, principles of self-care and shares the research for why certain activities help reset mind and body.

P9: Professionalism and Ethics

American Sign Language for Infants and Toddlers

Lauren Carney
Grand Ballroom A

Let's dive into the world of ASL to discover why it is such a useful tool for infants and toddlers and their brain development. When you leave you will be armed with resources, songs, and signs, you can start using in your classroom.

P1: Child Growth and Development

Handle the Hard to Handle

Gilbert Wilbeck
Grand Ballroom B

Participants will be introduced to the basic needs of a human and how those needs drive our behavior. We will explore the common mistakes we make in the classroom and tie those mistakes to our own needs as humans. We will handle the hard to handle.

P1: Child Growth and Development

The Self-Regulated Child: The Adult's Role in Managing Emotional Mayhem

Jennifer Skrivanek
Grand Ballroom C

A goal of educators and parents is to help children to develop the skills of self-regulation. Participants will learn about the role of the adult in helping children to learn and develop these skills. A self-regulated child will grow up to be a self-regulated and healthy adult.

P1: Child Growth and Development

Public Policy Luncheon (Pre-Registration Required)

San Luis Mainsail

Come for lunch, stay for celebration and conversation. We will be joined by representatives from the Texas Workforce Commission, our Texas Advocacy and Public Policy partners, and child care providers from the state for a discussion on how early childhood in Texas has been impacted by the pandemic, and how we are building back a better early childhood system.

P9: Professionalism and Ethics

GENERAL INTEREST SESSION 6; FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15; 1:45 PM- 3:15 PM

Book Days Presents: The Rainbow Fish

Kassi Kincaid and Lexa Jack
Schooner

Join us for a one-of-a-kind literacy experience: an interactive experience of the children's classic, "The Rainbow Fish." This story will be brought to life through costumes, props, sensory elements, and music! Educators will become participants in the story and will learn how to facilitate a "Book Day" in their own classroom or school. Cross-curricular elements will be demonstrated and integrated. Educators will leave this session excited and empowered to teach STEM and literacy concepts through children's classic stories. At the end of the session, every educator will be prepared to plan their own Book Day!

P3: Learning Environments, Planning Frameworks, Curriculum and Standards

Teaching the Alphabet Out of Order:

Synthetic Phonics in Preschool

Chrysta Naron
Clipper

This presentation will teach educators about synthetic phonics: the method of teaching reading by focusing on the phonemes (letter sounds) over the letter names and in the order of literacy usefulness rather than alphabetic order. Learn to teach reading the most effective way possible and create new classroom activities.

P3: Learning Environments, Planning Frameworks, Curriculum and Standards

Your Classroom: A Place of Hope, Healing, and Harmony!

Diane Goyette
Harbor

Is your classroom an inclusive, equitable and compassionate place for your children? Explore your philosophy of guidance and discipline and how it relates to your teaching goals. Learn a framework for providing emotional support that helps children heal from trauma and feel hopeful about themselves and that promotes inclusion.

P2: Responsive Interactions and Guidance

Group Time in the Early Childhood Classroom

Rachael Ennis
Spinnaker

Group time is a hard time for most early childhood educators. During this presentation, educators will gain insight on developmentally appropriate group times in the classroom. We will discuss small groups and large groups, as well as addressing challenging behaviors during group time, strategies, and when to call it quits!

P1: Child Growth and Development

The Essential Framework: Strengthening Organizational Conditions Through Collaboration and Data

Stuart Lassiter and Christine Jergons
Helm

Strong organizational conditions are necessary to lift levels of quality in ECE settings. Participants will learn about a measurement system that empowers leaders and staff to diagnosis the health of organizational conditions essential to continuous improvement.

Participants will hear from partners who are using these tools to strengthen organizational conditions.

A1: Establishing and Maintaining an Effective Organization

The Leader's Role in Managing Challenging Behaviors

Prerna Richards
Yacht

Many leaders of childcare centers are facing teacher turnover, and burnout due to increased challenging behaviors and stress in the early childhood programs. In this session, we will look at 5 factors that can help reduce the frequency and intensity of behaviors, and reduce stress while supporting the team.

A1: Establishing and Maintaining an Effective Organization

Keep Calm and Remain Neutral: Responding to Conflict in Early Childhood

Sarah Bishop
Galleon I

We will focus on how the brain responds to conflict and discuss how trauma impacts that response. We will learn healthy coping mechanisms for stress in order to better meet our needs and the needs of our students during conflict.

P1: Child Growth and Development

Transforming Our Classroom Environment Into the Third Teacher

Kassandra Ramon
Galleon II

The presenters will share their experience of changing their classrooms to an environment that brought in more natural elements and allowed for open-ended materials in the classroom. The presenters will go through the process of learning new ideas, making changes, and observing the student outcomes while sharing resources and visuals.

P3: Learning Environments, Planning Frameworks, Curriculum and Standards

Fun With Behaviors: Responsive Interactions and Behavioral Guidance that Kids Will Love

Ceila Garcia-Szyszka
Galleon III

Play is the primary learning avenue for young children, but equally important is that we know how to provide support and guidance. The Texas Infant, Toddler, and 3 year-old guidelines are great resources for Developmentally Appropriate Practice. Learn to utilize these tools to scaffold and support healthy growth and development.

P1: Child Growth and Development

Beyond Bottles and Bins: Sensory Experiences for Infants and Toddlers

Gabrielle Holt
Grand Ballroom A

This session will explore the importance of sensory experiences for infants and toddlers. We will talk about brain research and different perspectives on sensory development, as well as the benefits to children. We will look at ways to promote sensory development with materials and activities for infants and toddlers.

P3: Learning Environments, Planning Frameworks, Curriculum and Standards

School Attachment and Anxiety During Early Childhood

Amy Bryan
Grand Ballroom B

This session will introduce attendees to the concept of school attachment and its importance for buffering negative developmental outcomes. Its relevance to very young children and early learning programs will be proposed. Pilot data, examining school attachment in preschoolers and kindergarteners and its associations with anxiety, will be presented.

P1: Child Growth and Development

The Unspoken Introspective: An Honest Look at Race in the Classroom

Albert Wright
Grand Ballroom C

Race can be a subject that is uncomfortable to talk about, this is a safe place to get real about race in the classroom. We will talk about how to build bonds with families who might look different than we do, and how to relate to students of every race.

P1: Child Growth and Development

Meet the *Early Years* Editors

Vivien Geneser
Windward

Meet the editors of *Early Years*, the journal published by the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children! We are eager to hear your ideas for articles that pertain to your research or experience as an early childhood professional and will offer guidelines for submitting a manuscript.

P9: Professionalism and Ethics

Texas Workforce Commission: Helping You Be Resource and Information Rich

Karen Killian and Lindsay Hill

San Luis Elissa

Often, we are unaware of all the support and resources available to help us with our jobs, personal goals, and the children and families we work with. Come learn more about the Texas Workforce Commission and how to find resources and support to help the families you work with and yourself.

A6: Instituting Family and Community-Centered Program

GENERAL INTEREST SESSION 7; FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15; 3:45 PM- 5:15 PM

Get Connected with Child Care Health Consultants

Cheryl Carey
Schooner

Join TXAEYC's Healthy Child Care Texas Program Specialist for an open networking session for directors and Child Care Health Consultants. In this session, the ECE directors and educators can meet CCHCs that provide statewide training, consultation, and other supportive services. CCHCs support the health, safety, nutrition, and development of young children by providing training and consultation to child care providers across the state. Join us to learn more about how partnering with a CCHC can benefit ECE programs.

P9: Professionalism and Ethics

Utilizing Purposeful Play to Foster an Inclusive Mathematics Classroom for Early Learners

Melinda Schwartz
Clipper

Children use their innate sense of play and everyday language to make sense of their world. Using the child's natural way of learning through language-rich mathematics experiences engages every child, thus fostering success for all. Participants will investigate and engage in mathematics activities for immediate use in their classrooms!

P3: Learning Environments, Planning Frameworks, Curriculum and Standards

Understanding the TWC Texas Planning for Individualized Instruction (PII) Project

Kimberly Howard
Harbor

Learn more about the TWC Texas Planning for Individualized Instruction (PII) Project that is funded through the TWC and provides qualified programs free access to curriculum, assessment and PD resources from Teaching Strategies. The resources are aligned directly to the Texas Early Learning. PreK and new Rising Star Guidelines.

P1: Child Growth and Development

Texas Trainer Registry: What's New?

Melissa Ply
Spinnaker

Join us to learn about the new tools and resources on the Texas Trainer Registry, part of the TECPDS, to expand your program's professional development toolbox and provide better documentation for Child Care Licensing and Texas Rising Star visits. We will showcase free resources for all early childhood trainers.

T2: Training Delivery and Methodologies

Positive Communication: The Key to Successful Interactions with Children, Families, and Coworkers

Lara Pauley
Yacht

This training session covers general communication skills including roadblocks to communication, principles of good communication and the connection between self-esteem and communication. This training addresses general communication as well as communication specifically with children and other adults (adults, co-workers, etc.).

P9: Professionalism and Ethics

Impact of Covid on SEL in 0-3 Years

Meena Chintapalli
Galleon I

COVID with Home isolation 0-3 learning has been challenged to assure Social Emotional Learning that is the basis for cognitive, linguistic, STEM and self-regulation skills development and abilities. Parents opt out of zoom lessons. A curriculum-based infrastructure with parent-based training and parent support helps prevent developmental disorders.

A3: Human Resource Leadership and Development

La-La-La and 1-2-3: Music and Movement as a STEM Experience

Sharon Jackson
Galleon II

Early childhood doesn't exist without singing and dancing. These activities are opportunities to integrate STEM into playful encounters daily. From babies with bells to preschoolers with parachutes, music and movement enhance STEM learning. Join to determine the best mix for classrooms and to encourage STEM learning at home and away.

P1: Child Growth and Development

Embracing Hope Through Resilience: Lessons from Nature

Cori Berg
Galleon III

The work of ECE can be challenging both personally and professionally. This presentation uses images from nature to learn strategies for coping with adversity, connecting to others under stress, managing a professional mindset, and protecting your passion.

P9: Professionalism and Ethics

Strategies for Promoting Positive Social and Emotional Development in Infants and Toddlers

Elise Cohen and Terri Bledsoe
Grand Ballroom A

In the first few years of life social and emotional development is critical for infants and toddlers. Join us for an interactive training with hands-on activities for both infant teachers and toddler teachers. You will also get a sneak peek at the exciting new Texas Infant Toddler Specialist Network.

P1: Child Growth and Development

A Non-Musicians Guide to Music in the Classroom

Gilbert Wilbeck
Grand Ballroom B

Music is essential to the development of young children. This presentation will introduce ways to use music to set the mood of a classroom, encourage creative movement, stimulate vocabulary, and spur critical thinking. The best thing is, you don't have to know how to play an instrument!

P1: Child Growth and Development

ASL in the Preschool Classroom

Lauren Carney
Grand Ballroom C

Join me as we dive into the world of ASL and brain development. You will learn the different ways you can incorporate ASL in your classroom routines. When you leave you will be armed with resources, songs, and of course signs you can start using immediately in your classroom.

P1: Child Growth and Development

Quality Improvement Through Shared Services: A Texas Model

Kaeleigh Hernandez and Kim Kofron
San Luis Elissa

Shared Services Alliances offer providers access to business and pedagogical leadership that can lead to greater ability to invest in teacher compensation, and increased director time. Providing an overview of the SS model, this presentation will explore the opportunities, challenges, and mutual benefits of providers participating in an SSA.

A1: Establishing and Maintaining an Effective Organization

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION; SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16; 8:00 AM – 9:15 AM

Esperanza (Hope)

Ana De Hoyos O'Connor

What brings you hope? Is it: Waking up every day? The hugs from children? The embrace of an infant or toddler? A parent thanking you for all you do? A smile from a coworker? A science activity that caused the jaws of the children you teach to drop? A good book? A new friend? This keynote will bring us together as we reflect on Esperanza (Hope)! We will remind each other about the power of hope; how essential it is, and how simple it is to find in the work that we do with children and families. Come prepared to share with other early childhood education teachers, directors, and leaders about what brings you hope every day.

P9: Professionalism and Ethics

GENERAL INTEREST SESSION 8; SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16; 9:45 AM – 11:15 AM

It Takes a Team: Valuing Your Team

Fredia Reynolds
Schooner

The work that administrators do cannot be done alone. This session will support administrators and managers in reestablishing their personal and program's why. Aiding leaders in getting to know their team members and learning easy ways to strengthen their teams while accomplishing the overall goals and objectives.
A3: Human Resource Leadership and Development

Surviving an Active Shooter

Officer Stephen Daniel
Clipper

This training reflects lessons learned by the Houston Police Department over more than ten years of analyzing actual active shooter events. It has been updated and improved over 100 times. It provides instruction to the average citizen in life savings responses to an active shooter.
A3: Human Resource Leadership and Development

Storytelling Through Music & Movement

Myriam Aguilar
Harbor

This Spanish-language session will allow participants to review basic knowledge and skills on storytelling as well as the importance of music and movement as a fun teaching tool. They will experience some activities, exchange strategies and resources, and go back to class ready to implement new storytelling techniques.
P4: Supporting Skill Development

Play Time with Puppets: Everyone Has Feelings!

Lin Moore and Salwa Alharbi
Spinnaker

Conversations with young children about feelings can be playful when you bring along a puppet friend. Join us for play time with puppets. Take away ideas for conversation starters and easy to make puppets from inexpensive and recycled materials.
P2: Responsive Interactions and Guidance

Supporting Children Impacted by Immigration Detention and Deportation
Milagros Lozano and Sonya Sneed
Helm

The detention and deportation of parents affect their children. The session will focus on the effects of parent-child separation, children's reactions to the deportation of their parents, damaging consequences for children, families, and their communities, and strategies to promote child resilience after separation.

P1: Child Growth and Development

Block Play and So Much More

Holly Dzierzanowski
Yacht

This class helps teachers understand the value of block play and all the happens in a block center. We will talk about the language skills that are developed, math skills, social skills, and how blocks can lead to diversity lessons.

P1: Child Growth and Development

Essential Literacy Skills: Build a Foundation for Future Success

Hope McCarroll
Galleon I

Young children learn new literacy skills through play, exploration, observation, and by listening and speaking. In this session, participants will discover easy strategies to incorporate the foundational skills and building blocks for better comprehensive literacy and overall literacy success.

P4: Supporting Skill Development

Get a Move On: Movement-Infused Math for Preschool and Kindergarten

Carrie Cutler
Galleon II

Kids learn best when their brains and bodies are active. Integrating movement with math subtracts stress, adds fun, and maximizes brain function. Join us to learn the research behind movement in the classroom and 20+ games and activities to pump up the movement in your math lessons.

P3: Learning Environments, Planning Frameworks, Curriculum and Standards

Reframe Your Approach with Early Learners: Regulate, Integrate, Communicate
Amy Lerman
Galleon III

Children access learning from a basis of safety and security. An infant develops interaction, as caregivers intentionally respond to a child's regulatory needs. Regulation goes beyond emotional self-control; it also consists of biological, cognitive, and social aspects. This session discusses a whole-child therapeutic framework supporting the development of early learners.

P1: Child Growth and Development

Independence in Infant and Toddler Classrooms

Gabrielle Holt
Grand Ballroom A

We will discuss the development of independence from the perspective of infants and toddlers. We will look at how to prepare the physical classroom and create routines to support developing autonomy. We will look at the role of attachment, emotional regulation, and teacher/child collaboration in fostering independence.

P2: Responsive Interactions and Guidance

Building Communities Through Compassion: Accessing Empathy in Shared Experience

Cori Berg
Grand Ballroom B

In this session, we will discuss the brain science of threat and why people respond in difficult ways when they feel vulnerable. We will discuss common situations of vulnerability in our communities and share compassion strategies for supporting others in challenging situations. We will discuss the importance of self-compassion.

P7: Family and Community Relationships

Spare Blessings: Promoting Healing and Hope While Your Hands are Still Tied

Albert Wright
Grand Ballroom C

We have not reached the new normal, we have only figured out the next step. Find tangible ways to continue to find healing and hope even when you feel like your hands are still tied. We must find our way through, while helping our children feel safe, secure, and loved.

P2: Responsive Interactions and Guidance

Developmentally Appropriate Practices (DAP) with an Equity Lens

Prerna Richards
San Luis Elissa

We all know that Developmentally Appropriate Practices provide optimal growth and development for children but without equity in place, all children cannot thrive. We'll introduce practical, effective, and easy adjustments to intentionally implement in classrooms and programs making them more inclusive and equitable for all children. The early years form the sense of self-identity which is critical for children's ability to be active learners. Educators who are culturally, linguistically, and equitably trained can provide the best foundation for young children. Following this session, teachers and staff will have gained a renewed understanding of how to create environments where all children can grow up to have pride, self-esteem, and confidence.

P1: Child Growth and Development

GENERAL INTEREST SESSION 9; SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16; 11:45 AM- 1:15 PM

Let's Talk: Communicating with Diverse Parents in Tough Situations

Kendolyn Pope
Schooner

It all begins with respect and being sensitive to each person's individual needs. Parents have needs that play into how they interact with teachers and administrators. Learn how cultural background and personal experience impact parent communication in even the most sensitive situations. Gather suggestions for your communications toolbox.

P7: Family and Community Relationships

Understanding and Supporting Dual Language Learners in the Early Childhood Classroom

Jessica Farmer
Harbor

A teacher's intention to serve DLLs informs an inclusive climate. This session breaks down the lingo and provides practical DLL teaching strategies useful for all! As teachers embrace the culture of the DLL in tangible ways relevant to all children, the diverse classroom becomes a place of equity and inclusion.

P1: Child Growth and Development

Mentorship: A Year-Long Roadmap to Improving Quality in Early Childhood Education

Zlata Stankovic-Ramirez, Raquel Washington, and Sam Horn
Spinnaker

In this training session we are establishing the framework for approaching coaching and mentoring to have powerful, strength-based relationships. We will provide strategies and a monthly plan for the school year that mentors and leadership can follow in order to help improve quality.

A5: Implementing a Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum and Environment

TXAEYC Membership Meeting

Cody Summerville, Michael Gonzalez, Sarah Lancaster
Helm

Calling All TXAEYC Members--It's time for our Annual Membership Meeting. Meet Board Members, learn about the successes and challenges of the past year and look forward to what comes next. We will review our membership numbers, our finances and our diversity, equity, and inclusion work. Come learn, ask questions, and get involved!

P9: Professionalism and Ethics

SEL Activities to Promote Global Citizenship and Environmental Stewardship

Judith Maima
Yacht

Combining SEL with global learning can deepen students' interpersonal skills while honing students' knowledge and awareness of world issues. In this interactive session, engage in games that promote cooperative strategies, environmental ethics and stewardship while building students' relationship skills and responsible decision making. Receive lesson plans matched to TEKs.

P3: Learning Environments, Planning Frameworks, Curriculum and Standards

No More Letter of the Week: Promoting Alphabet Knowledge with Authentic Activities

Fernando Hernandez
Galleon I

Alphabet knowledge is one of the predictors for reading success. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about research findings in teaching alphabet knowledge. In addition, participants will learn how to implement engaging, authentic, and effective letter-sound relationships instruction while concurrently promoting reading and writing.

P3: Learning Environments, Planning Frameworks, Curriculum and Standards

Germs, Boo-Boos, and Safety: Oh My!

DD Hutson
Galleon II

Join us for a session about germs in the workplace and discover gross facts along the way! We will practice taking gloves off safely. We will play a safety bingo game as well as performing a proper hand washing experiment using a black light!

P8: Health, Safety, and Nutrition

Reframing Our Words to Promote Healing and Harmony in Children

Eunice Grant
Galleon III

We have probably heard or possibly used the adage, "Sticks and Stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." Is there any weight to the words we speak? Should the rhyme be changed to "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can really hurt me"?

P1: Child Growth and Development

Say, Sing, and Sign! ASL Combined with Music Benefits Infants and Toddlers

Georgia Frawley
Grand Ballroom A

This is truly a hands-on workshop. Participants will sing and sign over 15 songs and learn how to incorporate ASL in games and stories to use with their children. Infants and toddlers who sign have reduced communication frustration because signing is something that is developmentally appropriate for all children.

P4: Supporting Skill Development

Music: The Key to Math and Literacy

Claudia Pouncey
Grand Ballroom B

Rhythm and rhyme are key components for brain development. Music is the key to opening the pathways for brain development.

P4: Supporting Skill Development

Challenging Behaviors? Understanding the Impact of Childhood Trauma

Jessica Carrier
Grand Ballroom C

Trauma is toxic to children's developing brains and nervous systems. Understanding what trauma-informed care is, and how to create a trauma-sensitive classroom is a way we as professionals can help. Studies show that just one healthy relationship with an adult can help support a child's brain to heal.

P2: Responsive Interactions and Guidance

Accreditation Luncheon (Pre-Registration Required)

San Luis Mainsail

Join us as we recognize the accomplishments of Texas child care centers that have achieved NAEYC Accreditation status. Hear from our moderated panel about some of their discoveries on the journey to earning their own AEYC Accreditation or maintaining reaccreditation. We will have a panel of experts sharing their challenges and successes and share their learned lessons during the past COVID year.

P9: Professionalism and Ethics

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION; SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16; 1:45 PM- 3:15 PM

Classroom Management Fun and Easy

Shawn Brown
Convention Center Exhibit Hall A

This session will demonstrate how to maximize the productivity in the classroom through seamless transitions and diminish wait times. Participants will also learn strategies to deploy different engaging instructional learning formats with music and other techniques.

P9: Professionalism and Ethics

GENERAL INTEREST SESSION 10; SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16; 3:45 PM- 5:15 PM

From Trash to Treasure: Using Recycled Items to Promote Healthy Eating

DWana Henderson
Clipper

Research shows that proper nutrition promotes optimal growth and development in all domains. Early Childhood professionals can encourage healthy eating habits in young children by incorporating nutrition-related content into learning centers and daily activities. Participants will discover how to enhance learning and create inexpensive activities using recycled materials.

P8: Health, Safety, and Nutrition

Calming the Mind

Belinda Cotton
Spinnaker

Participants will learn new strategies to integrate kindness, focus and calm into their classroom. They will also discover ways to include all children through modification of the activities.

P2: Responsive Interactions and Guidance

Sister Outsider: Lived Experiences of Anti-Racist Black Women in Early Childhood

Meghan Gowin
Harbor

Through the lens of critical race theory, Black feminist thought, and intersectionality, the purpose of this narrative inquiry study was to examine how Black women early childhood educators' lived experiences informed their use of culturally relevant pedagogy in early childhood classrooms. This session explores the stories of the co-researchers.

P6: Diversity and Dual Language Learners

Creating Meaningful Writing Opportunities Within Classroom Routines and Transitions

Hope Gerde and Amy Jurica Hinnant
Yacht

This dynamic presentation will identify why imbedding writing opportunities into routines and transitions is important, engage teachers in planning and developing routines/transitions for their own classroom, and demonstrate how teachers can create writing opportunities within routines and transitions which individualize instruction and offer opportunities for child assessment.

P4: Supporting Skill Development

Nature Play: Promoting Children's Environmental Awareness and Understanding Through Exploration and Discovery

Ronilda Henson
Galleon I

Nature offers infinite ways to support a child's growth and development (cognitive, physical, and emotional). It's important at an early age that children learn to appreciate the environment through nature play and learning in nature. Thus, in this session, the benefit and advantage of nature activities for children and using more natural materials in the childcare environment will be highlighted.

P1: Child Growth and Development

Germ Warfare: Where Do We Go From Here?

Michele Rivera and Robert Dorman
Galleon II

With COVID-19 restriction lifted, should we continue any of the health practices? In this session we will discuss what protocols are effective and which are not based on science. We will bust myths for sanitation processes and deliver best practices (realistic and sustainable) for centers.

A4: Maintaining a Healthy and Safe Environment

Provide Developmentally Appropriate Practice for Your Infants and Toddlers

Ceila Garcia- Szyszka
Grand Ballroom A

Play is the primary learning avenue for young children, but equally important is that we know how to provide support and guidance. The Texas Infant, Toddler, and 3 year-old guidelines are great resources for Developmentally Appropriate Practice. Learn to utilize these tools to scaffold and support healthy growth and development.

P1: Child Growth and Development

What Kind of Animal Are You? Understanding Ourselves and Parents

Dawn Hallman
Grand Ballroom B

Educators will discover which animal type they are most like. Explore the weakness and strengths of their personality type. They will also discover the "animals" they work with as fellow staff and with parents in their program. to better understand how to communicate with each.

P9: Professionalism and Ethics

Grumpy Trolls and Frozen Oranges: A Toolkit Supporting Calm, Self-Control, and Resilience

Carrie Cutler and Linda Zhang
Grand Ballroom C

This presentation shares five tools that teach children to recognize and regulate their bodies' responses to stress. Join us for 15+ practical ideas incorporating movement, mindfulness, sensory experiences, acts of kindness, and children's literature that can make your classroom a peaceful place to learn.

P2: Responsive Interactions and Guidance

Coming Soon from NAEYC Accreditation

Prerna Richards and Paula Barnes
San Luis Elissa

Join us for this informative session as we share the updates to the accreditation tool coming in 2022 and how best to continue providing high-quality education in the early learning programs.

P9: Professionalism and Ethics