

friday schedule

7:15–8:15

Registration, Breakfast & Networking

8:15 – 8:30
(Room 400)

Morning Session

Opening Remarks - Dr. Robert Sanchez

8:30 – 10:00
Rm 400

Keynote - Lisa Murphy, M.Ed.

What if today was their only day? Lisa shares the powerful story of her first day of school and brings you back to the first day by taking you on a tour of Mary's Nursery School. Lisa will share the sights and sounds of the place where, at the young age of three, she decided to become a teacher and identifies how one day solidified this decision. This inspiring keynote gets you back in touch with your own personal why which is at the heart of providing quality care - why do we show up every day and do this work? And, if it was a child's only day, what will they remember?

10:00 – 10:15

Networking Break

10:15 – 11:30

Workshop Sessions #1

1-A
Rm 410

Roger Sherman & Kim Hemmert, Idaho Children's Trust Fund

Early Brain Development: Engaging Families as Essential Partners

Learn how experiences and environments shape early brain development and how engaged families can provide opportunities for the best outcomes for children. In this workshop, we will explore stages of brain development, understand how stress affects the brain, identify and utilize strategies for coregulation, and come away with ideas for how all family members can develop strong, healthy attachments.

1-B
Rm 420A

Donna Johnson, MS & Renee Miller, MS, Erikson Institute

Eye Spy Counting Opportunities Everywhere!

We often observe children counting, but how well do we understand the mathematical thinking behind their actions? This presentation will delve into the development of counting skills in young children from birth through age five. We'll explore the underlying mathematical concepts involved, common misconceptions, and how to effectively support children's growing number sense.

1-C
Rm 430

Royale Lockhart, MACI/MBA & Erin Frye

University of Idaho's Center on Disabilities and Human Development

Fine Tuning Your Why: Supporting the Vision and Mission of Your Child Care Program

Creating Vision, Mission and Value Statements for a Child Care Program; overview of session's objectives; explain the definitions and differences between vision, mission and values; discuss how a program's legacy, goals and values influence its statements; share strategies for engaging staff, families and the community in the process; guide participants through using data to draft vision and mission statements; discuss the importance of feedback and revision.

1-D
Rm 420B
Spanish

Michelle Galindo, M.S.

Las relaciones en el corazón: Promover la atención sensible en los entornos de la primera infancia.

Los educadores de la primera infancia tendrán la oportunidad de reflexionar sobre formas positivas de ofrecer una atención receptiva a los niños a través de las conexiones. Los participantes participarán en un aprendizaje interactivo y práctico con discusiones de reflexión para explorar los recursos y las mejores prácticas. Juntos, podemos apoyar el desarrollo de los niños pequeños promoviendo conexiones sensibles y enriquecedoras.

friday schedule (cont.)

11:30

Lunch

1:00 – 2:00

Workshop Sessions #1

2A

Rm 410

Roger Sherman & Kim Hemmert, Idaho Children's Trust Fund

Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences (HOPE)

Explore and learn how positive childhood experiences (PCEs) help children grow into healthy, resilient adults. This strengths-based, interactive training walks you through the research behind PCEs, how PCEs drive healthy child development and lessen the lifelong effects of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), the promotion and access to the Four Building Blocks of HOPE, and what the HOPE framework looks like in practice.

2B

Rm 420A

Michelle Galindo, M.S.

Relationships at the Heart: Promoting Responsive Care in Early Childhood Settings

Early educators will have the opportunity to reflect on positive ways to provide responsive care for children through connections. Participants will engage in interactive, hands-on learning with reflective discussions to explore resources and best practices. Together, we can support the development of young children by promoting responsive and nurturing connections.

2C

Rm 430

Royale Lockhart, MACI/MBA & Erin Frye

University of Idaho's Center on Disabilities and Human Development

Taking Care of Business: Sustaining Your Child Care Program

Early educators will have the opportunity to reflect on positive ways to provide responsive care for children through connections. Participants will engage in interactive, hands-on learning with reflective discussions to explore resources and best practices. Together, we can support the development of young children by promoting responsive and nurturing connections.

2D

Rm 420B

Spanish

Veronica Castro, MS & Kate Alfonzo, MAT, Erikson Institute

¡Oportunidades para contar en todas partes! (Eye Spy Counting Opportunities Everywhere!)

Observamos a los niños contar, pero ¿qué tan bien entendemos el pensamiento matemático detrás de sus acciones? Esta presentación profundizará en el desarrollo de las habilidades de conteo en niños pequeños, examinándolo desde una perspectiva adulta. Exploraremos los conceptos matemáticos subyacentes involucrados, los errores comunes y cómo apoyar eficazmente el creciente sentido numérico de los niños.

2:00 – 2:30

Networking Break

2:30-4:00

Rm 400

Keynote - Lisa Murphy, M.Ed.

Lisa Murphy On...PLAY! The Importance of Early Experiences

Lisa presents the seven things we must do with children each day which she outlined in her book, Lisa Murphy on...PLAY. This session will show how these seven things make up the foundation that supports the house of higher learning. There is nothing wrong with the "academic" expectations of the house such as reading, writing, math...the trouble is that many early childhood educators are being pressured to build a house where there is no foundation. Play is the foundation and through an investigation of the seven things Lisa shows you how.

4:00

Close

saturday schedule

7:15–8:00

Registration, Breakfast & Networking

8:00–8:15
Rm 400

Opening Remarks – Dr. Robert Sanchez

8:15–9:45
Rm 400

Keynote – Stacy Benge, M.S.

The Whole Child Alphabet

Transform how you approach literacy with “The Whole Child Alphabet.” Based on the book by the same name, this presentation connects movement, play, and child-led activity to the fundamental skills necessary for early literacy. Leave empowered to embrace whole child development and play as the best means to build strong foundations for language and literacy. Develop the confidence to engage in discussions with stakeholders about how play fosters literacy and equips children for

9:45–10:15

Networking Break

10:15–11:45

Workshop Sessions #3

3-A
Rm 410

Melissa Crist, M.S., Director of Early Childhood Programs

CDC's Act Early Ambassador to Idaho

ARPY Ambassador, University of Idaho's

Center on Disabilities and Human Development

Milestone Magic: Engaging Families with Developmental Monitoring

This session will introduce physical literacy and the Active for Life website; exploring samplings of resources, engaging in a variety of physical literacy activities in small groups and making individual plans for implementing physical literacy activities with the children in their programs.

3-B
Rm 420A

Sara Matthews, M.S., Senior Instructor

School of Family and Consumer Sciences, University of Idaho

Going Beyond Good Job: What You Say Really Matters!

This engaging session highlights the critical role of language and praise in child development. Participants will explore why traditional praise may fall short, discover the benefits of effort-centered and process-centered responses and practice strategies for fostering internal motivation in children, leaving them with a deeper understanding of how intentional words can inspire initiative, resilience and self-confidence in young learners.

3-C
Rm 430

Donna Johnson, MS & Renee Miller, MS, Erikson Institute

Math: More than Fun and Games!

Transform math time into fun time! This session equips early educators and families with engaging math games and strategies to foster number sense, logical thinking, and positive attitudes towards math. Leave with a toolbox of practical ideas to increase math access and create joyful learning experiences for children and their families.

3-D
Rm 420B
Spanish

Michelle Galindo, M.S.

Reformular el comportamiento de los niños: Por qué es importante nuestra manera de responder

Los educadores de la primera infancia explorarán estrategias para apoyar los comportamientos positivos en los programas de cuidado y educación de la primera infancia. Mediante la observación de los métodos de responder que crean conexiones saludables con los niños, vamos a reflexionar en las maneras de mantener ambientes seguros, cálidos y de apoyo para los niños pequeños.

saturday schedule (cont.)

11:45-12:00

Networking Break

12:00-1:30

Lunch

- Power to the Profession Award Announcement
- Remarks by Dr. Robert Sanchez
- Raffle

1:30-3:00

Workshop Sessions #4

4A

Rm 410

Stacy Benge, M.S.

Play-Based Literacy: Embracing All Types of Play to Build Literacy Foundations

Play does not have to connect directly to a literacy-based activity, to support literacy. In fact, a child cannot play without building the foundations that will support them when it comes to reading and writing. So, let's embrace all types of play! Discover how young children develop literacy through child-led play and learn to create an environment that supports that. Build your confidence in explaining how play lays the groundwork for literacy and effectively prepares children for school.

4B

Rm 420A

Deya Osgood, READY! for Kindergarten Director

The Children's Reading Foundation

Families First: Building Bridges in Early Childhood Education

This session highlights the critical role of families in supporting young children's early development and education. Participants will explore strategies to foster trust, build meaningful connections, and empower families to actively engage in their child's educational journey. Tailored for early childhood professionals, the session will include sensitive communication practices, strategies for overcoming barriers to participation, and ideas for creating family-centered learning environments.

4C

Rm 430

Michelle Galindo, M.S

Reframing Children's Behavior: Why Our Response Matters

Early educators will explore strategies to support positive behaviors in early care and education programs. By looking at responsive approaches that create healthy connections with children, we will discuss ways to maintain safe, warm, and supportive environments for young children.

4D

Rm 420B

Veronica Castro, MS & Kate Alfonzo, MAT

Erikson Institute

Matemáticas: ¡Más que juegos y diversión!

¡Transforma la hora de matemáticas en un momento divertido! Esta sesión equipa a educadores y familias de PreK-2do grado con juegos y estrategias matemáticas atractivas para fomentar el sentido numérico, el pensamiento lógico y actitudes positivas hacia las matemáticas. Salga con un conjunto de ideas prácticas para aumentar el acceso a las matemáticas y crear experiencias de aprendizaje alegres para los niños y sus familias.

3:00

Close