

PROMOTING
PLAY



Powerful Learning
Across Years



The North Carolina Association for the Education
of Young Children 61st Annual Conference

September 11 - 13, 2014

Raleigh Convention Center

Visit www.ncaeyc.org/conference for full Conference details and registration!

NCAeayc 2014 Conference Session Offerings

From our beginnings in 1953 as the North Carolina Kindergarten Association to our transition to state affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children in 1974, NCAeayc has been promoting and inspiring excellence in the education of young children.

**Our conference theme
focuses on promoting PLAY:
Powerful Learning Across Years.**



**This year's Conference
features a Keynote
Session on Friday with
Dr. Jean entitled: "Kids
Just Wanna Have Fun
(And teachers do, too!)"**

Dr. Jean's noteworthy educational career has spanned more than 40 years. She has served as a classroom teacher, instructor of adults, author, and consultant. Dr. Jean is a member of the National Association for the Education Young Children, the National Kindergarten Alliance, and the International Reading Association.

Dr. Jean inspires teachers across the country with her engaging songs and creative activities that help make teaching and learning FUN!

Spend 1 1/2 hours with Dr. Jean filled with learning, laughing, singing, dancing and celebrating as you become more skilled, knowledgeable and inspired!

PRE-CONFERENCE

Two exciting Pre-Conference options on Thursday, each offering .5 CEU credits (5 DCDEE Contact Hours) Natural Playwork:

Children's Play and Playwork in Natural Environments presented by Linda Kinney of the NC Zoo: This course emphasizes play in nature and how to take advantage of the many affordances provided by the natural world. Learners will determine creative approaches to planning for play and practical applications for playwork outdoors. Participants will "play with" aspects of nature and play, and explore their combined application in outdoor play and learning environments. This course provides strategies for incorporating nature play into curriculum, lesson plans, and everyday life as a way to enhance children's opportunities for exploration and play outside.

Guiding Infant Toddler Early Learning Using the NC Foundations* presented by Stephanie Granek of the NC Infant Toddler Enhancement Project: The newly revised NC Foundations for Early Learning and Development is designed to be a resource for educators, families and others involved in early care and education. Come learn how this important document provides a better understanding of the 5 domains of learning and how early experiences that integrate all areas foster the development of the "whole child". We will explore supportive practices used in everyday situations that represent the guiding principles of early learning and development. Emphasis will be placed on the Goal and Developmental Indicator Continuum in order to recognize the unique developmental characteristics of infants and toddlers and help you prepare to meet their individual needs. You will discover ways you can use the NC Foundations as a tool for planning developmentally appropriate experiences that support early learning. This training provides information that supports the ITERS-R subscales: Listening and Talking, Activities, Interaction and Program Structure.

Understanding the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and How It Impacts You

Jill Arnold and Samirra Wise—Child Care Services Association

Do you have questions about health insurance? Do you understand the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and how it impacts you? Join us to learn more about this often-confusing topic. We will discuss and demonstrate how to secure insurance for yourself and your family, as well as how you can help your staff, coworkers, peers and/or the families you serve. Open enrollment begins November 15—the time to prepare for application is NOW! Session will include time for questions and answers.

Peg + Cat

Nannette Ausby and Sabrina White—UNC-TV

Math adventures at Last—This session introduces this new series that help share in making Math FUN!! This series also models attitudes such as curiosity and persistence that contribute to success in school and throughout life and can help children begin exploring math and get them interested in STEM at an early age.

3 Keys to Creating a Calm and Caring Classroom

Marjorie Bateman, Don Shortslef

Exhausted and frustrated with never-ending classroom behavior problems? Then this presentation is for you! Built on the belief that caring is the key to effective teaching, learn the “why”, “what”, and “how-to’s” of research-based classroom management strategies. You will be challenged to reexamine assumptions about student behaviors and asked to make adjustments to your philosophies based on this paradigm shift. Through this process you will regain your initial enthusiasm and excitement for teaching. This is not, however, an “all talk, no action” presentation. You’ll learn proven classroom management strategies and techniques, re-energizing you and truly changing your life.

Brain Smart Discipline (Introduction to Conscious Discipline)

Beverly Black, Wanda Sparks—Rockingham County Partnership for Children

Conscious Discipline® is an emotional intelligence program consisting of Brain Smart® strategies for responding rather than reacting to life events. Through responding conflict moments are transformed into cooperative learning opportunities. Conscious Discipline® is a research based program proven to: Increase academic achievement, Decrease problem behaviors, and Improve the quality of relationships. Participants will leave with some exciting new discipline strategies to create a calmer environment for learning.

Literacy Center in Pre-K and K: Supporting Literacy Development through Playful Learning

Amy Blessing—Pender County Schools, Connie Wells—Edgecombe County Schools

Participants will learn from two NC Demonstration Classroom teachers how effective early literacy instruction is embedded in play through the use of centers in Pre-K and Kindergarten classrooms. They will discover how play-based instruction can offer meaningful learning experiences that support students working both independently and collaboratively to meet individual literacy goals. Participants will gain insight on the seamless flow of literacy development from Preschool to Kindergarten.

Why Play Is Important in PreK and K—Setting Up Your Environment for Play-based Learning

Amy Blessing—Pender County Schools, Juliana Harris—Martin County Schools, Sarah Hopkins—Carteret County Schools

A powerful classroom environment facilitates instruction and promotes differentiation. Come learn about the benefits of environment and play-based instruction from 3 NC Demonstration Teachers. Take virtual tours of Pre-K and Kindergarten classrooms through photographs and video. Learn how to make the most out of any space while creating a child-centered classroom!

Let’s Talk About Smart Start!

Nancy H. Brown, Cindy Watkins—NC Partnership for Children

Participate in a dialogue with new leaders at the NC Partnership for Children. Hear a brief review of the structure, goals and future of Smart Start. Ask questions, offer suggestions and explore ideas about how NCAeYC and NC Partnership for Children can work together to benefit children and families in North Carolina.

Building Your Bounce

Bruse Nefertiti—Kaplan Early Learning Company

The quality of service that adults provide to children and families is directly impacted by the manner in which they care for themselves. This training is designed to explore the importance of taking care of promoting the social and emotional health of the caregiver. Participants will learn how the social and emotional well-being of the adult has an impact on their ability to care for children and specific, simple, inexpensive strategies to reduce stress and promote the adult’s social and emotional health.

Sing! Dance! Math Comes Alive!

Jody Cassell, Teresa Milton—Orange County Schools

A storybook is a springboard for adventures in learning. Mathematics concepts of counting, positional words, shapes are danced into action. Through active participating/observing/reflecting experiences learn how to zip key concepts into a familiar song. Inspire your students through open ended questions to design and create your own cardboard box birdfeeder to serve as a main character in your learning theatre. Your active involvement in step by step strategies leads you to turn curriculum in to arts filled explorations that are easy to grasp, and enjoyable to repeat. The multifaceted learning modality simultaneously focuses, engages and motivates your students while keeping you refreshed.

Marvelous, Miraculous, Magic Science

Samantha Chauncey–Pitt Community College, Susan Styons–Vanguard Educational Institute

Can we teach chemistry and physics in pre-school and kindergarten? Of course! And, we must. Join us for a fun filled laboratory that demonstrates the marvel and magic of science. Learn how to use science to motivate and inspire your students to utilize and develop high-level thinking, communication, and comprehension skills. Make potions that miraculously change colors, use water as glue, and more as we show you how to teach fundamentals of chemistry and physical science with research-based, best teaching practices in inquiry instruction.

How to Run A Child Care Business More Effectively

Rhonda Clark–Kaplan Early Learning Company

This session will showcase tools to assist you as you strive to provide high quality services to your children and families. There will be tips to ensure you are running your small business effectively.

Learning Through Music and Movement Across the Curriculum

Angela Clayton–Granville County Schools

Participants will actively engage in literacy based activities that teach science, math, and social studies concepts through music and movement. I will share how to provide a non-threatening, inviting atmosphere making learning fun and exciting.

Lyrics to Literacy: Playful Connections between Singing and Early Literacy

Debbie Clement–Rainbows Within Reach

Join a nationally award winning picture book author-illustrator in an UPbeat romp through the traditional picture books based on her original songs! Learn sign language to support the songs use in performance! See costumes, props, puppets and novelty in action! Plus view the slides of children’s art from around the country created in response to the quilted fabric illustrations! This presentation is based on brain research (via Dr. Jean & Dr. Becky Bailey): simple repetition, call and response echoes, language acquisition through play, phonemic awareness through rhyme, crossing the midline, building patterns and scaffolding through song. Kinesthetic and proprioceptive!

Music, Movement, Motivation and More! Stemming in the Tide of Childhood Obesity

Debbie Clement–Rainbows Within Reach

Put on your dancing shoes! Get up! Get active! Get oxygenated! Sing and dance to simple songs designed around current brain research. Songs are filled with patterns that scaffold. Simple repetitive choreography that encourages movement and participation will be taught! Jump! March! Ride your bike!! Cross the midline through movement! There will be puppets, costumes and props used to encourage young brains to respond to NOVELTY! Laughter will be encouraged. Giggles galore! Brain breaks! Sign language! Team building! Positive rapport! Let’s ROCK!

Literacy: More Than Just A Center!

Erin Dawson and Meredith Gurley–Lenoir County Public Schools

Literacy should be pervasive throughout a Pre-K classroom. Participants will learn how to incorporate reading and writing by being shown a variety of developmentally appropriate activities for promoting literacy. Forget ditto sheets and tracing letters and discover fun ways to learn how to read and write. Participants will also gain knowledge of how to talk to parents about learning through play and what is developmentally appropriate for preschool age children. Activities to offer parents to do at home with their children to prepare them for Kindergarten will be shared. Come hear from teachers sharing their experiences of what really works.

GOSH, They Play TOO Much!! Educating, Enriching, Empowering Families About the Importance of Play

Tanya Dennis

In the age of “vanity play”, “play-dates”, “distractions” and the “covered kitchen window”, you are invited to join this interactive “GROWN UP POP-UP” play-villa! This session will help you gain strategies, techniques and radical research to free all those little people who dream of mud pies, running barefoot and giggling through the neighborhoods, parks and playground. This “WEE 2 B FREE” experience will be motion-filled, messy and magnificent.

The Fun-a-mental Foundation of Creating A Curriculum

Tanya Dennis

Each child is a walking, breathing ESSENCE of a curriculum! Come renew, recommit, and raise awareness of our role and responsibility in supporting children’s instinctual works of play to frame the foundation, philosophy and fun in learning and development!

Through the Lens: Learning with Digital Photography

Sarah Dixon–Wake County Smart Start

This session will explore the use of digital photography. You will learn how to create new and meaningful visual experiences for the children in your classroom. Find out how photography can enhance all areas of learning. Learn a few simple techniques for photographing children. Receive ideas for creating learning materials for use in the classroom. Discover how digital photography can enhance your learning environment, update families on classroom experiences, help document and assess the children with whom you work.

Special thanks to



for sponsoring three exciting sessions!

Pre-K Assessments for Readiness, Writing, Literacy and Math: A Systematic Approach

Denise Donica—Handwriting Without Tears

Pre-K assessments are powerful tools for the early childhood educator to guide individual and classroom instruction. This session presents three simple, no-cost, informal assessments that address children's growth in crucial foundation skills in readiness/writing, language/literacy, and numbers/math. The assessments include activities, an observation checklist, and an assessment record. They are universal and developmentally appropriate for children ages 4-5. Using these assessments, educators can create effective lessons and monitor children's progress.

The Case of "E is for Ethics, P is Professionalism"

Harriette Dudley and Kelli Fitzgibbons—Central Piedmont Community College

"What does "being a professional" mean in the field of Early Care and Education? How does the NAEYC Code of Ethics impact what we do in and outside of the classroom? How do we use the NAEYC code of ethics? This session is presented as a court case where the participants take on the roles of judge, jury, witnesses, and observers. As a participant, you will engage in the process of defining ethics and professionalism for the field. Participants will also reflect on how ethics and professionalism impacts and informs our daily interactions and activities. Experience the trial. Hear the verdict. Implement the sentence."

We're Off to See the Wizard: Exploring Leadership in Early Childhood Education

Lisa Mabe Eads—NC Unity College System Office, Mary Olvera—Surry Community College

This session will examine the characteristics and practices of a "Level Five Leader" as described by Jim Collins. The characteristics will be illustrated using examples from characters and events from the Wizard of Oz as they pertain to early childhood professional leaders. Join us as we enter the Emerald City to develop leadership skills that will ensure success within your organization.

Block Center and Play in PreK and K

Amy Emerson, Bonita Haywood-Daniels, and Juliana Harris—Martin County Schools

Towers, bridges, and castles, oh my! Come learn why building with blocks is such a necessary part of high-quality prek and kindergarten classrooms! Learn how 3 NC Demonstration teachers use the block center to meet the goals and standards in both Foundations and the Common Core/Essential Standards and support young children in becoming 21st century learners. Discover the stages of block play and how children in high quality classrooms develop as learners from prek to kindergarten as participants in the block center.

Ready, Set, School! Playing Your Way to School Readiness

Hardin Engelhardt and Christy Kissick—Marbles Kids Museum

What does school readiness mean? How can teachers and parents intentionally foster literacy, numeracy, and social and emotional development through play? Join us to learn more about what kids need to know and be able to do to be successful in Kindergarten and participate in hands-on play that gets them ready. Plenty of reading, writing, math, and science fun!

A Guide to Developing Young Children's Movement Skills

Ryan Fahey and Richard Rairigh—Be Active Kids

Be Active Kids has launched a new evidenced-based Movement Guide for children birth to five. Come and learn how to help develop young children's fundamental motor skills and movement concepts through a fun and interactive session. Through our Be Active Kids Story, our aim is for you to leave our session with the knowledge and skills necessary to lead activities with confidence and competence in a wide variety of environments.

Transition Tips and Tricks

Dr. Jean Feldman

Transitions are all those "in between" times when things tend to get out of control. This session will present positive ways to focus children's attention with songs, finger plays, props, and games. Ideas for circle time, clean up, focusing children's attention, and releasing wiggles will be addressed. Highlights will include: circle time songs and learning activities; chants and tunes for guiding children; hocus pocus focus; rhymes and finger plays to develop phonemic awareness; and recall activities to end your day.

ABC Sign With Me!

Lisa Fernley

Teaching children to sign is more than just a fun activity. Research has proven the any benefits of signing with children. Join us for this fun, interactive session on incorporating sign language into your daily routines. Learn signs and activities for Circle Time, Story, Music, Classroom Management and Playtime. Handouts include tips and resources.

In Who's Eyes?: Looking At Early Childhood Centers from a Variety of Perspectives

Alicia Fink and Karen Lee-Coss—Kids R Kids

Participants will learn that there are many different viewpoints to "see" a center from. Discussion will be centered around who can come into a center (licensing consultant, sanitation consultant, Fire Inspector, Owner, Director, Parent, Tour, child, teacher, etc.) The trainers will focus on the physical appearance of a building and how the overall appearance can and will affect the center overall. There will be open discussion, group work and interaction during this session.

Art That's From the Heart! Activities that Promote Creativity and Thinking

John Funk—University of Utah/Excellence Learning

Are you tired of doing the same art projects every year? When chosen carefully, art activities can promote and generate creative and critical thinking. Learn the many uses of paper, paint, crayons, tools, hands, feet, and partners to inspire engagement in young children. Participants will participate in activities and apply principals to determine the thinking skills involved. This session will explore the relevancy of 'thinking outside the box' and how art activities can be used in every academic domain.

Once Upon a Time...What's New in Children's Literature!

John Funk—University of Utah/Excellence Learning

Are you too busy teaching to look for new children's literature titles that will enhance your classroom and curriculum? Come to this session to discover new and engaging books that have recently been published. Learn about resources that will help you filter the good books from the mediocre titles and how to enrich your children's experience with print. Watch and observe how to use books as a foundation for close reading activities that will support early childhood children to become future readers or more efficient readers.

Play in the Math and Manipulatives Center; Preschool and Kindergarten

Shari Funkhouser—Asheboro Early Childhood Development Center, Susan Choplin—Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools

There is no question that mathematics instruction in the preschool and kindergarten classroom is imperative. Math and Manipulative centers can elicit wonderful opportunities for children to explore mathematics and for teachers to scaffold learning. Participants will view examples of children working in this center. Two NC Demonstration Classroom teachers will share strategies for implementing a successful math center, effective ways to support learning in this center, as well as connections to outdoor learning, home-school connections, and assessment. Attendees will have opportunities to engage in questions and discussion.

How to Be an Effective On-Line Student

Gillian Gansler—Kaplan Early Learning Company

This session takes a look at the different types of on-line choices that are available. How do you make sure you are choosing the right one? Come and join us for a trip into the on-line world of learning.

Supporting the Success of our Youngest Students: K-3/Kindergarten Entry Assessment Focus Session

Darlene Germano, Karen Lounsbury, and Catherine Woodall—NCDPI/OEL

Come and hear about the Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) component of the K-3 Formative Assessment process and be part of the excitement! During this session, Office of Early Learning consultants will provide opportunities for participants to share their thoughts regarding the K-3 Assessment with a focus on the KEA. The K-3 Assessment will provide a more complete picture of the whole child by covering the five domains of learning, providing data to inform daily instructional practices, and helping teachers to meet the needs of every child in a developmentally appropriate way.

Effects of Adapted Dialogic Reading on Expressive Language Skills of Latino Preschoolers

Kristi Godfrey-Hurrell and Katie Swart—UNC Charlotte

Young English language learners (ELLs) are at risk for language-related difficulties, which may put them at risk for kindergarten transition. Early literacy strategies such as dialogic reading have shown to assist preschoolers' oral vocabulary skills. The purpose of this presentation is to present the results of a study that supported the use of dialogic reading with Latino preschoolers at risk of language disabilities. Additionally, this research will provide participants with a literacy based intervention that includes storybooks and play with props to assist young children who may be at risk for developing language disabilities or delays.

Let's Go Outside to Play and Learn!

Carla Gregory and Angie Jahr—Brunswick Community College

Attendees will learn how outdoor play can benefit more than just the physical health and gross motor skills of children. Outdoor play is a great opportunity to extend learning activities from all domains as an extension of the classroom. It is a time that can be observed and the children can be assessed on a variety of things. The session will be engaging and attendees will apply what is learned in session. The class information will be presented through lecture, discussions, slide shows, group work, and handouts.

Science and Mathematics in Early Childhood: Exploring STEM through Play

Paula Grubbs—Winston-Salem State University

Do you have math and science anxiety? You are not alone! Learn how to stimulate our youngest scientists in a developmentally appropriate early childhood classroom. Using NC Foundations for Early Learning and Development and the Common Core and NC Essential Standards, participants will gain an understanding of ways to create developmentally appropriate environments and activities that provide a rich foundation for later STEM learning (and reduce your own math and science anxiety).

Using Science Talk to Uncover Young Children's Ideas

Debra Hall and Donna Kenestrick—DPI

Teachers need better tools to observe student strengths and support learning right from the start of kindergarten. This session will focus on strategies to help teachers facilitate productive science talk with young children and utilize best practices that move students thinking forward, helping them clarify and expand on their reasoning.

Children at Play: Developing 21st Century Skills and Nurturing Learning Dispositions

Rachel Harkey—Stanly County Schools

Teachers are under increasing pressure to prepare students for college/career readiness. Students are expected to develop learning and innovation skills, information and media technology skills, and life and career skills. Play provides many opportunities to increase and strengthen these skills. Play also provides many chances for teachers to nurture learning dispositions identified as essential for effective learners: independence, creativity, self-motivation, and resilience. In this session, participants will be introduced to these skills and dispositions and explore ways to facilitate skill development and nurture dispositions through intentional play in their classrooms.

Student Motivation and Engagement: Informing Classroom Practice Part 1

Adam Holland—FPG Child Development Institute

Current classroom approaches to student motivation rely largely on antiquated theory. Therefore, the introduction will focus largely on problematic aspects of how this theory plays out in classrooms (e.g., sticker charts, card charts). Then, we discuss a more modern theory of motivation (self-determination theory) and explore some practical applications. The focus will largely be on classroom management, concentrating on ways to improve student engagement and decrease teacher stress. The session next will delve even deeper into practical applications, addressing topics such as tattling, bathroom time, lining up, and persistent misbehavior. Time will be allotted to discuss issues provided by participants as well. Finally, another modern theory of motivation (achievement goal theory) will also be presented, along with implications for pedagogy and collaborative inquiry.

Student Motivation and Engagement: Informing Classroom Practice Part 2

Adam Holland—FPG Child Development Institute

Current classroom approaches to student motivation rely largely on antiquated theory. Therefore, the introduction will focus largely on problematic aspects of how this theory plays out in classrooms (e.g., sticker charts, card charts). Then, we discuss a more modern theory of motivation (self-determination theory) and explore some practical applications. The focus will largely be on classroom management, concentrating on ways to improve student engagement and decrease teacher stress. The workshop next will delve even deeper into practical applications, addressing topics such as tattling, bathroom time, lining up, and persistent misbehavior. Time will be allotted to discuss issues provided by participants as well. Finally, another modern theory of motivation (achievement goal theory) will also be presented, along with implications for pedagogy and collaborative inquiry.

The Power of Play and Investigation: Science in Early Childhood Classrooms

Sarah Hopkins and Gina Troball—Bogue Sound Elementary School

Come join us for an exciting look at Science across the Pre-K and Kindergarten continuum. Learn how to carry out science notebooking in a meaningful way for young learners. Experiment with materials that will cause your Science area to be fun and engaging. Come and gain experience looking for authentic assessment opportunities while your students are on the pathway to discovery!

SEAL—Social, Emotional Academic Learning Using American Sign Language (ASL) to Enhance Social and Emotional Learning, Fun Play Activities; and Improve Classroom Management

Lillian Hubler and Juliet Schuelke—Time To Sign, Inc.

Participants will learn how to use positive language and sign language for play to learn routines, visual cues, and great signs to enhance classroom management and have smooth, quiet transitions.

Our 4 Brains—Building Communication Strategies and Brain Power—Whole Brain Learning the Fun Way!

Lillian Hubler and Juliet Schuelke—Time To Sign, Inc.

This innovative and enriching session describes and demonstrates techniques to enhance learning and help children maximize their brain's fullest capabilities. During this session participants will learn fun and revolutionary practices on how to use sign language and other visual strategies to develop communication capabilities, routine building, pictorial scheduling, visual classroom rules, music and games which will provide powerful life learning effects for the home and classroom environments. Learn the 6 Communication Benchmarks of children so that we can designate the correct classroom roles.

Using a BIG Voice: Teaching the Skills of Assertiveness & Communication

Kim Hughes—Conscious Connections LLC

Children must learn that they teach others how to treat them. Conferees will understand how to use conflicts as an opportunity to teach students life skills and focus on assertive solutions by teaching both victims to use a self-assured voice and bullies to use effective verbal communication. Walk away from this session with a better understanding of Conscious Discipline and its role in building new skills and resources turning classroom struggles into shared cooperation by using conflicts as an opportunity to teach missing social-emotional skills.

NCAeyc Annual Membership Meeting

Suzanne Hughes—NCAeyc Board of Directors, Lorie Barnes—NCAeyc

Join the NCAeyc Board of Directors and staff to share in celebrating NCAeyc's proud history, learn about current initiatives and leadership opportunities and help inform our vision for the future! Discover ways you can engage with and support NCAeyc's Local Affiliates and Chapters across the state. Meet our newly elected NCAeyc Board of Directors for 2014.

Updates from the Division of Child Development and Early Education

Jennifer Johnson and Mary Lee Porterfield—DCDEE

Please join us to learn about the many changes to the early care & education landscape in North Carolina! The Division of Child Development & Early Education has moved and that is just the tip of the iceberg! Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions about changes and initiatives related to the Division, and share ideas about how our early childhood system can continue to strengthen and grow.

Playing Throughout the Five Learning Domains

Danielle Johnson—Durham’s Partnership for Children

Let’s play our way through the day as we discover, make connections, and gain new skills! “Playing through the Five Learning Domains” draws on the learn through play philosophy and explores creative developmentally appropriate strategies to engage, children, educators, and families. We often become stagnant and fall into a rut with our routines. During this session we’ll explore creative opportunities to “Playing through the Five Learning Domains”. Attendees will view a day in pre-k via a picture montage and will then have the opportunity to create their ideal day through play. This session is designed to support all ECE professionals with a particular emphasis on pre-school professionals as they implement a developmentally appropriate curriculum in their respective learning environment.

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words: Using Digital Pictures in the Classroom

Jennifer Jones and Rashad Roberts—Alamance Community College

In this session you will learn ways to use digital pictures to build all areas of your curriculum (math/engineering, science, sand/water, dramatic play, music, literacy, art, and blocks) and all domains of development (physical, social-emotional, cognitive, and language). You will also learn creative ways to document children’s learning. This documentation can be displayed in the classroom or shared with parents.

Stress—Good or Bad for Brains?

Lara Kehle—KidSCOPE

Excessive or toxic stress disrupts the architecture of the developing brain. This session examines children’s (and adult’s) brain development. We will explore the complex interaction of nature and nurture in the development of each child’s brain and behavior. Videos will support learning. Small and large group activities will provide opportunities to practice ways to help develop emotional and behavioral self-regulation.

Natural Playwork: Children’s Play and Playwork in Natural Environments

Linda Kinney—NC Zoological Park

This course emphasizes play in nature and how to take advantage of the many affordances provided by the natural world. Learners will determine creative approaches to planning for play and practical applications for playwork outdoors. Learners will “play with” aspects of nature and play, and explore their combined application in outdoor play and learning environments. This course provides strategies for incorporating nature play into curriculum, lesson plans, and everyday life, enhancing children’s opportunities for exploration and play outside.

Music and Movement Activities to Increase Physical Activity Among Adults and Children

Alexandra Kluttz and LaRae Wiggins—MCCS Camp LeJeune

Come wiggle and jiggle to move and learn! Participants will increase the quantity of time doing physical activities intentionally imbedded in daily routines and improve the quality of structured movement experiences within their classrooms. This is not a completely seated presentation; the presenters ascribe to the theory, “If the bum is numb, the brain is the same!”

Play Strategies for Classrooms: Effects of Mixed Age and Mixed Ability Groupings on Play Skills

Laura Koch, Katharine Fredericksen, and Heidi Hollingsworth—Elon University

The new North Carolina Foundations for Early Learning and Development includes goals for play and imagination for children of various ages. Research affirms the importance of older children as models for younger children’s development of play. This session will increase participants’ awareness of why mixed age play is important, and will provide specific evidence-based strategies for promoting mixed age play in preschool classrooms. Participants will be actively involved in discussions with each other and with presenters about the application of specific strategies to their own settings.

Support Preschoolers with Special Needs Using Teacher-Made Ideas

Joyce Kohfeldt—I.E.S.S., Inc.

Students age 3 and 4 with special needs represent a wide range of challenges. Explore focusing/lengthening attention spans through listening tasks and using Tell & Draw for visual tasks. Develop gross/fine motor skills needed for throwing, catching, and writing. Increase vocabulary for listening comprehension and speech. Count and sequence letters and numbers at concrete levels in games and small group activities. Session examples will be selected from cross content areas. Handouts will be provided.

Incorporating Yoga Into the Classroom: Music, Tips & Tools

Bari Koral—Rockefeller University

A trip to the moon? Growing from seeds into apple trees? Learn to integrate yoga into the classroom through music, games, stories, breathing activities and relaxation time. This fun loving & interactive session will feature a live music presentation plus open discussion. We’ll learn poses, activities and songs that build confidence, strength, balance, coordination and improve emotional well being. As we move and play you’ll learn life-changing tools you can easily incorporate into the classroom. We’ll end our session with some sweet relaxation that help children (and adults!) relax and recharge. There will be opportunities for everyone to share, ask questions and reflect.

Speaking from Experience

Judith Kuhn—Forsyth Country Day School

As a former kindergarten teacher with forty-one years of classroom experience and a developmental placement specialist, certified by the Gesell Institute, this presenter will share teaching ideas and practices, including classroom management, teacher-parent relationships, and avoiding teacher burnout. Ideas presented in her recently published book “Is Your Child Ready for School? Finding the Best Grade Placement” will also be discussed.

STEM Play!

Alex Laube and Natalie Kacsmaryk—Marbles Kids Museum

Explore ways to spark kids’ curiosity about STEM through play! Through hands-on fun, kids become scientists, generating questions and formulating understandings about how the world works. Find out and share ideas about how to provide science experiences that get kids interested and discovering.

Putting It All Together: The V.I.P. of Positive Guidance Dialog and Technique

Debi LaVine and Laura Davis—Lord of Life Preschool and Kindergarten

VALIDATE! INTERVIEW! PROBLEM SOLVE! Every early childhood educator is eager to build a child’s self-control, self-esteem, and problem-solving skills while providing a positive, caring classroom environment. The V.I.P. positive guidance dialog technique is specifically designed to do just that! The technique assists early childhood educators to become positive guidance facilitators. The teacher-friendly V.I.P. positive guidance dialog technique has been an extremely positive tool in North Carolina early childhood classrooms. Teachers welcome the technique because it naturally guides them through a sequential conversation process that validates feelings, addresses cause and effect, and leads to the development of positive problem solving skills in young children. Join us for a powerful breakthrough in your positive guidance technique!

The Value of Outdoor Environments: Preschool Children’s Cognitive Development and Science Learning

Li Jiayao, Rebekah Pierro, Yudan Wang, and Linda Hestenes—UNC Greensboro

Session participants will learn how various components of preschool outdoor environment quality may promote preschoolers’ cognitive development above and beyond indoor environment quality. Specific findings from a research study will show which aspects of outdoor quality are positively linked to children’s ability to think flexibly. Participants will also gain knowledge about the Preschool Outdoor Environment Measurement Scale (POEMS), a tool for assessing quality in preschool outdoor environments, and increase strategies for promoting children’s science learning and cognitive development outdoors.

Partnering with Families to Address Challenging Behaviors: We’re All In This Together

Renae Lingafelt-Beeker—Working Family Resource Center/NC Healthy Social Behaviors Initiative

When a child uses challenging behaviors at school, parents and teachers need to work together to address the issue. However, when discussing behavior problems parents often feel blamed by the teachers and teachers often feel unsupported by the parents. This session focuses on developing strategies and skills to make these conversations more productive for everyone... especially the child! Participants will learn how to set the stage for and successfully conduct these difficult conversations with parents.

Talking with Parents and Administrators About the Importance of Play in K-3

Karen Lounsbury—NC DPI

You know the importance of play in children’s learning, but can you articulate it to parents and administrators? In this session participants will learn how to connect children’s play to the developmental domains, and the developmental domains to learning. Then, through discussion and activities, participants will boost their understanding and confidence when talking with parents and administrators about the importance of children’s play and its connection to learning in the K-3 classrooms.

Tackling Turnover: Praising and Rewarding staff for little or no cost

Vernon Mason—WEE SCHOOL Child Development Centers, Inc.

A director’s guide to tackle turnover, build a dedicated staff, and raise morale. Directing a childcare program has its challenges; one of the biggest is staffing concerns. In this session the presenter, who has been a director for 20 years, will give examples of how directors can support their staff, reduce staff turnover, raise staff morale and build dedication for little or no cost. Participants will be asked to share innovative ideas that they have used. We will also discuss obstacles in achieving the desired outcome. Participants will leave with practical information to put to immediate use in their program.

Stay and Play Outside All Day—Revisited!

Nicole McCaskill and Allison Hall—NCRLAP

Many programs in NC are enhancing their outdoor learning environments by adding natural elements as well as various play options in addition to gross motor equipment. Other programs want to be start, but may wonder where to begin and how these changes might affect the assessment process. Join us to hear about how offering experiences such as gardening, fort building, and art can help earn credit on the Environment Rating Scales and increase children’s overall development. We will explore a variety of natural and “upcycled” materials, and together creatively design an outdoor area while sharing helpful hints and suggestions.

Beyond Crafts: Teaching Art to Preschoolers, Even If You Can’t Draw

Elsbeth McClanahan and Tracy Rains—North Raleigh United Methodist Preschool

Roll up your sleeves, prepare to get a little messy and put on that creative hat you didn’t know you had. In this seminar you will learn why we teach art, simple basic techniques to help you start children drawing, and easy fun ways to introduce the Great Masters. All this in a way that is easy for you, the children enjoy, and enhances process art. Easy techniques any teacher can apply to their classrooms. So you can’t draw? No problem. You don’t know Monet from Picasso? You will.

Gardening with Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers

Pamela McIntyre, EdS and Lisa Godwin, PhD—Central Piedmont Community College

This session explores strategies for gardening with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Gardening is appropriate for all ages, and can incorporate all curriculum areas. Participants will learn basics for starting a garden, cultivating a variety of edible/non-toxic plants, and incorporating fun throughout.

Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Policies and Practices

Anna Mercer-Mclean—Community School for People Under 6

This session will discuss what it means to have culturally and linguistically responsive policies and practices, a culturally competent staff, defines what a culturally responsive classroom includes and how to engage families. An assessment tool to identify Culturally Responsive Policies and Practices will be shared. Small group discussion supports the development of a Cultural Competence Plan for your facility; and provides an opportunity for networking with other program administrators.

Encouraging Positive Body Image and Body Control Through Play

Melissa Mischka, Ciera Martinez, Lauren Schuessler, and Heidi Hollingsworth—Elon University

Research has shown that encouragement of positive body image and control affects children's development in multiple domains; content and quality of interactions with objects and people affect children's image of themselves. This session will increase awareness of why body image and control are important and demonstrate how these ideas can be supported/encouraged through play. Demonstrations of specific play activities will enhance caregivers' knowledge of how to incorporate play into the classroom to enhance self-esteem and mastery of physical self. Participants will be actively involved in discussions with each other and presenters regarding the application of learning experiences in their classrooms.

Multi-Sensory Story Time: Ensuring Story Times are Appropriate for All Preschoolers

Kristen Monteith and Lisa Godwin, PhD—Central Piedmont Community College

Keeping children engaged during story times can be a challenge. This session addresses the varied needs and abilities children bring to the early education setting, and shares strategies for ensuring that all preschool-aged children become and remain engaged during story times. Participants will engage in a story time that involves the senses (hearing, sight, touch, and smell) and utilizes active engagement. Participants also will create props to take with them for use in their own settings.

First 2000 Days

Beth Moore—Little Stepping Stones Child Development Center

How Big is Your Footprint? Environmental Education for Young Learners

Kelly Morlacci—Trinity Presbyterian Weekday School

Engage in memorable, interdisciplinary activities that help students understand the human ecological footprint, while building knowledge and skills in science, social studies, math and language arts. The presenter will begin with an overview of concepts and learning strategies in environmental education that are appropriate for the K-3 classroom. She will then engage participants in activities that illustrate interdependency of living things in nature, ways people use natural resources and ways people can have a positive impact on the environment. All activities fit the objectives of North Carolina's Environmental Literacy Plan.

Persistent Fear and Anxiety Can Affect Young Children's Learning and Development

Laura Mykel—Giggles N Grins Learning Center

Children who have been abused and/or neglected bring behaviors and special needs into the classroom. Often all the tried and true methods you have used are not successful when dealing with these behaviors. Instead of throwing in the towel, or throwing your hands in the air, learn some new strategies that can help you deal with these behaviors and meet their special needs. Make their time and yours more productive and teach the child ways to cope and manage their feelings and anxiety.

A Study of Bridges: Project-Based Learning Benefits ALL Children and their Teachers

Sharon Palsha—UNC Chapel Hill, Melanie Middleton—Durham Public Schools

Take a visual journey of a Bridge project implemented in an inner-city public school Kindergarten classroom that had children engaged in authentic learning to meet Common Core standards, 21st century skills, and goals across developmental domains. Inspired by project work carried out in the schools in Reggio Emilia the teachers and children spent two months researching bridges both locally and globally as children designed and built their own bridges and class bridge, wrote stories and performed their own plays based on their work. As the children's learning is made visible with artifacts and video you are also introduced to the process for planning project-based learning to implement in your own classroom.

Project-Based Learning: Meeting Common Core Standards and 21st Century Skills in an Authentic Way

Sharon Palsha and Jill Greeson—UNC Chapel Hill, Kris Swanson—Estes Hills Elementary School

Early primary teachers are currently faced with the challenge of having their students meet Common Core Standards and 21st century skills. Compounding this challenge, despite decades of research supporting developmentally appropriate practices for young children, is the fact that teachers are currently often being asked to implement a highly structured academic curriculum as a way of addressing these standards. Come take a visual journey to witness a project on the Human Body in an inclusive public school Kindergarten classroom where every child is engaged in hands-on, developmentally appropriate activities as they meet standards across developmental domains. Visuals will include photos and videos of the children's work, which includes writing How to Books using digital publishing.

Why Poverty Matters in the Early Years and What Teachers Can Do

Tammy Pawloski—Francis Marion University

Current research confirms that the achievement gap between children of poverty and their wealthier peers continues to grow. Why is this happening and what can schools do? This fast-paced presentation includes music, video and powerful graphics to address the ways that growth and development are impacted by birth and life without resources. Participants will explore research-based strategies designed to address the common needs of this population, and they will leave with real strategies that may be immediately implemented in the school or child care setting.

Visual Arts and Creative Expression: Playful Learning at its Finest

Eva Phillips—Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools

Are you someone who says, “I can’t do art”? If so, this session is for you. Join other early childhood colleagues to think about, discuss and actively explore the world of visual arts in prekindergarten and kindergarten. Learn about the essential nature of the creative art process within an environment that encourages play and creativity, all the while meeting early learning and common core state standards. Come ready to step outside your comfort zone as we use a variety of art materials to create and learn new strategies for enhancing children’s opportunities for creative expression, as well as your own.

Breaking the Stereotypes of Men in Education: Recruiting and Retaining Male Teachers

Christian Phipps—First Presbyterian Church CDC, Brian Calabria—Little Pros Academy

Male educators have declined in numbers since the 1980s. This session is geared to breakdown the stereotypes that many people place on men in education. By placing emphasis on what men bring to the field and how they benefit the children, directors can find ways to educate their staff and parents. This session will also help centers recruit and retain male teachers.

Want to Play? Play is Children’s Work

Robin Pollard and Erin Brassell—Gaston College

We all know that play is far from worthless; it is invaluable learning time; literally how children construct knowledge. However today too much screen time and focus on testing has resulted in children who are not playing like they used to; we can how them how again. We will include a brief overview of psychological research confirming how and why play is essential for children’s development, as well as routines and techniques to welcome and encourage healthy and high-level play in your classroom and center. Come learn how to help children rediscover the joy (and unsurpassed learning opportunities) in real play.

Outdoor Play and Loose Parts

Ryan Fahey and Richard Rairigh—Be Active Kids

Getting children active outside can be fun and educational. Child-centered free play can be easily facilitated by providing loose parts and elements from nature. Providing these items as a play element supports infinite amounts of play types, play frames, physical development (fine and gross motor skills) and learning experiences. The beauty of using loose parts over traditional play equipment is that the intent of the pieces of scrap is left in the hands of the player. It provides a greater range of flexibility, diversifying its appeal to children. Outdoor play through loose parts is gaining traction in North Carolina and we will share several new projects connecting communities around play.

Advocacy in the Digital Age: Using Social Media to Spread Your Message

Ashley Reid—Child Care Resources Inc.

Reaching out to those in a position to advance a cause is more important than ever. Opportunities to spread your message in succinct, powerful, meaningful ways can be magnified through the use of online social media. This session will explore what advocacy is and how social media can be used to promote grassroots efforts. Participants will be able to identify the different types of online media, explore how to connect with stakeholders, and receive instruction on how to craft a message that can become visible to other online users.

Which? What? Why? Questions that Help Kids Learn

Kelli Rushing

Use questions to extend young children’s attention and to support critical thinking, memory, and concept development. Through fun activities, practice asking questions that help kids learn.

Program Quality and Staff Support in Preschool and Infant/Toddler Classrooms

Rhonda Sawyer and Martha Everett—NC Rated License Assessment Project, UNC Greensboro

This session explores the relationship of classroom quality scores and varying levels of staff support measured in the environment rating scales. Using data from over 5000 assessments conducted by the North Carolina Rated License Assessment Project, a comparison of overall classroom quality scores and the staff and parent subscale scores was completed. The analysis revealed positive correlations between overall classroom scores and subscale scores as well as some indicator level scores. The presentation highlights indicators associated with quality scores in both preschool and infant/toddler classrooms with a focus on programmatic practices.

What’s New with K-2

Denise Schulz—NC Department of Public Instruction

Come learn what’s new with K-2! Participants will receive updates from the Department of Public Instruction that impact K-2 and explore resources aligned to the Common Core State Standards for K-2 that can be used in classrooms to develop conceptual understanding and computational fluency.

The Happy Talent (and Serious Business) of Dramatic Play

Marylee Sease—Haywood County Schools, Lisa Bruggeman—Asheville City Preschool

In this climate of data-driven instruction and teacher effectiveness based on child outcomes, the benefits of play, specifically Dramatic Play, need to be recognized, utilized and articulated. Participants will view examples of children participating in high quality socio-dramatic play in Pre-K and Kindergarten classrooms. Two PreK Demonstration teachers and 2 Kindergarten Demonstration teachers will share strategies for intentionally implementing Dramatic Play center opportunities and effectively supporting learning. Attendees will have opportunities to engage in lively discussion, explore props, create a takeaway and ask questions.

Where's the Math? Discovering Math in Hidden Books

Tomeka Sidberry—Warren County Schools

This session is all about numbers and number sense, geometry, measurement, graphing, algebra, and math are everywhere if you know how to find them! Math is even in children's literature, hidden in the books they love for you to read to them. Take a look at children's classic and new titles in a different way and uncover the math concepts embedded in the stories. It doesn't end there... it's in your art, blocks, manipulative, housekeeping, and science, it's everywhere in the Early Childhood Classroom! Come out and learn effective ways to incorporate math while building strategies to ensure that developmentally appropriate practices and positive interactions are meeting the needs of the whole child, while actively engaging children through hands on creative activities to help young children discover MATH in a whole new way. During this session there will be hands-on activities and visual aids to help you gain knowledge to take back to your classroom.

Notably Mathematics

Marsha Sirkin—Carteret County Schools

Notebooks are not just for elementary students! In this session you will learn how to effectively apply math notebooking as a mind tool strategy for students while learning math foundational skills. This notebook session will include how incorporate technology, foldables, games, and reflection to make math notebooks totally interactive and engaging for students. Math notebooks are the perfect tool to connect usage of math manipulatives to the abstract.

Discover the Comprehensive CLASS System: Learning about Measuring and Improving Interactions

Sedra Spano—Teachstone

You've probably heard of the CLASS measure, but did you know that it's part of the larger CLASS system? Join Teachstone experts to discover how organizations like yours are using the CLASS system to learn about, measure, and improve the effectiveness of teacher-child interactions. We'll use videos, discussions, and activities to explore ways you can put the CLASS system to use in your work improving teaching and learning.

Allergies, Asthma, Diabetes and Seizures—Oh My!

Theresa Stenersen, Rhonda Rambeaut, and Sharon Brown—UNC Chapel Hill

Afraid to care for children with chronic health conditions like allergies, asthma, diabetes or seizures? Discover how to include children with chronic health conditions in all aspects of early care and education. Learn how to prevent incidents by following health care plans. Determine how to make your facility asthma and allergy friendly. Practice how to respond to a seizure and the early signs of low and high blood sugar. Experience what it feels like to have an asthma episode. Leave knowing how play is impacted and managed for children with chronic illness.

Brain Pathways: Birth to Kindergarten. Ensuring Excellent Reading Skills through Brain Compatible Practices

Susan Styons—Vanguard Educational Institute; Retired NCDPI, Samantha Chauncey—Pitt Community College

Reading problems are preventable! So what are you waiting for? Join us for an entertaining high energy, hands-on session to learn the strategies to make that happen! Learn... how the brain develops in the first 2000 days of life; the key strategies to ensure excellent reading skills during that critical time; how brain compatible practices will increase the academic performance of young children; AND, how people stay alive and mentally strong after age 80.

Keeping Families Engaged in the Home Based Program

Heddie Taylor—Telamon Corporation Head Start

Home visiting programs are challenge when it comes to keeping and maintaining families. Families stay engaged when they feel motivated and empowered to recognize their needs, strengths, and resources. You will learn key factors for keeping families engage in the Home Visiting Program. Learn how to keep families engaged, determine and respond to the need of the parent, promoting and retaining families in the Home Based program.

Lifting Voices

Debra Torrence—NC Institute for Child Development Professionals

Who's making the rules? Do you want to know where the money comes from for early childhood services? Ever wonder who is making the rules that govern our work? Interested in lifting your voice and sharing input about the needs of early educators, children and families? Looking for tools to help parents, policy makers, funders, staff or others understand why education is important? Join this session to build your own toolkit!

Boosting Literacy in Young Children Through Story Telling/Story Acting

Pat Tuttle—Warren Wilson College, Janelle Allen—Verner Center for Early Learning

Power up your classroom community through story telling/ story acting, a proven literacy curriculum based on Vivian Paley's iconic work in kindergarten, recorded in numerous books and articles. During this session you will develop skills taking story dictations and facilitating an acting circle within the classroom. You will reaffirm how play and fantasy continue to be foundational in early childhood curriculum simultaneously engaging children's enthusiasm "for their story day," and providing for their emerging literacy. Through stories we analyze ways children 2 to 8 years old grow in vocabulary, comprehension, and print awareness achieving success in literacy and self confidence.

Trauma! How to Recognize and Respond to Trauma Induced Behaviors in Children

Carianne Walker and Kathleen Mason—MCCS

What is trauma? In a child's world, trauma can look much different than in an adult's world. This interactive class will explore the potential causes of trauma in a child's life. You will learn how to recognize trauma induced behaviors and how trauma aware practices will help you respond appropriately to trauma induced behaviors in the classroom. Learn to create an inclusive environment through positive behavior supports and trauma aware practices. Learn how this will allow students to feel safe and secure and how it supports their social emotional development during this impactful course.

A Tisket, A Tasket... Fill Your Literacy Basket

Terri Walls BSN, RN, CCHC and Letha Ricks—Craven Smart Start, Inc.

Research shows that 4 year olds who know eight nursery rhymes by heart are more eager readers by the time they are 8 years old. Come learn how to use rhymes as a support for early literacy and language development as well as social-emotional development in young children. Participants will engage in developmentally appropriate activities designed to fill their "literacy basket." Participants will discover ways to include nursery rhymes in daily activities and routines to promote healthy behavior through positive guidance.

Opportunities Within Your Local Affiliate and Chapters

Resha Washington—Thompson CFF, Sarah Prezioso—Nash Community College

Do you have an interest in becoming more active with your local affiliate/chapter? Or have you ever thought about taking on a leadership role in the field of early childhood education? If so, then this session is for you. Please join current Board Members of NCAeyc and the Local Affiliate Council in discussing ways to support your local affiliate/chapter by becoming active and learning about the process of assuming a leadership role. This session will be both group discussion and active learning. We will discuss the importance of having strong leadership within your local affiliate/chapter, the purpose of affiliates/chapters and the role of NCAeyc.

Let's Get Messy

Faith Watrous and Bernita Purvis—USMC MCCS CYTP

Art is an expression of the human spirit and fosters creativity. Creative people are more willing to try new things, combine ideas and materials in novel ways, and take risks. When children participate in art experiences, they develop abilities and skills necessary for inventiveness and problem-solving. Participants will learn how to plan and implement developmentally appropriate art experiences which provide children opportunities to develop an appreciation of themselves and others, allow them freedom to make choices, and express and organize their thoughts. Participants will discover ways art experiences foster and encourage exploration, experimentation and creativity in children through hands-on experiences.

Reading Giraffe—Where Books Run Wild!

Derick Wilder—Playball and Reading Giraffe

Reading is a key that opens the door to a lifetime of learning by tapping into a child's imagination! In this interactive session, we'll dive into picture books and share the secrets for making read-aloud sessions come alive. But that's just the beginning! In order to engage our little visual, auditory and kinesthetic learners, we'll create craft projects and participate in role-playing games built around each story's themes and characters. Our goal is to inspire a life-long passion for reading by making books fun and adventurous! We'll share over a dozen of my kids' favorite stories!

Move and Groove by 2

Derick Wilder—Playball and Reading Giraffe

Bring your sneakers and get ready to move! Young children begin the learning process through movement—we literally develop their brains as we develop their muscles. In this highly interactive workshop, we'll examine an array of movement activities and simple, fun games that get our little ones on the path to a dynamic future. By engaging their imaginations and playing age-appropriate games, we can help ensure that our next generation is healthy and happy!

Everything You Need to Know About the Early Educator Support, Licensure & Professional Development (EESLPD) Office

Kyle Worley and Lorie Looper—DCDEE-EESLPD Office

Join us for this informational session and have all of your questions answered about the Beginning Teacher Support Program for teachers in nonpublic programs. Hear from EESLPD Office Staff as well as teachers and site administrators who have experienced first-hand the tremendous outcomes for children, their families and educators that result from this relationship based growth process. Participants will explore how mentoring and evaluation services support a teacher's growth on the Rubric for Evaluating NC Teachers and why our team approach is optimal for supporting a teacher's journey. Participants will be provided with information and the steps needed to support them from enrollment through licensure actions with the EESLPD Office.

Leading with Passion and Purpose

Dr. Eileen Yantz—Gaston College

"When work, commitment, and pleasure all become one and you reach that deep well where passion lives, nothing is impossible." Do you still have a passion for leading? Does your leadership style inspire your staff and parents? In this session, you will examine your purpose; evaluate your leadership style; and learn new techniques for conducting staff meetings using the SMART method. You will also compare your leadership style to Covey's Habits for Effective Leaders and generate strategies to increase your effectiveness as a leader in child care.

Retooling the Early Childhood Message to Build New Champions

Tracy Zimmerman and Lisa Finaldi—NC Early Childhood Foundation

The First 2000 Days initiative builds public and policymaker support for early learning investments by engaging unexpected voices as champions. The initiative engages community leaders and is supported by a message emphasizing how early investments impact all North Carolinians. The North Carolina Early Childhood Foundation is collaborating with many organizations in this effort. The session will provide early learning educators with a new message and tools to build community support for early learning. Through an interactive session, participants will be able to engage new voices in their work.