



EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE

CAMPS AND CONFERENCES

CONTENTS BY CATEGORY

A. LIVE SESSIONS	2
B. CHILD DEVELOPMENT	2
C. DIVERSITY	5
D. FAMILY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS	5
E. FAMILY SYSTEMS AND DYNAMICS	6
F. GUIDANCE AND NURTURING	6
G. LEARNING EXPERIENCES, STRATEGIES, AND CURRICULUM	7
H. PLANNING, REFLECTION, AND EVALUATION	14
I. PROFESSIONALISM	15
J. SPECIAL NEEDS, DISABILITIES, AND INCLUSIVE PRACTICES	16
K. ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT	17

A. LIVE SESSIONS

A1: Keynote: Happiness is Running Through the Streets to Find You Even During a Pandemic

Holly Elissa Bruno, MA, JD

Holly Elissa Bruno Keynote & Team Building, LLC

<http://www.hollyelissabruno.com>

Date: Wednesday, April 7

Time: 7- 8:30pm CST

When the world flips upside down, children need stable, unflappable adults to reassure them all is well. But who reassures us adults? Traumatic times bring out our worst and our best. Let's together identify hopeful everyday leadership practices to serve as our lighthouse during this pandemic storm.

Session will not be recorded for later viewing.

A2: Early Childhood Education is No Small Matter!

Ann Terrell, President - Elect

NAEYC

Date: Saturday, April 17

Time: TBD

Participants will view a screening of the documentary *No Small Matter* and then join us for follow up discussion on this national campaign to bring attention to the importance of early childhood education. There are 24 million children under the age of six in America today. Do you know how many of them have to be taken care of all day, every day, by an adult? All of them. Who provides that care—and how they do it—is the most overlooked, underestimated, and potentially game-changing issue in Wisconsin and America today. No Small Matter is the first feature documentary to lay out the overwhelming evidence for the importance of the first five years, and to reveal how our failure to act on that evidence has resulted in an everyday crisis for American families and a slow-motion catastrophe for our country.

Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Adults, Families

B. CHILD DEVELOPMENT

B1: Freedom of Movement and Sensory Immersion for Balancing Children's Behavior in a Calm and Focused Sensory Rich Environment

Abby Abrisham, ECE Trainer

CP Child Care, INC.

cpchildcare.net

According to CDC the percentage of children and adolescents affected by obesity has more than tripled since the 1970's. Studies shows that in the last decade there have been sharp and steady rise in the number of preschool children who need early intervention. The environment can have direct effect on children's behavior. All children react to their environment through their neurological process that helps them to gather information and respond to it. The five senses and their functions are familiar to most people, but there are two additional senses that contribute to children's abilities to move about and

interact effectively with environment. These two senses are the vestibular system and the sense of proprioception. These senses work together to shape children's motor movements and to help them understand where their bodies are located in space. A learning environment that allows children to develop their proprioceptive and vestibular senses has a positive impact on both children's physical development and emotional health. Freedom of movement and sensory immersion, indoors and outdoors, balances children's behavior and results in a calm and focused classroom. We will discuss the sensory needs of the children, the natural play areas, and ways to design the developmentally appropriate learning environment in which the space and time allows children to play and engage in uninterrupted activities.

Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3

B2: The Impact of Trauma on Children: Strategies for Educators

Jennifer Betters-Bubon, Associate Professor

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

<https://www.schoolcounselors4mtss.com/>

The last year has brought collective trauma as we navigate a global pandemic, racial trauma and economic uncertainty. Within early childhood education, educators can integrate trauma informed efforts to address students' trauma and apply their understanding to family systems. This session will include an overview of trauma and its' impact on the brain and strategies for how educators can meet the learning, social/emotional and behavioral needs of all, some and few in early childhood settings. Participants will leave with trauma-informed strategies and a plan for continued self care.

4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3, Grades 4-5, Adults, Families

B3: The Good, Bad, and Ugly of Toxic Stress in Young Children

Cheryl Hovey, Early Childhood Consultant, Program Director

Ez Ed 2 Go, Fisher College

www.ezed2go.com

Chronic toxic stress changes the architecture of a child's brain. We live in different times and need to understand what toxic stress looks like, does and how we can mitigate the impact on development. Through lively discussion, taking off our blinders, and small group activity participants will leave this session with new knowledge and strategies to implement in their practice.

Infants, Toddlers, Preschool

B4: Those Terrible Two: Taming the Temperament

Cheryl Hovey, Early Childhood Consultant, Program Director

Ez Ed 2 Go, Fisher College

www.ezed2go.com

Do you every scratch your head and wonder: Why did this child have a meltdown over me wanting to hold his hand? Why they get angry when you move their cubby? This workshop will define temperament; what is known about temperament and how this information can be used to optimize a child's growth and development.

Infants, Toddlers, Preschool

B5: How Learning to Put on Rain Boots Leads to Academic Success

Catherine Koons-Hubbard, Nature Preschool Director

Schlitz Audubon Nature Preschool

<https://www.schlitzaudubon.org/>

This presentation connects the dots between outdoor education and learning to manage your own clothing - with a particular emphasis on outdoor gear such as rain boots, hats, and mittens - and early elementary academic skills.

Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Families

B6: Sometimes a Gun is Just a Gun: Exploring Issues of Power Control in Children's Play

Dawn Rouse, Assistant Professor and Program Director of ECMC

University of Wisconsin – La Crosse

Many teachers and schools have a zero tolerance for any play that incorporates gun play or violent motifs. Does that stop the play? What happens when we subvert or forbid that play? Does this play make children more violent? What message are we sending when we forbid a play theme? Rather than simply banning play that makes adults uncomfortable (death play, gun play, violent scenario play, monster play) perhaps it is time to look beyond those feelings of discomfort towards an investigation of what is driving the child to engage in this play. Is this an issue of a miscommunication between adults and children? Concepts of power imbalances, how children view the world and how adults can facilitate and negotiate this play rather than forbid it will be discussed.

Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3, Grades 4-5, Families

B7: Coding with Kids

Terrie Schmoltdt, Teacher, Presenter

Oregon School District

www.bubbles101.com

Coding. Sounds a little intimidating, I thought so, too, until I saw some great ideas and tried it with kids. They will beg for more. At a very basic level, come see what CODING can look like with young children. Explore from your own device. Try some resources, get some ideas, and have some fun. No technology degree required!

Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3, Grades 4-5, Families

B8: Gemini — Setting Childhood to Music!

Laszlo Slomovits, Musician

Gemini

GeminiChildrensMusic.com

Sandor Slomovits, Musician

Gemini

Emily Slomovits, Musician

Gemini

Award-winning original songs, traditional songs and folk-tales from around the world, classic children's poems set to music, popular children's books set to familiar melodies — the twin brothers do it all! They teach this great variety of material, as well as showing how to add hand-motions, sign language and

simple instruments to the music. Great for literacy readiness programs, all of Gemini's songs and stories have positive messages that stimulate creativity, learning and cooperation. A true celebration of childhood, growing up, and family life. And as a special treat, for this workshop they are joined by San's daughter, Emily, a wonderful singer and fiddler!

Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3, Grades 4-5

C. DIVERSITY

C1: Supporting Dual Language Learners in an Early Childhood Environment

Alana Dresden, Adjunct Professor

University of Wisconsin - Whitewater

Participants will gain a better understanding regarding the importance of supporting dual language learners and their families in an early childhood environment, as well as learn about ways to support language acquisition in the classroom and beyond.

Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, 4K

C2: African Pedagogy In Preschool

Nakia Wiley, EC Teacher

Madison Metropolitan School District

<https://wileynakia.wixsite.com/website>

Black children continue to struggle in reading, writing, mathematics, and social emotional skills. Often classrooms are lead by White and non - Black educators who do not fully understand cultural competency and African Pedagogy. This workshop will shed light on how to implement African Pedagogy in early childhood environments. A focus on how to develop a African Centered curriculum will be presented. Lastly, strategic methods for developing positive relationships with Black children and their families will be explored. Participants will leave with new skills and knowledge pertaining to African Pedagogy.

Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3, Grades 4-5, Adults, Families

D. FAMILY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

D1: Building a Community in Early Childhood

Jean Hoffmann, 4K Teacher

Plymouth Joint School District

Students and family relationships serve as a crucial element for a successful classroom. Educators can also tap into different people's unique strengths and knowledge to create powerful learning. This course offers strategies and examples for connecting to students, parents, colleagues and the community to innovate your early childhood curriculum.

Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten

D2: Children as Role Models & Paying it Forward

Benjamin Anderson, Graduate Student

University of Wisconsin - Whitewater

In today's world, children have a profound impact on their community. In this society people typically view adults and elders as role models. However, it is time to re-think and realize the life lessons one can learn from children and their

perspectives. The speaker details their own experience from a child being their role model and learning the lesson of "Paying it Forward". What does it mean to Pay it Forward and how can one incorporate this lesson into their own classroom and personal life? The speaker describes how they paid it forward and the impact it has had on the community.

Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3, Grades 4-5, Adults, Families

E. FAMILY SYSTEMS AND DYNAMICS

E1: Beyond Baby Shark: Embracing Diverse Family Structures

Lydia Bowers, Trainer, Author

Lydia Bowers Consulting

www.lydiambowers.com

Not every family has Baby Shark, Mommy Shark, and Daddy Shark! In order to be welcoming and supportive of all children in our care, we need to evaluate how we are welcoming and supporting families. Practice ways to evaluate programs and classrooms, and gain resources for making your space safe for all families.

Families

F. GUIDANCE AND NURTURING

F1: Permission to Care - Self Care for Now and Always

Tina Ginner Melzl, Early Care & Education Consultant

Learning Styles, LLC

This presentation will offer a variety of different ways to focus on well-being and self-care daily. The participant will learn about resilience and how to strengthen it within their lives. This presentation is meant to uplift and encourage the importance of including self care into the everyday routine for the participant who gives so much to others. Prepare to feel calmed and encouraged.

Adults

F2: Addressing Challenging Behavior in Young Children: The Leader's Role

Barbara Kaiser, Author, consultant, trainer

<https://www.challengingbehavior.com>

When children get kicked out of child care or elementary school, many of them soon learn that no one believes in their ability to succeed and at the same time, their families, frantic to keep their jobs and lives from crumbling, struggle to find their children new school placements or child care spots. Leading a program for young children has never been easy. You play a crucial role in making it possible for children with challenging behavior to remain in school, develop positive relationships with their peers and adults, learn appropriate ways to express their needs, and be ready to learn. However, these goals can only be met when leaders believe in them and have the skills to develop and lead a team that supports them.

Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3

F3: Top Tips to Prevent, Reduce, and Address Toddler Aggression.

Raelene Ostberg, Director

Thriving Together, LLC

<https://www.thriving-together.com/>

Identify common triggers for toddler aggression and learn techniques to reduce toddler aggressive behaviors. Identify coaching tips for challenging toddler moments that will build self-regulation skills, help toddlers cope with strong feelings, and increase calm in your care environment.

Toddlers

F5: Take Your Power Back: Behavior Mastery

Ron Shuali, M.Ed., Transformational Speaker

Planet Earth

www.ronspeak.com

Laugh out loud and learn the 5 steps to immediately improve your classroom behavior through a proven effective behavior modification system using auditory, visual and kinesthetic cues. This system addresses all children, including the king and queen of the classroom. The participants will be experiencing the same positive physical and emotional sensations that their students will experience. These sensations and experiences will give the participants a stronger understanding and connection to the children and how to create a positive classroom environment. Don't miss this workshop!

Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3, Adults, Families

G. LEARNING EXPERIENCES, STRATEGIES, AND CURRICULUM

G1: Block Play: Hands on Experiences!

Katherine Begin, Early Childhood Consultant, Adjunct Faculty

Fisher College

This workshop focuses on fostering an understanding of how children learn best through hands-on experiencing and how block play is an ideal way to promote cognitive development in preschoolers. Participants will learn about the developmental stages of block play; discuss the value of block play and discuss strategies for being effective facilitators for optimal learning in the block play arena.

Toddlers, Preschool, Kindergarten

G2: Once Upon Your Time: Telling Your Own Story of Triumphs Over Troubles to Uplift Others

Holly Elissa Bruno, MA, JD

Holly Elissa Bruno Keynote & Team Building, LLC

<http://www.hollyelissabruno.com>

When you feel uplifted by someone's story, do you ever imagine your story could inspire others? Your "once upon a time" story that authentically describes you overcoming a daunting difficulty you feared you could never conquer can inspire. Want to learn how? Not only will children (and adults) be spellbound, they will learn a lesson about everyday courage and hope.

Families

G3: The Magic and Mystery of Puppetry

Laura Cassidy, Early Childhood Program Director

Great Lakes Waldorf Institute

greatlakeswaldorf.org

Experience the magic of puppetry to ignite imagination, teach-without-preaching and transform children's challenging behaviors. Examples of different Waldorf School-inspired puppet plays, from very simple to complex, will inspire your creativity.

Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten

G4: Teaching Compassion and Kindness at Circle Time

Kelsey Cole-Burns, Early Literacy Librarian

Vernon Area Public Library District

www.librarybonanza.com

Expand your SEL units on compassion with new read-aloud books that will get kids thinking and practicing kindness—while also demanding second readings. Teachers can take these book recommendations and extension activities straight to their toddler, preschool, and early elementary classrooms.

Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3

G6: Children and Older Adults Together: Sharing and Learning How Inter-Generational Programs Work in Our Communities

Simone DeVore, Professor Emeritus

University of Wisconsin - Whitewater

intergen@googlegroups.com

Viewers of this presentation learn how intergenerational experiences help young children, elders, and professionals to grow in their understanding of each other, form trusting relationships, and friendships. They also learn how facilitators are planning and implementing intergenerational learning experiences.

Simone invites viewers to watch the film "The Growing Season" either before or after the presentation. The film is available on vimeo with a cost of \$3.99 for a 24-hour streaming period; to stream anytime, the cost is \$9.99. <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/thegrowingseasondoc>. The filmmaker Evan Briggs spent three years in a shared site program that houses a care facility for elders and a preschool.

Before and after the conference, viewers can participate in an email-based Google group discussion called "Facilitating Inter-Generational Programs in Our Communities". The group discussion will remain available to share questions, insights, resources, and experiences with intergenerational care and education. Please, email intergencare21@gmail.com and request information about joining the group.

Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, 4K

G7: Adoption Matters: Welcoming Children Who Were Adopted and their Families through Our Language, Actions, and Understanding

Robin Fox, Interim Dean

University of Wisconsin - Whitewater

Many of us know children who were adopted either domestically and internationally but there has not been an increase in the training for teachers and administrators related to the topic of adoption. In this presentation we will discuss how to welcome and support children who were adopted (along with their families) through thoughtful curriculum, material selection, and language.

Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3, Grades 4-5, Adults, Families

G8: Tips and Tricks for a Virtual Classroom

Shannon Frye, kindergarten teacher

Whitewater Unified Schools

<https://www.lincs.wwusd.org/page/3075>

Join this session, to learn a wide variety of tips and tricks to navigating the virtual classroom including Seesaw hacks, Zoom fun, Google ideas, and to learn about a wide variety of secrets that will make your online teaching, communicating, and creating so much easier.

4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3, Grades 4-5

G9: Could There Be A Formula For Success in Early Childhood Education? Ideas for Empowering Your Classroom and Teaching

Staci Hefty, Curriculum Director

Inspire Early Childhood

inspireearlychildhood.com

Bob Davis, Owner

Inspire Early Childhood

Shannon Gibbons, Character Trait and Social Emotional Coordinator

Inspire Early Childhood

Elise Hansen, Director

Inspire Early Childhood

What are the factors that allow some to thrive when others may struggle? What skills and mindsets will be critical to our students' success as they face the challenges of their future? Recent research indicates that character traits like persistence, creativity, curiosity, optimism, courage, zest and growth mindset might be the best predictors of future success. We, at Inspire Early Childhood are excited to share our strategies for developing these important qualities in students through an engaging and exciting project approach-based pedagogy that can be applied to any context or setting. As we support and enhance what children do naturally through following child interests, asking questions and deep investigations, they develop important strategies for learning and tools to allow them to be more successful for years to come.

Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, 4K

G10: Creating Class Books in the Early Childhood Classroom

Jean Hoffmann, 4K teacher

Plymouth Joint School District

Class books are an engaging resource to include young learners in fostering a love of reading. Families are given an opportunity to be included in their child's learning and are given a keepsake of their child's book pages at the end of the year. Books are based on popular childrens literature, holidays and seasons. Many templates included.

Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten

G11: Embracing Virtual Student Teachers

Jennalee Johnson, Lead Teacher

University of Whitewater Children's Center

During the fall semester of 2020, Jennalee embraced virtual student teachers into the classroom and the experience promoted so much growth and reflection in her professional life. Jennalee also noted the positive influence using technology to create relationships with children, families, and student teachers. During a year like no other the partnership created with her student teachers supported the classrooms both while classes were in session and during COVID exposure closures. Jennalee hopes to share her experience to provide ideas and inspiration for incorporating virtual student teachers and/or volunteers in your classroom.

Preschool, 4K

G12: Musical Moments With Your Children

Kathleen Lathrop, Teacher, Inclusive Diversity Director

Growing Together Childcare

What to do with our children musically? Benefits of including music and movement in your day. Providing music and movement strengthens the following skills: physical development, listening, social and emotional, language and communication, creativity. There are so many things you can do with music: singing, dancing, playing music instruments, coloring/painting to music. Come along with me down a musical lane.

Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten

G13: 8 Before 8: Multiple Intelligences in Early Childhood Education

Emily Lian, Curriculum Developer & Trainer

Ivy Kids Systems LLC

The theory of Multiple Intelligences was originated by Harvard psychologist Dr. Howard Gardner and later adopted by the field of education to challenge the idea of a standard measure of intelligence. This approach to learning is inherently applicable to early childhood education, where teachers should make it a priority to connect with each student and highlight their strengths. Providing students with multiple opportunities to engage with new concepts can positively impact student outcomes from a whole-child perspective, not just an academic one. This session will provide an overview of Dr. Gardner's 8 Multiple Intelligences and offer practical examples for incorporating all 8 intelligences into each and every age group within a preschool setting. Participants will have the chance to reflect upon how they can break out of the mold as educators to apply flexible thinking and bring more creativity into their classrooms.

Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten

G14: Let's Work

Erica Lien, Director

PleasantTime Child Care Center

Let's get our energy out and focus in. Getting the kids moving is not just great for their bodies, it is great for their brains too. This workshop will share different resource that work as transition activities or longer activities. There will be activities that work for toddlers to school agers.

Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3, Grades 4-5

G15: Combining Gaming and Teaching

Crystal Mazur, Teacher

The Geeky Panda
www.TheGeekyPanda.com

Dora Jacobson, Teacher

The Geeky Panda

For this presentation, we will explore some of the different ways to bring game theory into the classroom, how to introduce young children to games, and how to adjust games to fit the needs of the classroom.

Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3, Grades 4-5

G16: More Than Circle Time: Let the 5 Early Literacy Practices Improve Your Classroom

Experience

Erin Mendoza, Early Literacy Specialist

Kenosha Public Library
<https://www.mykpl.info/>

Shawn Wolf, Early Literacy Specialist

Kenosha Public Library

The library offers more than just books! Learn about how your local library system can support your program in many ways. We will focus on the five early literacy practices and how to incorporate them throughout the day. Learn tips to maximize the development of early literacy skills with books, songs, flannelboard stories, and other classroom resources. Participants will see early literacy practices at work as we explore a variety of books including traditional favorites, new books, and diverse titles. Participants will be sent an electronic copy of a lesson plan and classroom material to put into action in their classrooms.

Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten

G17: Neurologically Integrated (Embedded) Pictograph Mnemonics Establishes Letter Sound

Proficiency

Robert Meyer, Publisher

Ventris Learning

In order to learn to read and write, all students must memorize non-meaningful, abstract symbols, to which names, sounds, and motor movements have been arbitrarily assigned. A neurologically integrated (embedded) pictograph mnemonic method will be presented that: appeals to students' right (visual) gestalt hemisphere; transforms abstract symbols into meaningful letters; teaches the sounds while acknowledging the names (e.g. Piasta, Purdura, Wagner, 2010); and teaches letter shapes in an integral motor plan/order. This approach integrates elements of synthetic phonics (see Parker, 2019) with developmentally appropriate letter formation instruction and is consistent with the Simple View of Reading (Gough and Tunmer, 1986) and Orthographic Mapping (see Kilpatrick, 2019) models of scientifically-based reading. The development of word-reading skills builds upon letter sound automaticity in the lower level skills, leading to reading fluency and comprehension essential for all children, not just those who evidence language impairment (LI) or difficulties learning to read.

4K

G18: Music and Movement: An Effective Teaching Approach to Enhance Children’s Learning and Development

Vincent Nunes, Songwriter/Performer

Lighthouse Records

<http://www.VincentNunes.com>

In this workshop early childhood professionals will learn how age-appropriate, interactive music is an effective teaching approach for early learners. The songs and activities presented in this workshop are specifically written for the purpose of enhancing curriculum modules, engaging children’s imagination, encouraging them to move in a relevant manner, and helping them participate in shared community values. By incorporating music, which encourages the development of both academic and social skills, teachers will heighten and reinforce their instructional practices.

Preschool, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3, Adults, Families

G19: Science and Math for Every Child, Everyday

Melinda O’Connor, Speaker, Trainer

Melinda O’Connor, LLC

www.melindaconnor.com

This presentation will examine ways science and math learning opportunities are all around us. We will identify and practice strategies for incorporating science and math into daily routines, while discussing key vocabulary for early learners that often accompanies science and math thinking. The outcome is that participants will develop a plan that outlines where, when and how science or math learning can, and will, be implemented into a current routine.

Preschool, Kindergarten

G20: Lunch and Clean-Up? Using Unlikely Times in Your Classroom Day to Teach New Words

Naomi Rahn, Assistant Professor

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

This presentation will focus on how to teach vocabulary words during parts of the preschool day that are often underutilized as teaching opportunities, like mealtimes and transitions. Participants will learn a 5-step process for teaching vocabulary across classroom routines and activities. The presenter will share practical strategies for selecting vocabulary words to teach, evidence-based strategies for teaching words within activities, and examples for modifying teaching strategies for children with special needs. Participants will have access to an activity matrix form, which they will be able to use during the presentation to plan for teaching words across activities in their own classroom.

Preschool

G21: Aesthetic choices in room design : Are you sabotaging your classroom?

Dawn Rouse, Asst Professor and Program Director of ECMC

University of Wisconsin – La Crosse

One of the most overlooked elements of classroom management is the aesthetic choices made by teachers. Are you unwittingly sabotaging yourself with overwhelming colors, cluttered visual arrangements or poorly designed pathways through the room? Are you unknowingly creating guidance problems which could be solved through thoughtful design? Good design is not out of your reach or your budget! In our hour together, the concepts of aesthetics in classroom design will be discussed with examples of classrooms that could use a makeover or are adding value to the learning environment.

Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3, Grades 4-5

G22: Infants and Toddlers as Capable Humans: Introduction to the R.I.E philosophy

Dawn Rouse, Asst Professor and Program Director - ECMC program

University of Wisconsin – La Crosse

Come and learn more about the philosophy of Educaring based on the teachings of Magda Gerber. When infants and toddlers are treated with authentic respect, we see them develop secure relationships with adults who see them as competent problem solvers. The adult does not exist to move the child from task to task, care routine to care routine but rather serves as an observer and facilitator in exploration of the expanding world of the child. When the child and adult engage in respectful negotiation during routine times such as diapering, eating, and dressing a more thoughtful relationship can develop based on the acknowledgement of the sentient autonomy of the child. This presentation can help you to think through the times of day that feel hectic, unpleasant and rushed. As Magda would say, “Unbusy yourself”

Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten

G23: Make Stories Come Alive!

Jayanti Tambe Roy, Professor

De Anza College

During this workshop we will explore the process young children go through as they learn their second language, the different stages of second language acquisition and how this process differs from first language acquisition. We will learn the most effective instructional strategies and assessment practices to support dual language learners as well as consider ideas to help engage their families in early childhood programs.

Preschool

G24: Creating a Music-Full Classroom: Songs, Fingerplays and Sing-able Books Everyone Can Use!

Carole Stephens, Early Childhood Music Specialist

Macaroni Soup

www.macaronisoup.com

Do your student’s turn to see “Who’s singing?” Do they giggle while their fingers wiggle a rhyme? Can you sing them a book and make flannelboard pieces to go with it? Let’s explore how to integrate music fluidly into all parts of your day!

Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten

G25: Know Better, Do Better: Making Informed Choices in Early Childhood Music

Carole Stephens, Early Childhood Music Specialist

Macaroni Soup

www.macaronisoup.com

Why do we sing, tap, march and dance with young children? It’s good for them! Do you find yourself piggybacking apples, pumpkins, snowmen and more onto Ten Little Indians or Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed? Let’s investigate the sources and histories of some of the songs and tunes used in children’s music, perhaps finding replacements that enrich learning, delight our littles but do no harm. Let’s teach smarter!

Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Families

G26: Tiny Tunes for Terrific Little Learners

Carole Stephens, Early Childhood Music Specialist

Macaroni Soup

www.macaronisoup.com

Infants learn by moving through their environment from birth – wiggling, touching and reaching. Toddlers develop critical skills by stretching their bodies, honing vocal capabilities, and finding ways to relate to others socially. Developmentally appropriate music and movement activities provide just what a little one needs to promote brain growth, language skills and coordination. Have a baby doll or baby-sized stuffed animal available for this class.

Infants, Toddlers

G27: Animals Manias: Frogs, Turtles and Snakes

David Stokes, Educator/Naturalist/Entertainer

The Frog Chorus Nature Education

www.dwstokes.com

Through the use of songs, sign-language, puppets, live animals (up close views) and humor David Stokes will share his unique enthusiasm for Animals and our connection to them. Frogs, Turtles & Snakes are some of the most interesting and sometimes misunderstood Animals. Teaching young children the REALITY of these creatures is very important.

Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3, Grades 4-5, Adults, Families

G28: How to Use Pinterest for Early Childhood STEAM Investigations

Wade Tillett, Associate Professor

University of Wisconsin - Whitewater

Wade Tillett will describe an easy way to turn Pinterest projects into viable early childhood STEAM investigations. The method will involve finding an inspiring Pinterest project, identifying the phenomenon that the project explores, brainstorming how to experiment with this phenomenon, experimenting on your own, and then designing a provocative exploratory environment for children to investigate on their own. He will discuss the purposes of Pinterest and early childhood learning, as well as how and why to choose open-ended process over close-ended product. Wade will explain and share a graphic organizer filled with tips that will take you through these steps to turn that inspiring Pinterest photo in to inspiring early childhood STEAM investigations.

Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3, Grades 4-5, Adults, Families

H. PLANNING, REFLECTION, AND EVALUATION

H1: Common Money Mistakes

Victor Frasher, Director of Community Engagement

Educators Credit Union

www.ecu.com

Are you interested in common money mistakes and ways to avoid making them? This session will talk about twelve common money mistakes people and families make and give tips on how to avoid them.

Adults

H2: Mindfulness and Self-Care

Michelle Weirich, ECE Instructor

Blackhawk Technical College

The past year has been overwhelming for many of us. As educators, we often forget to care for ourselves. In this workshop, we will define the benefits of mindfulness, describe strategies for self-care and wellness, and describe specific classroom practices to incorporate mindfulness.

Adults

I. PROFESSIONALISM

I1: Grassroots Advocacy

Corrine Hendrickson, Family Child Care Provider and Registry approved Tier 3 trainer, mentor/consultant

Corrine's Little Explorers

Kyra Swenson, Early Childhood Educator

Brooke Skidmore, Co-Owner

The Growing Tree

Have you ever wanted to address your concerns to elected officials in order to create needed changes in the early care and education/child care system? This training is for you. You will learn how to tell your story, articulate what it is you are asking for, and the various mediums to do so.

Adults

I2: Using Vision Boards to Support Self-Care in Our Workplaces

Anne Tillett, ECE4U Coordinator and Advisor

University of Wisconsin - Whitewater

<https://www.uww.edu/coeps/departments/ece4u>

A vision board is a helpful tool in working toward any goal. During this workshop, participants will create their own vision board. The content of the vision board can be personally selected, but the example provided will be focused on self-care within a workplace setting. Participants can explore Canva, a free online program, but any materials/medium can be used. Together, we will work through the process of thinking about self-care, how to visualize it, and how to make it meaningful.

Adults

I3: "At Least I Can Do It From Home:" Creating Accessible Professional Development Through a Book Club

Nicole Willard, Pre-Kindergarten Teacher, Doctoral Candidate

Windmill School and Northeastern University

Accessing professional development can be a challenge for many early educators. Time, financial limitations, and lack of physical access create barriers to accessing professional development. These challenges have been compounded by the onset of COVID-19 which has left educators feeling isolated from their community. Educators are seeking out professional learning opportunities that are beyond webinars and that allow for connections. This presentation will review the implementation of a virtual book club in a child care center in Ontario, Canada as a way to mitigate barriers to professional development.

Adults

J. SPECIAL NEEDS, DISABILITIES, AND INCLUSIVE PRACTICES

J1: An Introduction to Feeding and Selective Eating for Early Childhood Professionals- A Needed Interdisciplinary Approach

James Nuse, Adjunct Instructor, Director of Special Education
University of Wisconsin - Whitewater, St. Clair County RESA

This presentation will introduce early childhood professionals to the topic of pediatric feeding concerns and selective eating. The focus of this training is introductory in nature and meant to broaden the current knowledge base as the topic applies to early childhood professionals. In particular, participants will learn about: the differences between pediatric feeding disorders and selective eating concerns, the necessary interdisciplinary team approach for effective outcomes, and how eating behaviors can impact the early childhood setting. Participants will also have an opportunity to learn about evidence-based assessments and interventions used address these concerns by professionals with specific training in pediatric feeding.
Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten

J2: Early Childhood and Behavior Analysis: Applications of a Science to Support Early Childhood Educators

James Nuse, Adjunct Instructor, Director of Special Education
University of Wisconsin - Whitewater, St. Clair County RESA

Kelly Adamek, Great Start Readiness Program Coordinator and Early Childhood Specialist
Macomb Intermediate School District

This presentation will introduce early childhood educators to the field of applied behavior analysis (ABA). A brief overview of the science and history will lead into practical, classroom applications of ABA to support the learning needs of children within inclusive settings. Additionally, participants will learn about introductory strategies to address challenging behavior. Lastly, this presentation will provide participants with the opportunity to learn about the basic concepts related to ABA and how to apply these strategies to young children with unique needs.
Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3

J3: Supporting Healthy Gender Development in EC Programs

Erica Schepp, Director
University of Wisconsin - Whitewater Children's Center

Many Early Childhood professionals have felt unprepared to fully support children and families with healthy gender identity development. This session will provide an introductory to gender inclusive language and how to talk with children about gender. In addition, strategies for making your entire program welcoming, inclusive, and supportive of children who are gender fluid.
Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Adults, Families

J4: Trauma Sensitive/Informed Care
Nicole Wier, Psychiatric Care Technician
Mendota Mental Health Institute

Through this presentation, Nicole will provide resources to identify children who may have gone through early trauma, and best practices when interacting with and addressing their needs. This is a practice that is crucial for children raised in traumatic situations and will help avoid later adulthood stressors. Addressing trauma early, gives children a fighting chance.

Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3, Grades 4-5, Adults, Families

J5: Supporting IEPs in Early Learning
Nakia Wiley, Special Education Teacher
Madison Metropolitan School District
<https://wileynakia.wixsite.com/website>

Participants will explore how to support IEPs in early childhood settings. The importance of creating inclusive environments. The benefits of building authentic relationships with families and support services will also be explored. Participants will leave with the tools necessary to support students who have developmental delays.

Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, 4K

K. ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

K1: What Now? Reshaping Universal Preschool Collaboration for Equity
Lucinda Heimer, Associate Professor
University of Wisconsin – Whitewater

Ann Ramminger, Consultant
Early Childhood Solutions Consulting

Now is the time to create plans in early education that are funded in new ways, engage children in respectful authentic contexts, and build pathways founded on the wisdom in the wonder. In our work we use critical approaches and explore the potential and possibilities of collaborative Universal Preschool as one creative approach. We critique the use of terminology that lumps early education in with formal K-12 systems and suggest consideration for how, as a nation, we define and label early education as a unique, but related system of support for children and families, birth onward. We propose through our research and continuing stories that we have an opportunity to shift the education paradigm from struggling and survival to one that embraces wonder and creativity across developmental, racial, cultural, economic contexts- we can push against dominant structures to honor each human life. In our presentation we will:

1. Identify the current trends in collaborative Universal Preschool efforts in the U.S.
2. Explore perspective taking and develop strategies to add or amplify voices in existing or potential Universal Preschool efforts.
3. Use case studies to craft future programs in early childhood education in terms of funding, structure, access and curriculum.
4. Share ways to advocate for equitable, relevant and meaningful early childhood practices in cross-sector conversations and efforts.

Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Adults, Families