



UW-WHITEWATER  
**EARLY CHILDHOOD  
CONFERENCE**

**APRIL 5 - 6, 2024**

# Friday, April 5th Sessions

## Full-Day Workshop (8:30am - 3:30pm, Lunch break 11:30am - 12:30pm)

### **10. Celebration of Children's Art and Literature in the Classroom**

**Terrie Schmoldt, Teacher**

Oregon School District

**Marissa Schmoldt, Coach**

Bubbles 101

Prepare for a full day of resources and fun! We will also talk about classroom management of how to balance large groups, small groups, and independent activities. We will share methods of journaling that can be used as formative assessment, parent communication, and guidance for further instruction. Get ready to paint many different ways as we will pair painting with children's books through author studies, featuring favorite children's authors/illustrators such as Steven Kellogg, Mercer Meyer, Tommy De Paola, Lois Ehlert, and several more. Bring a colleague to laugh, play, and learn together!. **Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3**

## Half-Day Workshop Session One (8:30am - 11:30am)

### **30. Building Brains with Music**

**Maryann "Mar." Harman, Educational Consultant/Owner**

Music With Mar.

Building Brains with Music presents brain research findings in a format for practical usage through music and movement to enhance all areas of development. The approach of this speaker is not teaching music; rather, it is using music to teach. Research has shown music is the only activity that utilizes the entire brain. Combining that with knowing the early years are the ones where we make the most difference, this workshop demonstrates through movement and activity how to use music to build brains to create children that are competent, capable and confident.

**Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten**

### **31. Stories, Science, and Serendipity: A Sensory Approach to Exploring Curricula through Drama, Creative Movement, and Storytelling**

**Edie Baran, Arts Integration Teaching Artist**

ArtSpark Productions

This workshop will have three major points of focus: 1) exploring basic dramatic techniques, movement, and music, and how these three elements can be integrated in all curriculum subjects; 2) we'll focus on enhancing literacy skills using a few favorite classroom stories, and 3) we'll explore integrating drama with basic science curriculum, such as life cycle of plants, and the water cycle. By integrating the academic process with drama, you will help your students engage their imaginations, utilize all their senses, and expand their understanding of their own physicality. This workshop is adaptable to your current curriculum needs. All students, regardless of abilities, will have a role in this integration of drama, literacy, and science. Wear comfortable clothing – we'll be moving around! **4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3**

### **32. Trees and Me: Project Learning (PLT) Workshop**

**Tara Von Dollen, Adjunct Instructor, Environmental Educator**

University of Wisconsin - Whitewater

During this workshop, participants will be involved in hands-on learning surrounding PLT's "Trees & Me" guide. In becoming familiar with this curriculum, participants will be encouraged to consider how to meet the needs of diverse learners while actively engaging with various activities both indoors and outdoors. Participants will have the option to purchase the "Trees & Me" guide and will learn about additional PLT resources. **Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten**

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## Half-Day Workshop Session One (8:30am - 11:30am)

### **33. Routines Rule! Workshop**

**Linda Armas, Educational Consultant**

Prepare Parents LLC

Design a personalized plan that will be ready for implementation immediately after this workshop! We'll utilize the ROUTINES RULE! framework to minimize trouble spots in your role with children, and to promote positive behavior, stimulate responsibility, and enhance classroom & family harmony. Explore the tried-and-true process of creating effective routines for your professional and/or personal applications. All children, even those with difficulties, disabilities, and disorders thrive. Automatized routines make way for more time, attention, and focus for unfamiliar and challenging tasks. Under Linda's guidance, you (and your team) will design ROUTINES RULE! plans that children will gladly achieve to meet your expectations! **Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3, Grades 4-5, Adults, Families**

### **34. Lean on Me: Coaching for Performance**

**Michelle Doughty, M.Ed, School Age Director**

Kettle Moraine YMCA

Coaching staff is usually seen as a corrective tool, typically used when things have gone wrong. While it can be helpful when dealing with issues and challenges before, they become major problems; it can also be used as a positive approach to help staff grow and work on targeted areas of growth. Coaching is more than stepping in after the problem is there. This workshop will give strategies and tools so you can coach your low performing employee so that they can become one of your top performing employees. **Adults**

### **35. Compassionate Behavior Inventions**

**Anita D'Abbraccio, Behavior Interventionist**

Racine Unified School District

The presenter will share how some situational realities can affect behavior using a lens of compassion combined with high expectations. This examination will lead attendees to identify the function of many common behaviors. In addition, attendees will be trained in ways to identify behavior function. The presenter will share positive behavior strategies for each of these functions of behavior in a pragmatic, user-friendly format that will transfer easily to the attendee's workplace. **Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3, Grades 4-5**

### **36. Understanding and Unpacking Inclusion**

**Dr. Nakia Wiley, Coordinator of SEA Learning and Anti-Racist Evaluation & IEP Practices**

Madison Metropolitan School District

Systems that do not serve the diverse needs of growing and developing humans warrant exploration. The push for collective responsibility to develop and sustain inclusive school settings echoes at every level in education, especially in early learning. Participants will explore how implicit biases have negatively impacted the education system and how to combat the isms of oppression. Concrete strategies and tools that support anti-oppressive practices in school settings will be provided. Lastly, methods for co-creating communities of care in will be presented.

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

### **37. Exploring Picture Books with Disabled Characters**

**Lauren Zepp, Assistant Professor**

University of Wisconsin - Whitewater

This hands-on session will prepare early childhood educators to include textual representations of disability in their classrooms toward the goal of creating a more inclusive learning environment. Participants will discuss criteria for selecting texts that feature disabled characters, examine a selection of inclusive picture books, and explore ways to use these texts as a springboard for conversations with young children about disabilities. Such supportive discussions can help young children develop awareness of disabilities, reduce stigma associated with disabilities, and foster greater levels of inclusive friendships between children with and without disabilities. **Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3**

# Friday, April 5th Sessions

## Half-Day Workshop Session One (8:30am - 11:30am)

### **38. Promoting Self-Control and Attention Skills in Young Children**

**Raelene Ostberg, Director**

Thriving Together, LLC

Explore the development of children's higher-level thinking skills known as "Executive Functions". Gain evidence-based strategies, adult responses, hands-on tools, and fun activities that will help young children learn to self-regulate and pay attention. Consider adult approaches that will increase buy-in and encourage children to choose to follow directions. Explore co-regulation techniques for group settings that help children learn to calm independently. Have fun and get inspired listening to entertaining, real-life stories that show the strategies in action. Engage with other educators during a round-robin brainstorming session as you compile ideas to address the reasons behind a child's lack of focus. When implemented, these endeavors will bolster children's ability to self-regulate, pay attention, and override unhelpful instinctual responses such as aggression, refusals, and disrupting others.

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

### **39. What's Wrong with You? The Incorrect Question**

**Sandy Queen, Director**

Lifeworks

We have all heard the question: What's WRONG with you? when a child continues to behave in ways we find problematic. We often ask that question without knowing what led to these behaviors. The appropriate question: What happened to you? This session looks at the very early development of the brain and the situations and environmental influences that lead to the development of the trauma response. Early traumatic experiences have life-long effects and while we cannot change the experience, we can provide environments that support the child to deal with these experiences (which are not registered at a cognitive level) and develop the support and care that can soften the effects of the life-changing events....that have happened to ALL of us in some way. This session is for all of us. **Infants**

## LUNCH: 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

\*If you ordered a boxed lunch, they will be available for pick-up in Hyland Hall

### **20. UWW Children's Center Tour**

**UWW Children's Center Staff**

University of Wisconsin - Whitewater

Join the UWW Children's Center staff to tour our spaces. Lead staff will be in the classrooms and break out spaces if individuals have any questions on our spaces. **Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Adults**

## Half-Day Workshop Session Two (12:30pm - 3:30pm)

### **40. Keeping Things Moving: Activated Nature Learning**

**David Stokes, Educator, Entertainer, Naturalist**

Frog Chorus Nature Education

Starting with a couple engaging songs and stories, participants will dive into Nature learning. Live animals and puppets will be "on hand" to enhance the learning. Using ASL and movement, the audience will participate in the learning. Nature topics such as Bio-Diversity and Habitats and Adaptations will be explored in a variety of ways. Door prizes will be awarded for those who stay focused.

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

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**Maryann "Mar." Harman, Educational Consultant/Owner**

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**Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten**

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### **43. Seeing Through a Clearer Lens: Understanding and Responding to the Layers of ADHD**

**Katelyn Mabry, ADHD Life Coach/Early Childhood Special Educator**

"Journey Through ADHD"

This presentation is for those looking to gain a clearer understanding of ADHD from the neurological, emotional, social, and physical experience. Leading with strengths as struggles are navigates is the approach taken. Digging into gaining control of thought life, while looking at the huge impact ADHD can have on emotional regulation, relationships, and executive function skill struggles at home and school. After exploring the "why," there will be action steps and accommodation recommendations to grow both trusted adult's and the child's awareness and response to challenges faced in home and school environments. This will be an interactive presentation! **4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3**

### **44. Staying Steady with Ourselves: Mindfulness and Compassion**

**Mare Chapman, Mindfulness-Based Feminist Psychotherapist, Teacher, Author**

Mare Chapman, LLC

This experiential workshop will explore how to apply mindfulness and compassion to the challenge of staying stable in the midst of the multiple needs that arise in child care work, whether in the classroom, among colleagues, or in administration. Through brief lecture, discussion and practice, participants will learn specific mindfulness methods to bring awareness into the present moment, and ways to offer kindness, compassion, and forgiveness to themselves when they are stressed, make a mistake, or aren't living up to expectations. **Adults**

# Friday, April 5th Sessions

## Half-Day Workshop Session Two (12:30pm - 3:30pm)

### **45. Active Music for Active Learners: Brain Food, Body Fuel**

**Carole Stephens, Early Childhood Music Specialist**

Macaroni Soup

Children learn by moving through their environment, and music helps them MOVE! Active music participation promotes tip-top brain and body growth and provides opportunities for children of all abilities to work on social, emotional and physical skills. Simple classroom management techniques make it safe for children to stretch their bodies AND brains. Bring a water bottle and dress to move! **PART ONE:** The Music & Movement Connection to Early Literacy! Humans are born with pitch and rhythm. Keeping those elements in good working order takes practice. Participatory music gives children of many abilities and interests the opportunity to acquire early literacy skills and coordination. **PART TWO:** Let's Dance! Organized dancing promotes pattern, rhythm and sequence – early literacy skills! Use manipulatives safely! Encourage children to jump and twirl without “losing control.” Make'n'Take – we'll make a prop you can use immediately! Tiny Tunes for Toddlers! Toddlers have their own vocabulary, physical abilities and experiences. Let's explore developmentally appropriate repertoire beyond “Old MacDonald”. SongSwap! Share a “sure-fire hit” from your own classrooms! **Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Families**

### **46. Is She a Boy / Is He a Girl? Supporting Children Who are Gender Fluid in Our Early Childhood Spaces**

**Erica Schepp, Professional Development Navigator**

Wisconsin Early Childhood Association - WEESN

**Dr. Robin Fox, Professor Emerita**

University of Wisconsin - Whitewater

Have you ever been approached with the questions in the title of this presentation (or something similar)? The presenters aspire to provide participants with an understanding of gender fluidity in very young children. In this session, we will discuss and expand on definitions and terminology of gender, gender stereotypes, and gender roles. The workshop will also provide a discussion of proactive strategies for working with children & families to create welcoming and inclusive spaces - including time to explore a collection of children's literature. We will also be practicing how to respond to difficult questions or conversations around gender. **Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3**

### **47. Understanding and Unpacking Inclusion**

**Dr. Nakia Wiley, Coordinator of SEA Learning and Anti-Racist Evaluation & IEP Practices**

Madison Metropolitan School District

Systems that do not serve the diverse needs of growing and developing humans warrant exploration. The push for collective responsibility to develop and sustain inclusive school settings echoes at every level in education, especially in early learning. Participants will explore how implicit biases have negatively impacted the education system and how to combat the isms of oppression. Concrete strategies and tools that support anti-oppressive practices in school settings will be provided. Lastly, methods for co-creating communities of care in will be presented.

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

### **48. Resilience and the World of Social Media**

**Sandy Queen, Director**

Lifeworks

Our changing technology has dramatically transformed how we see ourselves and each other How does this exposure affect the development of the child? Affect relationships? The place of the child in the world? This session examines how we can help children deal with the messages of media. How does exposure to the media impact our children's abilities and health and what can we do to make sure that from early ages our children find balance in this age of Social Media. What are the good things about Social Media? How can we incorporate them in a positive way? Social media is here to stay. As educators we need to be aware of the impact on our children and develop strategies to deal with this impact.

**Grades 4-5**

# Saturday, April 6th Sessions

## Session 1: 8:30am - 9:30am

### **KEYNOTE: Genius isn't just for Einstein anymore: Building a future where everyone, toddler to elder, can use their unique voice/talent to uplift our world**

**Holly Elissa Bruno, Chief Executive Officer and Keynoter**

Holly Elissa Bruno Keynotes & Team Bldg., LLC

What if I told you we all have our own brand of genius? Our brand of genius is forged in the caldron of making mistakes, facing our worst fears, overcoming barriers, and using our unique originality to make our world better.

What if we face the fact that an IQ test cannot measure multiple intelligences nor honor the genius of a neurodivergent child? Let's kiss goodbye outdated standards for genius and play our way into defining genius that abounds in early childhood programs. Kick to the curb being labeled "less than" and step out confident you are making our world better.

**Adults**

## Session 2: 9:45am - 10:45am

### **201: Pediatric Traumatic Brain Injury: Navigating a Complex Medical Diagnosis in an Educational Setting**

**Cody Marie Busch, Assistant Professor**

University of Wisconsin - Whitewater

**Katie Zirzow, Speech-Language Pathology Graduate Assistant**

University of Wisconsin - Whitewater

The field of pediatric traumatic brain injury (TBI) and the information available to guide decision making is evolving. Educators are challenged to identify successful supports and strategies for a nuanced and changing population. Further, unpredictable and inconsistent variables such as individual characteristics, severity of the TBI, socioeconomic status, co-occurring health conditions, and pre-injury functioning make quantification challenging and influence recovery trajectory. Participants will have a better understanding of the impact of TBI on the developing brain. Further, "return to learn" strategies and supports will be discussed. Finally, participants will apply the content to cases.

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

### **202. Lean on Me: Coaching for Performance**

**Michelle Doughty, M.Ed, School Age Director**

Kettle Moraine YMCA

Coaching staff is usually seen as a corrective tool, typically used when things have gone wrong. While it can be helpful when dealing with issues and challenges before, they become major problems; it can also be used as a positive approach to help staff grow and work on targeted areas of growth. Coaching is more than stepping in after the problem is there. This workshop will give strategies and tools so you can coach your low performing employee so that they can become one of your top performing employees. **Adults**

### **203: Nurturing Infants and Toddlers Through Relationship Building**

**Dr. Jean Hoffmann, Early Childhood Education Instructor**

Moraine Park Technical College

Participants will learn key ways to nurture infants and toddlers by building strong relationships. This bonding holds many long term benefits for children. Early Childhood teachers can use daily caregiving routines to strengthen relationships and understand how bonding changes as infants become toddlers. This session will also provide examples of how to build relationships through play and ways of making families feel welcome as a part of the classroom community.

**Infants, Toddlers**

# Saturday, April 6th Sessions

## Session 2: 9:45am - 10:45am

### **204. Deepening Advocacy for Early Childhood Education and Care through Collaborative Connection**

**Lucinda Heimer, Professor**

University of Wisconsin - Whitewater

#### **Panel**

ECEC Practitioners, Faculty, and/or Graduate Students

Panelists (ECEC practitioners, faculty, and/or graduate students) will share their experiences as advocates in the field of Early Childhood Education and Care. Specifically, the panelists share how collaboration, networking, and community building deepened their understanding of the ECE policy world and helped them develop and build confidence as ECEC advocates. In this session we will bring meaning to current legislation impacting our ECEC contexts by connecting studies, stories, and concrete next steps. Panelists will share their experiences and open the session to dialogue and demystify the connection between practice and policy. Key issues discussed will include pay parity, funding for ECE, and access and equity for children and families. **Adults, Families**

### **205. Seeing Through a Clearer Lens: Understanding and Responding to the Layers of ADHD**

**Katelyn Mabry, ADHD Life Couch/Early Childhood Special Educator**

"Journey Through ADHD"

This presentation is for those looking to gain a clearer understanding of ADHD from the neurological, emotional, social, and physical experience. Leading with strengths as struggles are navigated is the approach taken. Digging into gaining control of thought life, while looking at the huge impact ADHD can have on emotional regulation, relationships, and executive function skill struggles at home and school. After exploring the "why," there will be action steps and accommodation recommendations to grow both trusted adult's and the child's awareness and response to challenges faced in home and school environments. This will be an interactive presentation! **4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3**

### **206. Using Sociodramatic Play to Promote Problem Solving**

**Patty Becker, Lecturer**

University of Wisconsin - Whitewater

In this session, the presenter will share her experiences with promoting sociodramatic play and problem solving in early childhood classrooms. Participants will discuss the development of problem solving in early childhood and its importance as a life-long academic and social-emotional skill. They will explore common problem solving themes and opportunities in sociodramatic play. While engaging with sociodramatic play materials, participants will practice planning, modeling, and scaffolding problem solving strategies. **Preschool, 4K**

### **207. No Child Left on Their Behind**

**Carole Stephens, Early Childhood Music Specialist**

Macaroni Soup

Movement & Music activities facilitate physical, neurological and behavioral development – and your students will just think it's FUN! Learn easy-to-do rhythm and musical experiences you can teach on Monday. We'll use props and instruments, songs and chants – come prepared to join in! (we retain more when we actively participate just as children do!

**Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten**



# Saturday, April 6th Sessions

## Session 2: 9:45am - 10:45am

### **208. Help is Here! Finding Assistance with your Health Questions**

**Maria Morgen, Project Manager**

Early Childhood Health Consultation

Questions on health & safety for early childhood? The Early Childhood Health Consultation (ECHC) program is here to help. Join the ECHC team as they talk about best health practices for kiddos in care and become familiar with resources – like a health policy template – that participants can turn around and use immediately. In this session, let's make addressing common health & safety questions as easy as magic! The presentation materials were contributed to and reviewed by Early Childhood Health Consultation Program Director & pediatrician, Dr. Dipesh Navsaria, and Early Childhood Health Consultation Pediatric Registered Nurse Health Consultant, Kelly O'Connor. **Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, 4K**

### **209. UWW Children's Center Tour**

**UWW Children's Center Staff**

University of Wisconsin - Whitewater

Join the UWW Children's Center staff to tour our spaces. Lead staff will be in the classrooms and break out spaces if individuals have any questions on our spaces. **Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Adults**

### **211. Decrease Stress, Enhance joy, and Increase Your Success, Today!**

**Raelene Ostberg, Director**

Thriving Together, LLC

Identify what the latest neuroscience research has discovered about how stress impacts the human brain, our thinking, and the level of strain we feel. Explore five concrete strategies that you can implement immediately to train your brain to stress less and enjoy more. Have fun and get inspired listening to entertaining, real-life stories, insightful quotes, and interactive activities that show the techniques in action. Apply the practical methods to your work with young children and families to reduce stress, foster joy, improve relationships, and increase success, both personally and professionally. **Adults**

### **212. Nature's Music: Sounds in Nature, Animal and Otherwise**

**David Stokes, Educator, Entertainer, Naturalist**

Frog Chorus Nature Education

Using a live-action light sound presentation (participatory slide show), participants will make the sounds of a rainstorm, the sounds frogs make (not RIBBIT), the sounds some common birds and mammals make and sing a couple simple songs that can be used next time we see the children. A couple live animals will be "on hand" to enhance the learning.

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

### **214. Flourishing First Steps**

**Molly Fuller, Program Coordinator of Flourishing First Steps**

School District of Fort Atkinson

**Beth Nelson, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher**

School District of Fort Atkinson

Flourishing First Steps is a program in the School District of Fort Atkinson that will help littlest learners thrive! These FREE enrichment sessions are geared towards children from birth to 4 years old. With the guidance of the School District of Fort Atkinson Early Childhood staff, these free enrichment sessions are offered to children from birth through four years of age. These enrichment sessions offer parents/caregivers and their children the opportunity to learn a multitude of things through peer interaction, free play, sensory/art activities, and literacy. Children have the opportunity to strengthen their skills through exploration, discovery, and creative experiences. Parents/Caregivers have the opportunity to not only learn new and exciting ways to interact with their child/children during these sessions, but are able to ask questions to our early childhood staff about developmental milestones. **Infants, Toddlers, Preschool**

# Saturday, April 6th Sessions

## Session 2: 9:45am - 10:45am

### **215. Identification of Hearing Loss in Children & Strategies for Classroom Success**

**Kaia Feggestad, Clinical Assistant Professor**

University of Wisconsin - Whitewater

**Grace Klimek, Speech-Language Pathology Graduate Assistant**

University of Wisconsin - Whitewater

This session will outline the current process of how children are currently tested for hearing loss and the possible implications. Further, it will discuss signs of a potential hearing loss and how to proceed. Finally, the session will go over strategies to use with children who may have hearing loss or difficulties with auditory processing.

**Infants, Toddlers, Preschool**

## Session 3: 11:00am - 12:00pm

### **301. Musical Moments with Your Children**

**Kathy Lathrop, Teacher**

Growing Together Childcare

What to do with children musically? Children are sponges, soaking up all they hear and see. Music is very important. They use several senses, one or more. They hear music. They can touch and see musical instruments. They can dance, color or paint to music. Benefits of including music and movement strengthens the following skills: physical development, listening, social and emotional skills, language and communication and creativity. And it is fun!!! Learn some new songs and activities, transition ideas, and more ideas to use, see instruments one can make for a classroom, see some art ideas and stories to use for a music themed lesson plan.. **Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3**

### **302. Lean on Me: Coaching for Performance**

**Michelle Doughty, M.Ed, School Age Director**

Kettle Moraine YMCA

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**Adults**

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**Infants, Toddlers**

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**Lucinda Heimer, Professor**

University of Wisconsin - Whitewater

#### **Panel**

ECEC Practitioners, Faculty, and/or Graduate Students

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### **305. How Do You Solve a Problem Like Maria? Using the ASQ to Plan for Assessment of Play**

#### **Skills**

**Dr. Kim Horejs, Adjunct Professor/Outreach Navigator**

First Five Fox Valley/Help Me Grow Wisconsin

**Dr. Susan Steinhof, Implementation Manager**

First Five Fox Valley/Help Me Grow Wisconsin

Maria is a young mother whose child has just started childcare. It appears there are some areas of concern. How can his teachers use the ASQ to assess the child and plan for additional supportive play skills?.

**Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Families**

### **306. Maximizing the Educator Assistance Program**

**Amanda Burns, Project Manager**

Wisconsin Early Childhood Association

Come learn about an exciting new benefit that is available to the early childhood workforce in Wisconsin, for FREE! With access to counseling, health and wellness coaching, legal and financial services, and so much more—it is designed to meet you where you are, exactly when you need it: by phone, online platform, app, self-guided, or in person. To gain access to the EAP, programs must be enrolled in WEESN, which is free to join and brings many additional benefits..

**Adults**

### **307. Animal Adaptations: Fit Where You Live**

**David Stokes, Educator, Entertainer, Naturalist**

Frog Chorus Nature Education

Using human tools such as a hammer and straw, puppets, and live animals, participants will examine Animal Adaptations. Focusing on behaviors and structures, participants will compare non-human animals to themselves and ask why they are the way they are. Using riddles that can be taken home, participants will wonder about nature.

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

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## Session 3: 11:00am - 12:00pm

### **308. Help is Here! Finding Assistance with your Health Questions**

**Maria Morgen, Project Manager**

Early Childhood Health Consultation

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School District of Fort Atkinson

Flourishing First Steps is a program in the School District of Fort Atkinson that will help littlest learners thrive! These FREE enrichment sessions are geared towards children from birth to 4 years old. With the guidance of the School District of Fort Atkinson Early Childhood staff, these free enrichment sessions are offered to children from birth through four years of age. These enrichment sessions offer parents/caregivers and their children the opportunity to learn a multitude of things through peer interaction, free play, sensory/art activities, and literacy. Children have the opportunity to strengthen their skills through exploration, discovery, and creative experiences. Parents/Caregivers have the opportunity to not only learn new and exciting ways to interact with their child/children during these sessions, but are able to ask questions to our early childhood staff about developmental milestones. **Infants, Toddlers, Preschool**

### **312. Identification of Hearing Loss in Children & Strategies for Classroom Success**

**Kaia Feggestad, Clinical Assistant Professor**

University of Wisconsin - Whitewater

**Grace Klimek, Speech-Language Pathology Graduate Assistant**

University of Wisconsin - Whitewater

This session will outline the current process of how children are currently tested for hearing loss and the possible implications. Further, it will discuss signs of a potential hearing loss and how to proceed. Finally, the session will go over strategies to use with children who may have hearing loss or difficulties with auditory processing.

**Infants, Toddlers, Preschool**

# Saturday, April 6th Sessions

## Session 3: 11:00am - 12:00pm

### **314. Oral Language and Phonemic Awareness Development in Young Children**

**Anika Paaren-Sdano, PhD, A/OGA, Assistant Professor, Chair of Education**

Saint Mary's University of Minnesota

This session will focus on the theoretical model of the Simple View of Reading (Gough & Tunmer, 1986) and the importance of phonemic awareness development in young children. Phonemic awareness is a predictor of later reading achievement, and is related to oral language development as well as word-recognition skills. Participants will learn about phonemic awareness and related activities to use their classrooms. **Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3**

### **315. Dialogic Reading: How We Read to Preschoolers Matters!**

**Cindy Prendergast, Early Learning Technical Assistance Specialist**

CESA 1

Reading TO children helps them build vocabulary, language and cognitive skills. But did you know that reading WITH children can also build connections, help them to develop empathy, and to understand emotions? In this session, we will explore a type of shared interactive book reading, Dialogic Reading, that is a conversational and interactive way to read books with individual or small groups of children. We will learn about the steps to dialogic reading, share resources to support planning for dialogic reading, and have examples of books and prompts that you can take back to your classroom and use right away. **Adults**

## **LUNCH: 11:30 am - 12:30 pm**

\*If you ordered a boxed lunch, they will be available for pick-up in Hyland Hall

# Saturday, April 6th Sessions

## Session 4: 1:00pm - 2:30pm

### **401. Bubbles 101**

**Terrie Schmoldt, Teacher**  
Oregon School District

**Marissa Schmoldt, Coach**  
Bubbles 101

Are you ready to get your hands wet and participate in bubble experiments? This is a hands-on, hands wet, participatory session of fun and exploration as we conduct a plethora of bubble experiments..

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

### **402. Compassionate Behavior Inventions**

**Anita D'Abbraccio, Behavior Interventionist**  
Racine Unified School District

The presenter will share how some situational realities can affect behavior using a lens of compassion combined with high expectations. This examination will lead attendees to identify the function of many common behaviors. In addition, attendees will be trained in ways to identify behavior function. The presenter will share positive behavior strategies for each of these functions of behavior in a pragmatic, user-friendly format that will transfer easily to the attendee's workplace. **Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3, Grades 4-5**

### **403. Adults at Play**

**Edie Baran, Arts Integration Teaching Artist**  
ArtSpark Productions

When was the last time that you got to play without all the responsibilities of being The Teacher? Now's your chance to stop the clock, turn off those phones, relax and play! This is your opportunity to engage in creative dramatic play from the adult perspective. While most of the activities can be adapted for use in your classrooms, the focus for this workshop will be on YOU. We will play numerous theatre games (no need to get nervous – there's no performance), expand our creativity, and top the workshop off with some relaxation time and activities. Wear comfortable clothes you can move in. This workshop is a combination of theatre games, music, movement, and silence. **Adults**

### **404. Seeing Through a Clearer Lens: Understanding and Responding to the Layers of ADHD**

**Katelyn Mabry, ADHD Life Coach/Early Childhood Special Educator**  
"Journey Through ADHD"

This presentation is for those looking to gain a clearer understanding of ADHD from the neurological, emotional, social, and physical experience. Leading with strengths as struggles are navigates is the approach taken. Digging into gaining control of thought life, while looking at the huge impact ADHD can have on emotional regulation, relationships, and executive function skill struggles at home and school. After exploring the "why," there will be action steps and accommodation recommendations to grow both trusted adult's and the child's awareness and response to challenges faced in home and school environments. This will be an interactive presentation! **4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3**

### **405. STEM Stories: Facts and Fiction to Inspire Curiosity**

**Shawn Wolf, Early Literacy Specialist**  
Kenosha Public Library

Inspire and delight the children in your care with fiction and nonfiction STEM picture books. Building early literacy skills is not just for circle time, and STEM stories and activities are ideal for building critical early literacy skills. Experience our favorite STEM stories through book talks, tips for sharing books with children, and ideas for flannelboard stories, songs, and movement. Learn to identify key elements in a story to plan engaging extension activities. Discover the variety of resources that your public library can provide to support your STEM curriculum. **Preschool**

# Saturday, April 6th Sessions

## Session 4: 1:00pm - 2:30pm

### **406. Breaking Free from Candyland**

**Crystal Mazur, Special Education Teacher**

The Geeky Panda

### **Dora Jacobson, Lead Mixed Age Preschool**

Blackthorn Consulting

This presentation will focus on board games, table top games, and LARPing systems as a means to target specific learning objectives without sacrificing play or fun. **Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten**

### **407. Finger Plays and Movement Songs using Props to Make Them Pop!**

**Colleen Hannafin, Early Childhood Music Presenter**

North Side Music

Music and movement from fingers to whole body! Finger-plays develop rhythm of words (language development) while introducing new vocabulary, math concepts, following directions and develop listening skills. Traditional and original finger-plays and action rhymes to use with your hands, puppets, flannel boards and props that will make your songs pop!

**Toddlers, Preschool, 4K**

### **408. Creating Welcoming and Inclusive ECE Spaces: A Behind the Scenes Guide**

**Erica Schepp, Professional Development Navigator**

Wisconsin Early Childhood Association - WEESN

**Gretchen Paquette, WEESN Program Coach**

Wisconsin Early Childhood Association - WEESN

This session aims to provide ECE professionals with the tools and knowledge they need to create a more equitable and inclusive early childhood education environment for children and families. We will explore participant's existing practices & materials through an equity lens. Through a workshop approach, participants will collaborate with other professionals to share meaningful ways to update or edit program-specific materials such as handbooks, enrollment forms, messaging boards, and external communications. Presenters will share ideas to reframe traditional ECE projects to be more inclusive of all identities. **Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3, Grades 4-5, Adults, Families**

### **409. Robust Vocabulary Instruction Using Children's Literature**

**Lauren Zepp, Assistant Professor**

University of Wisconsin - Whitewater

Vocabulary is one of the strongest predictors of reading comprehension, and vocabulary development plays a key role in both oral language acquisition and reading readiness. This practical session will prepare early childhood educators to deliver robust vocabulary instruction using children's literature. Participants will learn how to select valuable/Tier 2 words from grade-level texts as well as how to utilize a three-step process to deliver robust vocabulary instruction. Participants will also learn about CROWD prompts for varying question formats to promote greater engagement in dialogic reading. **Toddlers, Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3, Grades 4-5**

### **410. Developing Early Literacy Through Music**

**Carole Stephens, Early Childhood Music Specialist**

Macaroni Soup

Come explore several aspects of literacy learning for young children. Visual Literacy is the ability to interpret, negotiate and make meaning from images. Social/Emotional Literacy includes interacting with others in appropriate and meaningful ways. Physical Literacy is about acquiring skills that stretch our bodies and connect neural pathways simultaneously. **Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten**

# Saturday, April 6th Sessions

## Session 4: 1:00pm - 2:30pm

### **411. Routines Rule!**

**Linda Armas, Educational Consultant**

Prepare Parents LLC

Use the ROUTINES RULE! framework in your classroom and/or home to promote positive behavior, stimulate responsibility, and enhance classroom & family harmony. Explore the tried-and-true process of creating effective routines for your professional and/or personal applications. All children, even those with difficulties, disabilities, and disorders thrive. Automatized routines make way for more time, attention, and focus for unfamiliar and challenging tasks. Create and implement ROUTINES RULE! strategies in your role to help the children in your life to live and learn to their fullest. **Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3, Grades 4-5**

## Session 5: 2:45pm - 4:15pm

### **501. Bubbles 102**

**Terrie Schmoltdt, Teacher**

Oregon School District

**Marissa Schmoltdt, Coach**

Bubbles 101

Are you ready to get your hands wet and participate in bubble experiments? This is a hands-on, hands-wet, participatory session of fun and exploration as we conduct a plethora of bubble experiments. Okay, many of you may have been to Bubbles 101 and want to do more! I love it when you come back with friends and colleagues to have fun, learn, and blow bubbles!! We can only blow so many BUBBLES in an hour, so this year we are planning an additional hour with more bubble experiments! Bubbles 101 is not a prerequisite. **Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3**

### **502. Compassionate Behavior Inventions**

**Anita D'Abbraccio, Behavior Interventionist**

Racine Unified School District

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### **503. Creating Welcoming and Inclusive ECE Spaces: A Behind the Scenes Guide**

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# Saturday, April 6th Sessions

## Session 5: 2:45pm - 4:15pm

### **504. Choosing and Using Welcoming and Inclusive Books**

**Amanda Burns, Project Manager**

Wisconsin Early Childhood Association

**Evy Gildrie-Voyles, Relief Squad Educator**

Wisconsin Early Childhood Association

This hands-on workshop will share skills and strategies for selecting and using children's literature to foster a classroom environment where all children and families are welcomed, valued, and treated as vital members of the community.

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

### **505. There's No Such Thing as a Bad Child; Reframing the Response to Unwanted Behaviors in the Classroom.**

**Crystal Mazur, Special Education Teacher**

The Geeky Panda

**Dora Jacobson, Lead Mixed Age Preschool**

Blackthorn Consulting

This presentation will focus on child-centered strategies early childhood professionals can use to extinguish unwanted behaviors in the classroom by empowering children to independently solve their own problems.

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

### **506. Calming the Storm: Evidence-Based Strategies to Reduce and Address Toddler Aggression**

**Raelene Ostberg, Director**

Thriving Together, LLC

Identify the hidden triggers that can fuel toddler aggression in group settings. Learn adult responses to aggression that help toddlers learn to cope with strong feelings. Discover coaching techniques for toddlers' aggressive moments that build self-regulation skills, diminish destructive behaviors, and increase calm in your early childhood environment. Analyze videos of adult responses to pinpoint which would be helpful (or to avoid) in your early childhood environment. Have fun and get inspired listening to entertaining, real-life stories that show the strategies in action. You will increase your joy and decrease your stress while caring for these wonderful humans! **Infants, Toddlers**

### **507. Finger Plays and Movement Songs using Props to Make Them Pop!**

**Colleen Hannafin, Early Childhood Music Presenter**

North Side Music

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**Toddlers, Preschool, 4K**

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**Linda Armas, Educational Consultant**

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## Thank you to the 2024 UW-Whitewater Early Childhood Conference Sponsors

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