

Welcome to Winter PTAC!

Preschool & MDO

February 1, 2025



For over 20 years, the Winter version of the Preschool Teachers Adventure Conference has been helping those in the field of Early Childhood Education keep their training current and their motivation strong during our 3-day summer ‘adventure!’ We are back with our 1-day Winter version to serve those who would like a mid-year motivational ‘push’ to greet the New Year!

Working with children and their families is an important God-given task. Whether you work with infants and toddlers or preschoolers, in either a Christian or a secular setting, or you supervise people who do, you have the power to influence lives every day — “one heart at a time.”

Amid these challenging times, let us help educate and inspire you — fill your spirit and entertain you! It is our hope that you will leave Winter PTAC renewed in body and spirit — ready to have a positive impact on the lives of the children and families that you work with!

Thank you so much for joining us!

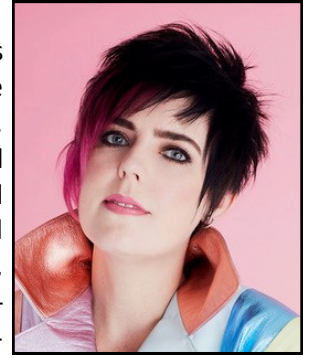
Your Day at Winter PTAC



<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
7:30 am — 8:00 am	Registration/Continental Breakfast
7:50 am — 8:05 am	Praise & Worship
8:10 am — 9:20 am	Keynote Speaker — Yancy
9:30 am — 10:20 am	Session #1 Workshops
10:30 am — 11:20 am	Session #2 Workshops
11:30 am — 12:20 pm	Lunch #1 OR Session #3 Workshops
12:30 pm — 1:20 pm	Lunch #2 OR Session #4 Workshops
1:30 pm — 2:20 pm	Session #5 Workshops
2:35 pm — 3:30 pm	Session #6 Workshops

Keynote Speaker - Yancy

Yancy is a worship leader, songwriter and producer of hundreds of songs that “make Jesus loud”. She has traveled the globe performing family concerts and leading worship. Her Dove Award winning music is all the things kids love and everything adults value. As a songwriter, she’s written a number one song, “I Don’t Want to Go,” recorded by Avalon. Yancy has toured coast-to-coast, sharing the stage with names such as Michael W. Smith, Newsboys, and the **Billy Graham Association**, in addition to touring as worship leader for SuperStart weekend events for preteens. Frequently, she can be found leading worship for kids camps, VBS weeks, and conferences across the country. However, the biggest component of Yancy’s travel calendar is comprised of local church family concerts which often include an audience of kids, parents, and even grandparents, yielding truly revolutionary multi-generational worship events of all sizes. Yancy says, “My life plan has always included music. I started off doing more CCM music for teens and adults, then began leading worship for youth groups and church congregations, and with God’s prompting, started creating music for children and their families. There are several elements that are a part of the music and ministry that I do, and all of that combined makes me who I am. Some see those things as diverse. I just see it as me **being obedient and doing what God has called me to do.**”



Session 1 Workshops

9:30—10:20 am

Eat Cereal for Dinner: Picking the Right Battles with Children

Infant/Toddler

There is no shortage of opportunities to engage in battles of wills and wits with young children. These battles have the ability to consume mass quantities of our time, patience, and sanity, so picking the right battles matters. How do we know when to engage and when to pass? Are the battles we are choosing based on our values or preferences, and what difference does it make anyway? If you find yourself battling more than teaching, this session was created for you!

Speaker: *Lori Buxton*

FA: *Teacher/Child Interactions*

Location: *C145*

Creating Engaging Environments For Infants & Toddlers

Infant/Toddler

Setting up an engaging environment for infants and toddlers is crucial for fostering their development and creating a sense of belonging. By thoughtfully arranging the space and providing a variety of stimulating materials, you create an environment that supports the developmental needs of infants and toddlers, while fostering their sense of belonging and exploration. *S. 1 & 6.*

Speaker: *Natasha Harris*

FA: *Professional Development*

Location: *K101*

A Day in the Life of a Toddler in 2025

Infant/Toddler

Toddlers are wonderful and weird! They are experiencing unique challenges and working towards important developmental milestones. Through humor and authentic discussion, we will put ourselves in their shoes. You will look at your toddler students with a whole new perspective after this session!

Speaker: *Kara Gore*

FA: *Behavior & Guidance*

Location: *Summit*

The Child-Centered Classroom

General

Creating an educational space for children to call their own is the goal of all teachers. Teachers, however, are adults and can unknowingly shape the learning environment around their own

(adult) needs. This session will use the science of choice and active engagement to illustrate the concept of being “Child-Centered”. Participants will leave with a new set of “eyes” to see the world in a child-centered way. *Sessions 1 & 6.*

Speaker: *Tom Wilbeck*

FA: *Professional Development*

Location: *Journey*

The Emergency Game: Prepare for the Unexpected, Avoid Danger, & Increase Self-Empowerment

General

Often children are not taught how to respond in dangerous situations. We will cover a wide variety of situations, in a game-based mindset, with time to interact and teach the “why”?. This playful session will address childhood development difference, as well as give you many ideas to share in your community and team to boost executive function and cognitive processing for our young. We will be silly and effective. This content has been taught to both neurotypical and neurodiverse. *S. 1 & 2.*

Speaker: *Gayle Fisher*

FA: *Health & Safety*

Location: *A128*

Five Ideas for Fitting Math into EC Curriculum

General

Uncertain how to squeeze math into an already crowded day? Learn five easy principles and plenty of lesson ideas for integrating worthwhile mathematics with students’ natural curiosity, literacy, assessment, and play. *Sessions 1 & 5.*

Speaker: *Carrie Cutler*

FA: *Math & Science*

Location: *K102*

How Classroom Behavior is Linked to Sleep Disordered Breathing

PRES

We all know that none of us are at our best when we don’t get a good night’s sleep. As an airway dentist, Dr. Kalli Hale will provide insight to the behavioral issues that arise as a result from a child’s sleep quality being impaired due to mouth breathing, tooth grinding, snoring and bedwetting. *Sessions 1 & 2.*

Speaker: *Dr. Amanda Aparicio*

FA: *Health & Safety*

Location: *C112*

Session 1 Workshops — continued

9:30 — 10:20 am

A Heart for Art

PRES

If you love doing art with your students, this is the session for you! Come and join us for art ideas to do with your kids. We can't wait to share and get ideas from you! *Sessions 1 & 2.*

Speakers: *Jessica Salas & Leisha Davis* **FA:** *Professional Dev.*

Location: *C150*

I'm Tired of Tantrums!

PRES

Are you tired of the meltdowns? Are you worn out from the fits being thrown? There is hope! Join us to talk about how God has wired a child's brain and how we can best teach and train them to thrive instead of simply survive. (The brain!)

Speaker: *Lauren Osborne*

FA: *Behavior & Guidance*

Location: *Game*

Co-Parenting is Important: The Importance of Parents

PRES

Parents play a crucial Role in a child's life, offering emotional, social, and developmental support. So, why is it so hard to build relationships with them? This session will dive into the importance of having a school/home relationship & how even fostering small communication can have a large effect on the child.

Speaker: *Albert Wright*

FA: *Parent Communication*

Location: *A120*

Literature in the Lab

General

Integrate science and literature by reading captivating books supported by simple but engaging experiments and activities! Children use items like toy animals, puppets, and other science tools to reinforce the science content in the books. Experiments, games, and activities reinforce critical thinking and student in-

volvement in laying the foundation for early reading and writing. Much-loved book choices such as *A Color of His Own*, *The Wide-Mouthed Frog*, *Mouse Count*, and more will be presented that lend themselves to the teaching of science! Participants will receive a colorful hand-out that is filled with directions for each experiment and activity, templates, video links, and book suggestions. *Sessions 1, 2, 3.*

Speaker: *Barbara Cargill*

FA: *Age Appropriate Curriculum*

Location: *K103*

Why Kids (Really) Misbehave

General

Controlling a classroom is similar to fire prevention and protection. You only have two choices! SNIFF or SNUFF! Smoke detector or fire extinguisher — proactive or reactive. In this insightful workshop, teachers will learn the reason children misbehave & how to respond. *Sessions 1 & 4.*

Speaker: *Dr. Rick Chromey*

FA: *Behavior & Guidance*

Location: *F110*

The Freedom to Teach

PRES

You have heard why play-based classrooms are great for kids, but do you lack the knowledge, language, and confidence to support your decisions to parents, coworkers, and supervisors who confuse your style of teaching with 'just letting them play?' Come learn clear, concise language and resources to share with others so they understand all that is really happening as children play in your classroom & your role as a teacher.

Speaker: *Kris Ramos*

FA: *Age Appropriate Curriculum*

Location: *C114*

Session 2 Workshops

10:30 — 11:20 am

Looking Up! The Role of Faith in Teaching

Infant/Toddler

Future leaders and innovators are sitting in our classrooms. They are depending on us to help them make sense of the world around them and figure out how they fit into it. This God-given responsibility to guide them requires a God-dependent lifestyle. This session will unpack the principles and practices that will best equip you to support the children in your classroom in learning and in life!

Speaker: *Lori Buxton*

FA: *Professional Development*

Location: *C145*

Sensory Ideas for Early Learners:

Infant/Toddler

Planning for Infant & Toddler Classrooms

Sensory play is crucial for the development of infants and toddlers, as it helps them learn about their world through their senses. We will share ideas on creating engaging sensory ideas that encompass messy, squishy, wet, and dry elements. These activities not only engage children's senses but also help develop motor skills, cognitive abilities and creativity. Enjoy exploring these sensory experiences with your little ones!

Speaker: *Natasha Harris*

FA: *Age-Appropriate Curriculum*

Location: *K101*

Current Trends in the Infant World

Infant/Toddler

In this session, we will discuss the current early childhood

trends surrounding the infant stage of development. What do the trends tell us about families today? What do the trends tell us about current child development programs? What can we do to ensure our everyday habits and perspectives reflect "best practices" for infants in our care? Let's discuss together!

Speaker: *Kara Gore*

FA: *Professional Development*

Location: *Summit*

Stress Management: Because You're Worth It!

General

Teaching is a stressful job. More than half of the teachers you know will consider leaving the profession because of stress-related issues. This is not acceptable. You've been chosen to teach our precious little ones, so let's get busy taking care of ourselves so we can continue this critical work. Participants will leave this session with a renewed focus on the importance of self-care and how to do it in today's world.

Speaker: *Tom Wilbeck*

FA: *Professional Development*

Location: *Journey*

The Emergency Game: Prepare for the

General

Unexpected, Avoid Danger, & Increase Self-Empowerment

Often children are not taught how to respond in dangerous situations. We will cover a wide variety of situations, in a game-based mindset, with time to interact and teach the "why"?. This playful session will address childhood development difference,

as well as give you many ideas to share in your community and team to boost executive function and cognitive processing for our young. We will be silly and effective. This content has been taught to both neurotypical and neurodiverse. *Sessions 1 & 2.*

Speaker: Gayle Fisher

FA: Health & Safety

Location: A128

Get a Move On:

General

Movement-Infused Math for Preschool

Kids learn best when their brains and bodies are active. Integrating movement with math subtracts stress, adds fun, and maximizes brain function. Join us to learn the research behind movement in the classroom and over twenty games and activities to pump up the movement in your math lessons. *S. 2 & 6.*

Speaker: Carrie Cutler

FA: Math & Science

Location: K102

How Classroom Behavior is Linked to Sleep Disordered Breathing

PRES

We all know that none of us are at our best when we don't get a good night's sleep. As an airway dentist, Dr. Kalli Hale will provide insight to the behavioral issues that arise as a result from a child's sleep quality being impaired due to mouth breathing, tooth grinding, snoring and bedwetting. *S. 1 & 2.*

Speaker: Dr. Amanda Aparicio

FA: Health & Safety

Location: C112

A Heart for Art

PRES

If you love doing art with your students, this is the session for you! Come and join us for art ideas to do with your kids. We can't wait to share and get ideas from you! *Sessions 1 & 2.*

Speakers: Jessica Salas & Leisha Davis

FA: Professional Dev.

Location: C150

Bullies — What Do We Do With Them?

PRES

How do we handle bullies? Are they teachable? What do we say to the victim? Join us as we discuss the answers to these hard questions! We will talk about God's design of the brain and how it is intertwined with the way we handle bullies and victims. *Sessions 2 & 5.*

Speaker: Lauren Osborne

FA: Behavior & Guidance

Location: Game

A Child's Language:

PRES

A Play-Based Approach to Learning

If we want to speak to children, we must first speak their language — and their language is play! This session explains how play-based approaches to learning gives real world examples of how play is viewed as the primary way children explore, understand, and learn about the world around them. This approach leverages children's natural curiosity and creativity, making learning more engaging and meaningful.

Speaker: Albert Wright

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Location: A120

Literature in the Lab

General

Integrate science and literature by reading captivating books supported by simple but engaging experiments and activities! Much-loved book choices such as *A Color of His Own, The Wide-Mouthed Frog, Mouse Count*, and more will be presented that lend themselves to the teaching of science! Participants will receive a colorful hand-out that is filled with directions for each experiment and activity, templates, video links, and book suggestions. *Sessions 1, 2, 3.*

Speaker: Barbara Cargill

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Location: K103

Motivate Me:

PRES

Creating a Positive & Productive Learning Experience

Deep down everyone hungers to learn. The problem is educators prefer shortcuts that short-circuit inner motivation in the classroom. It's easier to use incentives and even punishments to motivate a learner. The problem? Study after study shows that the use of behavioral incentives to modify behavior fail to provoke long-term results. There is a better way! Just feed the NEEDS. Or, as we call'em-the GROWLS-and watch'em learn!

Speaker: Dr. Rick Chromey

FA: Professional Development

Location: F110

What Children Need to Learn

PRES

Teachers will examine Maslow's theory of Hierarchy of Needs and it's implications in the early childhood classroom. Strategies will be shared for managing diverse student needs and applying that information in instruction and assessment. *Sessions 2 & 4.*

Speaker: Kris Ramos

FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Location: C114

Session 3 Workshops

11:30 am — 12:20 pm

NOTE: Lunch 1 is served during this time period.

The DNA of Difficult Children

Infant/Toddler

Dear Lori: What can children be, well. . . So difficult? Why do they act that way? Is it me or is it them? They are driving me crazy, but I love them! **Dear Early Educator:** These are great questions and I will add one more to our discussion — How much of what we are doing is about fixing them vs. understanding them — building walls vs. building bridges? Join me for these answers and much more!

Speaker: Lori Buxton

FA: Behavior & Guidance

Location: C145

Motor Development for 'On the Move' Littles

Infant/Toddler

Gross motor and fine motor skills are equally important to build

well-rounded young people. Come learn a variety of activities that can get our littles moving and assist in their intellectual, emotional, and social growth using fine and gross motor skills. *Sessions 3 & 4.*

Speaker: Stella King

FA: Advance Physical /Intellectual Comp.

Location: C126

Children with Special Needs:

Infant/Toddler

Early Detection on Infants-Two Years Old

Creating an engaging classroom that meets the diverse needs of children, including those with special needs, requires thoughtful planning and flexibility. Early detection and intervention are crucial for addressing developmental challenges from infancy to age 2. We will discuss how you can design a classroom environment and activities to support children across various developmental

domains. By integrating these strategies, you can create an engaging and supportive classroom environment that meets the diverse needs of all children, helping them to thrive and develop to their fullest potential. *Sessions 3 & 5.*

Speaker: *Natasha Harris* **FA:** *Care of Children/Special Needs*
Location: *K101*

Praise Wiggles & Worship Miracles: **General**
Preschool Worship

Scripture shows us the power in preschool worship. Come learn how to choose songs that are age-level and vocabulary appropriate for this age. Be empowered to lead the youngest ages in your program to be the worshippers God made the to be!

Speaker: *Yancy* **FA:** *Music & Movement*
Location: *Sanctuary*

Learning Through Play: Centers & Circle Time **General**

Let's share our ideas and inexpensive ways to motivate young learners and let them have fun while doing it!

Speaker: *Leisha Davis* **FA:** *Age Appropriate Curriculum*
Location: *C150*

Helping Parents Help Kids Love Math: **PRES**
Math-Positive Game & More!

Turn timid parents into engaged partners with simple take-home games, family math night activities, & encouraging books and videos that make every parent a math-positive partner!

Speaker: *Dr. Carrie Cutler* **FA:** *Math & Science*
Location: *K102*

AXE THROWING **General**

Are you ready for something completely different? Tomahawk Targets will be bringing their safe, contained, caged axe throwing lanes to PTAC! No experience needed, as their coaches will teach you all the safety points & skills needed to chuck axes! *Sessions 3 & 4.*

Teacher: *Reggie Hicks* **FA:** *Professional Development*
Location: *Parking Lot*

Music Fun for Little Ones **PRES**

Music ignites all areas of child development and skills for school readiness, including intellectual, social-emotional, motor language, and overall literacy. Make music fun beyond "Wheels on the Bus". Come learn new songs incorporating puppets and movement that will keep the kids happy and engaged! *S. 3 & 4.*

Speaker: *Shelley Akins* **FA:** *Music & Movement*
Location: *F110*

Broken Pieces: Trauma in Children **PRES**

In this session, we go into depth on how trauma — whether it's emotional, physical, or psychological, can have lifelong effects. The responses that a child experiences during or following an event can have lifelong effects if not addressed. Trauma can significantly affect a child's development, mental health, and behavior. Even though trauma can be overwhelming and complex — with the right support, many children can heal and develop resilience.

Speaker: *Albert Wright* **FA:** *Behavior & Guidance*
Location: *A120*

Literature in the Lab **General**

Integrate science and literature by reading captivating books supported by simple but engaging experiments and activities! Children use items like toy animals, puppets, and other science tools to reinforce the science content in the books. Experiments, games, and activities reinforce critical thinking and student involvement in laying the foundation for early reading and writing. Much-loved book choices such as *A Color of His Own*, *The Wide-Mouthed Frog*, *Mouse Count*, and more will be presented that lend themselves to the teaching of science! Participants will receive a colorful hand-out that is filled with directions for each experiment and activity, templates, video links, and book suggestions. *Sessions 1, 2, 3.*

Speaker: *Barbara Cargill* **FA:** *Age Appropriate Curriculum*
Location: *K103*

Additional Information

- ◆ Last minute cancellations will be posted outside the session rooms and highlighted in our morning announcements.
- ◆ Some of your chosen sessions might be full, but be aware that some of the workshops will be repeated during later sessions.
- ◆ We recommend that you have an alternative workshop already chosen in advance for each session time. In fairness to all participants, saving more than one seat in a session is prohibited.
- ◆ Check our website out later this year for information on Summer PTAC 2025!
www.ptacconference.org



NOTE: Lunch 2 is served during this time period.**Activities & Interactions** *Infant/Toddler*
to Encourage a Calm & Happy Classroom

Infant and toddler classes are not just simplified preschool classrooms. They are totally different! This session will help us get our minds right about what truly makes for a peaceful day with our littlest learners!

Speaker: Debbie Tonne Jones FA: Professional Development
Location: C112

Motor Development for 'On the Move' Littles *Infant/Toddler*

Gross motor and fine motor skills are equally important to build well-rounded young people. Come learn a variety of activities that can get our littles moving and assist in their intellectual, emotional, and social growth using fine and gross motor skills. Sessions 3 & 4.

Speaker: Stella King FA: Adv. Physical & Intellectual Comp.
Location: C126

Creating Play Partnerships Between Home & School *General*

Teachers are often the people that families count on for information about their young children. Our session will focus on communicating the importance of play for young children to families. The information presented will provide strategies for innovative, yet easy to implement, at home play experiences. Discussion will also include creative play partnership activities to build home-interest from families. S. 4 & 5.

Speaker: Sharon Jackson FA: Parent Communication
Location: A120

Music in the Classroom for the Non-Musician *General*

Every classroom can benefit from the presence and intentional use of music. But what if the teacher isn't a musician? Have no fear — because music is for everyone! This session will cover three main areas where music can be used in a classroom. Participants will leave with a better understanding of why music is so important and what to do in the classroom to bring it all together!

Speaker: Tom Wilbeck FA: Music & Movement
Location: Journey

Time to Circle Up! *General*

Lots of moving ideas for the versatile magic circle! We will learn lots of circle games, moving musical activities, and gross motor skill activities using this innovative circle. Come and learn how to create your inexpensive circle for your vision! It's time to circle up with Diane! Sessions 4, 5, and 6.

Speaker: Diane Havens FA: Music & Movement
Location: C145

AXE THROWING *General*

Please see session 3 for description Sessions 3 & 4.

Teacher: Reggie Hicks FA: Professional Development
Location: Parking Lot

Let's Talk! *PRES***Communicating with Diverse Parents in Tough Situations**

It all begins with respect and being sensitive to each person's

individual needs. Parents, especially the parents of young children, have needs that play into how they interact with teachers and administrators. Come to this workshop to develop a tool box of ideas for how to communicate with parents in even the most sensitive situations.

Speaker: Kendolyn Pope FA: Parent Communication
Location: A128

Face Painting Made Simple *PRES*

Looking to add some FUN and CREATIVITY to your lesson plans? Learn some basic face painting techniques that your students will LOVE! You can practice on a friend, yourself, or practice sheets during this class. Sessions 4 & 5.

Speaker: Jessica Salas FA: Professional Development
Location: C150

Why Won't These Kids Listen? *PRES*

"I tell them what to do 84 times and they still aren't obeying?" You are not alone! Join us as we discuss how God has uniquely wired the brain to receive information and how we can best teach our kids so that they WILL hear us and begin to obey! Sessions 4 & 6.

Speaker: Lauren Osborne FA: Behavior & Guidance
Location: Game

Slow Down for the Sake of Our Preschoolers *PRES*

Our culture is pushing children to grow up too fast. Public schools, private schools, child care programs, preschools, and many parents are expecting too much, too soon. As a result, our preschoolers are crumbling under the pressure. We MUST pull back and give 3 & 4-year-old children precious time to develop without stress and inappropriate expectations. Let's start a movement to SLOW DOWN and BUILD UP our students!

Speaker: Kara Gore FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum
Location: Summit

Why Kids (Really) Misbehave *General*

Controlling a classroom is similar to fire prevention and protection. You only have two choices! SNIFF or SNUFF! Smoke detector or fire extinguisher — proactive or reactive. In this insightful workshop, teachers will learn the reason children misbehave & how to respond. Sessions 1 & 4.

Speaker: Dr. Rick Chromey A: Behavior & Guidance
Location: F110

What Children Need to Learn *PRES*

Teachers will examine Maslow's theory of Hierarchy of Needs and it's implications in the early childhood classroom. Strategies will be shared for managing diverse student needs and applying that information in instruction and assessment. Sessions 2 & 4.

Speaker: Kris Ramos FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum
Location: C114



Confident Connections: Fostering Brain Development & Regulation Through Free Movement *Infant/Toddler*

Get ready to dive into the world of free movement for our littlest learners! In this session, we will explore how encouraging unrestricted movement in infants and toddlers can supercharge their brain development and foster self-regulation skills

Speaker: *Debbie Tonne Jones* **FA:** *Child Growth & Dev.*
Location: *C112*

Teacher, Teacher What Do You See *PRES*

In a busy preschool classroom, we can easily miss a lot of useful information about children's development. Fortunately, with practice and patience, we can train our brains to notice the kinds of details that would otherwise be lost. We can learn to watch and listen for cues that tell us about children's development and how well our instruction is working. This session gives you skills and opportunity to practice observing others to make sure you aren't missing the clues children give you.

Speaker: *Sonja Stueart-Davis* **FA:** *Child Growth & Dev*
Location: *C126*

Children with Special Needs: Early Detection in Infants to 2-Year Olds *Infant/Toddler*

Creating an engaging classroom that meets the diverse needs of children, including those with special needs, requires thoughtful planning and flexibility. Early detection and intervention are crucial for addressing developmental challenges from infancy to age 2. We will discuss how you can design a classroom environment and activities to support children across various developmental domains. By integrating these strategies, you can create an engaging and supportive classroom environment that meets the needs of all children. *Sessions 3 & 5.*

Speaker: *Natasha Harris* **FA:** *Children with Special Needs*
Location: *K101*

Creating Play Partnerships Between Home & School *General*

Teachers are often the people that families count on for information about their young children. Our session will focus on communicating the importance of play for young children to families. The information presented will provide strategies for innovative, yet easy to implement, at home play experiences. Discussion will also include creative play partnership activities to build home-interest from families. A packet of information and activities will be available for participants as well. *S. 4 & 5.*

Speaker: *Sharon Jackson* **FA:** *Parent Communication*
Location: *A120*

The Connection Principle *General*

Participants will be introduced to the importance of connection in the classroom, workroom, and living room. By understanding the biology behind our need for connection, we will explore the barriers to connection and the all-important steps to building meaningful and lasting connections with the children we serve and all the people we hold dear. To be the teaching you were meant to be, you must connect BEFORE you direct!

Speaker: *Tom Wilbeck*

FA: *Professional Development*

Location: *Journey*

Time to Circle Up! *General*

Lots of moving ideas for the versatile magic circle! We will learn lots of circle games, moving musical activities, and gross motor skill activities using this innovative circle. Come and learn how to create your inexpensive circle for your vision! It's time to circle up with Diane! *Sessions 4, 5, and 6.*

Speaker: *Diane Havens*

FA: *Music & Movement*

Location: *C145*

Five Ideas for Fitting Math into EC Curriculum *General*

Uncertain how to squeeze math into an already crowded day? Learn five easy principles and plenty of lesson ideas for integrating worthwhile mathematics with students' natural curiosity, literacy, assessment, and play. *Sessions 1 & 5.*

Speaker: *Carrie Cutler*

FA: *Math & Science*

Location: *K102*

Bring the Drama: *PRES*

Incorporating STEM into the Dramatic Play Area

The dramatic play center is a wondrous place with many opportunities to explore, create and imagine. In this session, learn how to make those experiences even more impactful and rich by incorporating math and science into each dramatic play scenario.

Speaker: *Kendolyn Pope*

FA: *Age Appropriate Curriculum*

Location: *A128*

Face Painting Made Simple! *PRES*

Looking to add some FUN and CREATIVITY to your lesson plans? Learn some basic face painting techniques that your students will LOVE! You can practice on a friend, yourself, or practice sheets during this class. *Sessions 4 & 5.*

Speaker: *Jessica Salas*

FA: *Professional Development*

Location: *C150*

Bullies — What Do We Do With Them? *PRES*

How do we handle bullies? Are they teachable? What do we say to the victim? Join us as we discuss the answers to these hard questions! We will talk about God's design of the brain and how it is intertwined with the way we handle bullies and victims. *Sessions 2 & 5.*

Speaker: *Lauren Osborne*

FA: *Behavior & Guidance*

Location: *Game*

Parents & Families Need Preschool Teachers! *PRES*

Working with parents and each family can be challenging for a variety of reason; however, you can make a huge, positive impact! Early childhood professionals have a unique ministry opportunity to truly bless children and families — affecting generations to come! Let's chat about the top 5 reasons parents and families need YOU!

Speaker: *Kara Gore*

FA: *Parent Communication*

Location: *Summit*

Learning for a Change:

PRES

The Five Laws of Learning for Preschoolers

Learning is change. And because preschoolers are constantly changing, we must be adaptable, creative, and prompt. In this dynamic session, discover the Five Laws of Learning, why they're essential to everything you do and how they relate to creative instruction of preschoolers.

Speaker: Dr. Rick Chromey FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Location: F110

Science

PRES

Join Dr. Beaker as he provides guidance on delivering age appropriate science content, while encouraging preschoolers to be curious, explore and ask, "Why?". *Sessions 5 & 6.*

**Speaker: John Sivadon
Science**

FA: Math &

Location: K103

Session 6 Workshops

Music Fun for Little Ones

Infant/Toddler

Music ignites all areas of child development and skills for school readiness, including intellectual, social-emotional, motor language, and overall literacy. Make music fun beyond "Wheels of the Bus". Come learn new songs incorporating puppets and movement that will keep the kids happy and engaged!

Speaker: Shelley Akins

FA: Music & Movement

Location: A120

Creating Outdoor Activities for Infants & Toddlers

Inf/Tod

Outdoor environments offer a dynamic space for physical activity, exploration, and sensory experiences. We will discuss how to create a variety of outdoor learning centers that incorporate gardening, natural elements, and hands-on activities that will give young children with experiences that foster their physical, cognitive, and emotional development, while connecting them with nature.

Speaker: Natasha Harris FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum

Location: K101

You are the Expert!

General

How to Handle Hard Conversations with Families

In this empowering session, early childhood teachers will learn valuable strategies for navigating challenging conversations with families. Discover how to leverage your expertise and effectively address sensitive topics, such as discipline, behavior concerns, and developmental milestones. Gain confidence in your ability to build strong partnerships with families through open communication, active listening, and collaboration, fostering a supportive and inclusive early childhood environment.

Speaker: Debbie Tonne Jones FA: Parent Communication

Location: C112

Teacher, Teacher What Do You See

PRES

In a busy preschool classroom, we can easily miss a lot of useful information about children's development. Fortunately, with practice and patience, we can train our brains to notice the kinds of details that would otherwise be lost. We can learn to watch and listen for cues that tell us about children's development and

how well our instruction is working. This session gives you skills and opportunity to practice observing others to make sure you aren't missing the clues children give you.

Speaker: Sonja Stueart-Davis

FA: Child Growth & Dev

Location: C126

The Child-Centered Classroom

General

Creating an educational space for children to call their own is the goal of all teachers. Teachers, however, are adults and can unknowingly shape the learning environment around their own (adult) needs. This session will use the science of choice and active engagement to illustrate the concept of being "Child-Centered". Participants will leave with a new set of "eyes" to see the world in a child-centered way. *Sessions 1 & 6.*

Speaker: Tom Wilbeck

FA: Professional Development

Location: Journey

Time to Circle Up!

General

Lots of moving ideas for the versatile magic circle! We will learn lots of circle games, moving musical activities, and gross motor skill activities using this innovative circle. Come and learn how to create your inexpensive circle for your vision! It's time to circle up with Diane! *Sessions 4, 5, and 6.*

Speaker: Diane Havens

FA: Music & Movement

Location: C145

Get a Move On:

PRES

Movement-Infused Math for Preschool

Kids learn best when their brains and bodies are active. Integrating movement with math subtracts stress, adds fun, and maximizes brain function. Join us to learn the research behind movement in the classroom and over twenty games and activities to pump up the movement in your math lessons. *S. 2 & 6.*

Speaker: Carrie Cutler

FA: Math & Science

Location: K102

Why Not Worksheets?

PRES

While worksheets offer an easy opportunity to fill time during the day, are they really developmentally appropriate for preschoolers? Let's discuss why they may not be appropriate in the



preschool classroom and learn how to create truly authentic hands-on experiences that teach the same content.

Speaker: *Kendolyn Pope* **FA:** *Age Appropriate Curriculum*
Location: *A128*

It's Just a Phase — So Don't Miss It: **General**
Making the Most of Every Moment in Your Ministry

Every kid matters. Every kid is made in the image of God. Do we believe every kid matters at every phase? A phase is a timeframe in kids' lives when you can leverage distinctive opportunities to influence their future. That means each one of your preschoolers are not just going through a phase that should be wished away. Instead, they are transitioning through a critical phase that you are called to discover, celebrate, and navigate strategically with them. Learn how to make the most of every phase in this session!

Speaker: *Rev. Andrew Keyes* **FA:** *Growth & Dev.*
Location: *A126*

Why Won't These Kids Listen? **PRES**

"I tell them what to do 84 times and they still aren't obeying?" You are not alone! Join us as we discuss how God has uniquely wired the brain to receive information and how we can best teach our kids so that they WILL hear us and begin to obey! *Sessions 4 & 6.*

Speaker: *Lauren Osborne* **FA:** *Behavior & Guidance*
Location: *Game*

Preschool Stressors **PRES**

Preschoolers often face challenges in their personal lives that greatly impact not only their perspectives, but also their development. Divorce, illness or death of a family member, the birth of a new sibling, and much more can occur while a child is still in the delicate early childhood stages. We must know how to relate to families who are grieving or facing new challenges and how we, as caregivers, can advocate for the child during their various life experiences.

Speaker: *Kara Gore* **FA:** *Behavior & Guidance*
Location: *Summit*

Jurassic Parked: The Bible & Dinosaurs **PRES**

Diplodocus. Tyrannosaurus Rex. Stegosaurus. These dinosaurs are all popular with preschool children. But how do they fit within the Bible? And how can preschool teachers answer basic questions for how dinosaurs lived and died? In this fun and insightful session, learn how God's Word helps us understand dinosaurs, as well as solve the great mysteries that still haunt modern science about these ancient beasts.

Speaker: *Dr. Rick Chromey* **FA:** *Age Appropriate Curriculum*
Location: *F110*

Science **PRES**

Join Dr. Beaker as he provides guidance on delivering age appropriate science content, while encouraging preschoolers to be curious, explore and ask, "Why?". *Sessions 5 & 6.*

Speaker: *John Sivadon* **FA:** *Math & Science*
Location: *K103*

Disclaimer

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