

# Winter PTAC

*Preschool Teachers Adventure Conference*

**February 1, 2025**



**Featuring  
Workshops for**  
Early Childhood  
Educators,  
MDO, Preschool  
Teachers,  
Directors &  
Administrators

***Sponsored by***

The Adventure Preschool, 10555 Spring-Cypress, Houston, TX 77070,  
281-378-4080

[ptac@windwoodpc.org](mailto:ptac@windwoodpc.org)

[www.ptaconference.org](http://www.ptaconference.org)

# Welcome to Winter PTAC!

For those of you familiar with our Annual Preschool Teachers Adventure Conference held in the summer — we would like to invite you to Winter PTAC!

For well over 25 years PTAC 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 so proud to continue serving 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!

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What Does My Day at Winter PTAC Look Like?**

Registration (along with a continental breakfast) begins at 7:30 am, followed by Praise & Worship from 7:50—8:05 am. The Keynote Speaker will begin their presentation at 8:10 am — followed by workshop sessions. The last session ends at 3:30 pm.

### **Different Tracks for Different Folks!**

We offer workshops for both Directors and Early Childhood Professionals. Directors have a separate track to attend with topics chosen specifically for them, while those who work in Mother’s Day Out and Preschool have different workshops to choose from during each session. We truly have something for everyone!

### **How many hours of training is included?**

Attendees will be able to receive 6 hours of training. If you decide to grab a lunch and head to another session — it is possible to receive 7 hours of training.

### **What is the Cost of Winter PTAC & What is included?**

The cost of attending Winter PTAC is \$125. A continental breakfast and a boxed lunch, as well as admittance to all speakers and sessions are included. Please have a look at the registration page included in this booklet for additional information.

### **Questions?**

Should you have any questions about Winter PTAC, please visit our website for the latest updates at [www.ptacconference.org](http://www.ptacconference.org) or call The Adventure Programs at 281-378-4080 or email [ptac@windwoodpc.org](mailto:ptac@windwoodpc.org).



## 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

#### **7 “Work-Life” Hacks to Conquer Overwhelm & Burnout**

**Director**

Even in the best of times, our jobs are challenging. Let’s learn (or re-learn!) 7 simple tips to make center leadership more manageable so you can

**Speaker: Debbie Tonne Jones FA: Professional Development**

#### **The 5 Languages of Appreciation in the Workplace: Recognizing Individuality Among Your Staff**

**Director**

Finding and keeping staff is a nation-wide issue in our industry. Providing training and orientation over and over is expensive and exhausting. Are you looking for a way to create connection and build ties that will allow you to invest in your staff and believe that they are a part of your team for the long term? Join our session on **The Five Languages of Appreciation** and learn how to effectively communicate appreciation in ways that can be understood by all of your staff members.

**Speaker: Sharon Jackson Leadership & Development**

#### **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**

#### **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.

**Speaker: Natasha Harris FA: Professional Development**

#### **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**

#### **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**

#### **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. *Sessions 1 & 2.*

**Speaker: Gayle Fisher**

**FA: Health & Safety**

## Session 1 Workshops

9:30—10:20 am

### **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*

### **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*

### **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.*

### **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 take about how God has wired a child's brain and how we can best teach and train them to thrive instead of simple survive. (The brain!)

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

### **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 and how even fostering small communication can have a large effect on the child.

**Speaker:** *Albert Wright* **FA:** *Parent Communication*

### **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*

### **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*

### **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*



## Session 2 Workshops

10:30 — 11:20 am

### **Keep Your Team Together . . .and Yourself Together** **Director**

Do you feel like you are doing everything yourself? Do you feel like your staff doesn't share your vision? If so, come explore ways to build up and invest in your team, so that they can reach their potential and increase the quality of your program!

**Speaker:** *Debbie Tonne Jones* **FA:** *Leadership & Development*

### **Engaging Parents in Their Child's Learning: Plans & Resources for Family Events** **Director**

Session description will be available the day of the conference.

**Speaker:** *Sharon Jackson* **FA:** *Professional Development*

### **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*

### **Sensory Ideas for Early Learners: Planning for Infant & Toddler Classrooms** **Infant/Toddler**

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*

### **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**

**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**

**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. Sessions 1 & 2.

**Speaker: Gayle Fisher** **FA: Health & Safety**

**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**

**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.

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**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.**

**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**

**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**

**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**

**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. Is there a better way? Absolutely! Just feed the NEEDS. Or, as we call'em...the GROWLS...and watch'em learn!

**Speaker: Dr. Rick Chromey** **FA: Professional Development**

**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**



**Session 3 Workshops****11:30 — 12:20 pm****NOTE: Lunch 1 is served during this time period.****Workshop Session****Directors**

Session topic and description to be provided at a later date.

**Speaker: Rev. Andrew Keyes FA: Professional Development****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****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.****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.

**Speaker: Natasha Harris FA: Care of Children/Special Needs****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****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****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****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****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 of the Bus”. Come learn new songs incorporating puppets and movement that will keep the kids happy and engaged! *Sessions 3 & 4.*

**Speaker: Shelley Akins****FA: Music & Movement****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****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****Session 4 Workshops****12:30 — 1:20 pm****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****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.**

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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 and losing out on a beautiful childhood. 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 preschool students!  
**Speaker: Kara Gore** *FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum*

**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*

**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*



*Disclaimer: The opinions expressed by presenters and/or exhibitors are their own, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Conference Planning Committee, The Adventure Preschool, or Windwood Presbyterian Church. The Conference Planning Committee does not officially endorse any particular product, program, teaching method, activity or handout presented at this conference.*

***The Art of Growing Leaders*****Directors**

“Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others.” - Former CEO of GE, Jack Welch. Of all the resources we steward as leaders, the most important by far is our people. Every plan, goal, and dream we have for our programs, our team, and the children they serve depends on our ability to grow, equip, and support inspired and invested leaders. This conversation with Lori Buxton, arguable the “peoply-est” person on the planet, will identify the leaders on your team (hint — it rhymes with shmeveryone), discuss what people development really is, and guide you toward a workable plan to grow exceptional leaders throughout your team.

**Speaker: Lori Buxton****FA: Leadership & Development*****What To Do When Your Adults Aren't Adulting: How to Promote Professionalism in the Workplace*****Directors**

Have you ever wondered why your staff today seem different from your staff of 20 years ago? One of the biggest changes we have seen lately is a need in defining professionalism. This session will give strategies on how to promote professionalism in the workplace. By consistently reinforcing the practices that we discuss, professionalism will become a part of your workplace culture.

**Speaker: Albert Wright****FA: Leadership & Development*****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.*****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, helping them to thrive and develop to their fullest potential.

**Speaker: Natasha Harris****FA: Children with Special Needs*****Creating Play Partnerships Between Home & School*****General**

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**Speaker: Sharon Jackson****FA: Parent Communication*****The Connection Principle*****MDO/PRES**

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*****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*****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*****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*****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*****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*****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**



## Session 5 Workshops

1:30 — 2:20 pm

### **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**

### **Science**

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**

## Session 6 Workshops

2:35 — 3:30 pm

### **Director Open Forum**

**Directors**

Call all ECE Administrators! Bring your questions, your challenges, your wins, and your losses to this authentic discussion with field experts and colleagues. Some of the best work we do happens in honest conversations about the real stuff that is leadership in early education!

**Speaker: Lori Buxton**

**FA: Professional Development**

### **Catching Up to Tired:**

**Directors**

#### **How to Master a Work/Life Balance**

Do you feel like you are giving your family or home or your employees at work a watered-down version of yourself? Well, not having a good work/life balance may be the problem. Mastering a work/life balance can be challenging, but is achievable with the right strategies. In this session, we will go over some of the most proven strategies on how to be aware and present wherever you are!

**Speaker: Albert Wright**

**FA: Professional Development**

### **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 on the Bus". Come learn new songs incorporating puppets and movement that will keep the kids happy and engaged!

**Speaker: Shelley Akins**

**FA: Music & Movement**

### **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 that exploration.

**Speaker: Natasha Harris**

**FA: Age Appropriate Curriculum**

### **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**

### **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**

### **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**

### **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**

### **Why Not Worksheets?**

**PRES**

While worksheets offer an easy opportunity to fill time during the day, are the 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**

### **Preschool Workshop**

**PRES**

Session title & description will be provided on the day of the conference.

**Speaker: Andrew Keyes**

**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****Preschool Stressors****PRES**

Preschoolers often face challenges in their person 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****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****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**


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## Additional Information & Reminders

- ◆ Last minute cancellations will be posted outside the session rooms and highlighted in our morning announcements.
- ◆ Childcare is not available on the premises and children will not be allowed to attend workshops with attendees.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ The Director's Track is available **only** to Directors. Workshops will be available for Mother's Day Out Providers and Preschool Teachers.
- ◆ If you have any questions about Winter PTAC 2025 — please call us at 281-378-4080. Our website is: [www.ptacconference.org](http://www.ptacconference.org)



# Winter Preschool Teachers Adventure Conference

February 1, 2025

## Registration Form

### Please Print Clearly!

School Director's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School or Organization \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

School City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ School Phone \_\_\_\_\_

New Registration:

I registered online, providing attendee names:

Please note that all communications regarding Winter PTAC will be done via email.

	First Name	Last Name	Position: Dir, Assist Dir, Admin, PreK, MDO, Enrich- ments, Elementary	Email Address
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Use the back if you need more room to add registrations.

TOTAL # of Attendees: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee per Person:

Regular Registration: \$125

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

Special offer: Register 10+ attendees and 1 Director gets in FREE

**\*\*\*Registration fees are NON-REFUNDABLE, but are transferable to another attendee\*\*\***

**Registration ARE NOT transferrable to another conference date.**

Send completed forms and make checks payable to:

**WPC Conference Account; 10555 Spring Cypress, Houston, TX 77070**

Questions may be directed to The Adventure Preschool at 281-378-4080 or Email : [ptac@windwoodpc.org](mailto:ptac@windwoodpc.org)

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