

Presenters

Marilyn Bitsis

Marilyn is Master Registered Trainer #1068. She holds a B.B.A. from the University of Mississippi and is the co-author of Sensational Beginnings: Sensory and Motor Activities for Infants and Toddlers. Marilyn has been a gymnastics and motor skills teacher and now serves as the Project Development/Presenter for KidBuilders Motor Skills Program..

(Trainer Criteria (a.1,5) of Minimum Standard 746.1317)

Mary Ann Bradberry

Mary Ann is the Executive Director of Texas Baptist Church Weekday Education Association (TBCWE). Before assuming this position, Mary Ann served as an Editor-in-Chief in the Childhood Ministry Publishing department at LifeWay Christian Resources. She also has served on church staff in churches in Texas and Oklahoma where her responsibilities involved the supervision of weekday ministries. Mary Ann earned her M.Ed. from the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas.

(Trainer Criteria (a.,5) of Minimum Standard 746.1317)

Darlene Chermak

Darlene served as the Preschool Director at Lake Travis United Methodist Preschool in Austin, Texas. With 24 years experience as a Preschool Administrator, Darlene now spends her time training administrators and teachers. She is a Professional Level Trainer with the Texas Trainer Registry (#2237). Darlene is a graduate of State University of New York.

(Trainer Criteria (a.1) of Minimum Standard 746.1317)

Jenice Dames

Jenice oversees the Special Education programing for elementary schools in the Northside Independent School District in San Antonio. Prior to her current position, she served as a Pre-School Educational Specialist at the Education Service Center, Region 20. Jenice also has been a professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio where she taught Special Education and Early Childhood courses. She holds a Bachelors degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from Southwest Texas State University and a Masters in Educational Leadership from the University of Texas at San Antonio.

(Trainer Criteria (a.5) of Minimum Standard 746.1317)

Dr. Shelly Melia

Shelly is Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Ministry and Program Director for Children and Family at Dallas Baptist University. She is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and holds a Master of Arts in Religious Education and Marriage and Family Counseling from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas and a PhD in Childhood Education from B.H. Carroll Theological Institute. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor with a special interest in parental bereavement and resilience in children.

(Trainer Criteria (a.4) of Minimum Standard 746.1317)

Melissa Ply

Melissa is a Program Manager for the Children's Learning Institute and works with the Texas School Ready program. She has experience as a Mom, teacher, family home day care provider, Training and Curriculum Specialist, and as a CDC Director with the US Air Force. She is currently the Secretary for TAEYC, was published in the Nov. 2015 issue of "Early Years", and was awarded the 2015 Trainer of the Year Award from Austin AEYC. Melissa earned a B. S. in Elementary Education and a B. S. in Special Education from Northern Arizona University and a M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education from the University of Oklahoma.

(Trainer Criteria (a.5) of Minimum Standard 746.1317)

Margaret Schafer

Margaret is a Master Professional Trainer in the Texas Early Care and Education Career Development System. She holds a BA from Converse College in Spartanburg, SC. Margaret has been a Licensed Child Care Director and Assistant Director. She has also been a motor skills and gymnastic instructor. She is co-author of Sensational Beginnings: Sensory and Motor Activities for Infants and Toddlers and presenter for KidBuilders Motor Skills Program for the Young Child.

(Trainer Criteria (a.5) of Minimum Standard 746.1317)

Dr. Eric Strickland

Eric has served as a Head Start teacher, early childhood center director, university lab school head teacher and a university professor during his 22 year teaching career. He has been the owner of a childcare center and worked with several national childcare chains to help them improve their playgrounds. In addition, he founded Grounds for Play, a full-service playground development company. He has authored numerous articles and served as a columnist and feature author for Early Years magazine. Dr. Strickland currently provides playground consulting, certified inspections, and staff development sessions.

(Trainer Criteria (a.5) of Minimum Standard 746.1317)

Sessions

Linking Literacy to Motor Skills

In this session, you will wiggle, walk, jump, hop, balance and skip from 14 Basic KidBuilders skills to literacy learning experiences. As you do, you will be learning how to improve academics through motor activities and learning enhancements.

(Marilyn Bitsis & Margaret Schafer)

Core Competencies: Supporting Skills Development (4.3,9)

Licensing Standard 746.1309 (d.10-Planning Developmentally Appropriate Learning Activities)

Sensational Beginnings: Sensory and Motor Activities for Infants and Toddlers

What you do with infants and toddlers really does matter! In this session, teachers of this important age group will learn the importance of sensory stimulation not only for early brain development but also for motor skills. Teachers will also discover easy and simple activities to enhance a young child's sensory experiences.

(Marilyn Bitsis & Margaret Schafer)

Core Competencies: Child Growth and Development (1.1); Supporting Skill Development (4.9)

Licensing Standard 746.1309 (b.3-Age-appropriate Curriculum)

Directors Roundtable

Have you wanted to ask questions and gain insight from other directors? Then this session is for you! Bring your questions and comments to this roundtable discussion with other Directors in the area. You will also learn about upcoming resources from TBCWEA

(Led by Mary Ann Bradberry)

Core Competency for Administrators: Establishing and Maintaining an Effective Organization (1.1,2,3)

Licensing Standard 746.1311 (d-Management Techniques, Leadership, and Staff Supervision)

It's Never Too Late to Set Priorities

Using Mark 10:13-16 and 1 Corinthians as guides, this session will help teachers and directors to set priorities for the remainder of the school year. Sometimes what's really important isn't always that obvious!

(Darlene Chermak)

Core Competencies: Responsive Interactions and Guidance (2.1,2); Learning Environments, Planning Framework, Curriculum and Standards (3.1)

Licensing Standard 746.1309 (b.4-Teacher-child Interaction)

How to Create a Calm and Loving Classroom

If you want a smooth running classroom filled with love, this session is for you! This session is based on the well-known and respected Love & Logic techniques used by many school districts in Texas. You will learn techniques to help you communicate effectively, set limits, use enforceable statements and guide children to appropriate behavior.

(Darlene Chermak)

Core Competencies: Responsive Interactions and Guidance (2.1,2); Learning Environments, Planning Framework, Curriculum and Standards (3.1)

Licensing Standard 746.1309 (b.2-Guidance and Discipline)

Conflict Happens: How to Avoid the Battle?

Believe it or not! Part of being a young child is to engage in conflict. The question is how to help children through these conflicts. This session will focus on a systematic approach to help young children work through conflicts and build social and emotional skills that will benefit them far beyond early childhood.

(Jenice Dames)

Core Competencies: Responsive Interactions and Guidance (2.1,2); Learning Environments, Planning Framework, Curriculum and Standards (3.1)

Licensing Standard 746.1309 (b.2-Guidance and Discipline)

Let's Think About How Young Children Think!

Do you wonder how young children develop their thought patterns? It's a very complex process, however...there are many things you can do daily in your classroom to help young children develop this vital skill! What you do today for young children impacts how they make plans, set goals, and function on a day to day basis!!

These interactive opening and closing keynotes will explore how we all learn to think! So don't even think about missing this opportunity!

(Jenice Dames)

Core Competencies: Child Growth and Development (1.1); Supporting Skill Development (4.1)

Licensing Standard 746.1309 (c.1-Child Growth and Development)

Come...Learn What the Bible Says About Children

Jesus' blessing of the children shocked the disciples and many of the bystanders as evidenced in Mark 10:13-16. What was the significance of Jesus' response to His disciples and what can we learn from Jesus' example? This information is vital for teachers of all age groups!

(Dr. Shelly Melia)

Core Competency: Child Growth and Development (1.4,5)

Licensing Standard 746.1309 (b.1-Child Growth and Development)

Helping Children Understand Traumatic Events

The world in which children are living is full of events that can be frightening and be sources of anxiety. Even though, adults would like to shield children from these, it is often difficult to do. So how do we talk to children about traumatic events and what tools can we give to cope and to feel safe in our uncertain world? Come and find out.

(Dr. Shelly Melia)

Core Competency: Responsive Interactions and Guidance (2.1,2)

Licensing Standard 746.1309 (b.1-Child Growth and Development; d.3-Safety)

Servant Leadership: Growing the Kingdom Through Your Teachers

Robert Greenleaf said, "Anybody can lead perfect people--if there were any". Your weekday ministry is full of imperfect teachers and your leadership style will surely be tested (on a regular basis). One of the key indicators of great leadership is how much growth occurs in the people you are trying to lead. This session for Directors will focus on the development of people through biblical servant leadership.

(Dr. Shelly Melia)

(Core Competency for Administrators: Human Resource Leadership and Development 3.3,4)

Licensing Standard 746.1311 (d-Management Techniques, Leadership, and Staff Supervision)

Big Math for Little Children

As children learn about math while playing, teachers can enhance their interest and provide guidance to help scaffold their learning. In this session, teachers will learn about the Math Domain area in the Texas Pre-K Guidelines and see examples for intentionally introducing math concepts through hands-on playful activities to use in learning centers, games, and in small groups.

(Melissa Ply)

Core Competencies: Child Growth and Development (1.5); Supporting Skill Development (4.4)

Licensing Standard 746.1309 (b.3-Age-appropriate Curriculum)

Increasing Science Opportunities

Often science activities are overlooked, so we will discuss how to add science language, processes and opportunities into the day with young children along with examples to provide ideas that can be replicated with your children!

(Melissa Ply)

Core Competency: Supporting Skill Development (4.5)

Licensing Standard 746.1309 (b.3-Age-appropriate Curriculum)

Schedule

REGISTRATION
7:30-8:00 am

Time	Session	Presenter	Room
8:00 - 9:15 am	General Session (Session)		
	Worship/Praise		Worship Center
	Keynote: Let's Think About How Young Children Think!	Jenice Dames	Worship Center

9:30- 10:30 am	Session 2		
	Servant Leadership: Growing the Kingdom Through Your Teachers	Dr. Shelly Melia	Fellowship 1
	The Outdoor Classroom: It's an Attitude, Not Just a Place	Dr. Eric Strickland	Fellowship 2
	It's Never Too Late to Set Priorities	Darlene Chermak	Fellowship 3
	Sensational Beginnings: Sensory and Motor Activities for Infants and Toddlers	Marilyn Bitsis & Margaret Schafer	Room 128
	Big Math for Little People	Melissa Ply	Room 122

10:40 - 11:40 am	Session 3		
	Conflict Happens: How to Avoid the Battle	Jenice Dames	Worship Center
	Come... Learn What Jesus Said About Children	Dr. Shelly Melia	Fellowship 1
	The Outdoor Classroom: It's an Attitude, Not Just a Place	Dr. Eric Strickland	Fellowship 2
	Sensational Beginnings: Sensory and Motor Activities for Infants and Toddlers	Marilyn Bitsis & Margaret Schafer	Room 128
	It's Never Too Late to Set Priorities	Darlene Chermak	Fellowship 3
	Big Math for Little People	Melissa Ply	Room 122

11:40 - 12:20 pm	Lunch		Gym
	Director's Roundtable	Mary Ann Bradberry	Room 123
	Conflict Happens: How to Avoid the Battle	Jenice Dames	Worship Center
	What Was the Teacher Doing When MY CHILD Was Hurt: Proactive Playground Supervision to Avoid Injuries	Dr. Eric Strickland	Fellowship 2
	Come... Learn What Jesus Said About Children	Dr. Shelly Melia	Fellowship 1
	Increasing Science Opportunities	Melissa Ply	Room 122
	Linking Literacy to Motor Skills	Marilyn Bitsis & Margaret Schafer	Room 128

1:30 - 2:30 pm	Session 5		
	What Was the Teacher Doing When MY CHILD Was Hurt: Proactive Playground Supervision to Avoid Injuries	Dr. Eric Strickland	Fellowship 2
	Helping Children Understand Traumatic Events	Dr. Shelly Melia	Fellowship 1
	Linking Literacy to Motor Skills	Marilyn Bitsis & Margaret Schafer	Room 128
	How to Create a Calm and Loving Classroom	Darlene Chermak	Fellowship 3
	Increasing Science Opportunities	Melissa Ply	Room 122

2:45 - 3:45 pm	Session 6 Closing Keynote		
	Let's Think About How Young Children Think! (continued)	Jenice Dames	Worship Center

4:00 - 4:30 pm	Let's Learn and Discuss	On the Way Home	
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The Outdoor Classroom: It's an Attitude, Not Just a Place

The outdoor classroom revolves around the idea that children need freedom to explore, wonder and learn in a supportive encouraging natural environment. Part of that environment includes the teacher's attitude about nature, messy play, and unpredictable outcomes. This session examines natural play environments focusing on how teachers can approach them with a positive attitude.

(Dr. Eric Strickland)

Core Competencies: Learning Environments, Planning Framework, Curriculum and Standards (3.1)

Health, Safety, and Nutrition (8.1,2,3)

Licensing Standard 746.1309 (b.3-Age-appropriate Curriculum)

What was the Teacher Doing When MY CHILD Was Hurt: Proactive Playground Supervision to Avoid Injuries

Children need freedom to explore in the outdoors, but what are the legal requirements for effective supervision when children are in the outdoor play environment? Whenever a child is injured in a playground accident, the first response from parents is "What was the teacher doing when my child was hurt?" This session explores the role of active supervision in mitigating playground injuries and financial damages to your center.

(Dr. Eric Strickland)

Core Competencies: Learning Environments, Planning Framework, Curriculum and

Standards (3.1) Health, Safety, and Nutrition (8.1,2,3)

Licensing Standard 746.1309 (d.3-Safety)