



## 2018 West Texas Session Titles and Descriptions

***ACEs: How They Affect Behavior*** — What are Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and why should you know about them? Studies show that one in eight children suffer enough trauma to have long-lasting negative effects that affect their mental and physical health into adulthood. Come to this session and learn the behaviors to look for and ways to support these children and families. *(Mary Ann Bradberry)*

***Core Competency: Child Growth and Development (1.2,4)***

***Licensing Standard 746.1309 b.1 – Child Growth and Development; c.1 – Factors Indicating a Child at Risk***

***Exploring the Five Senses Through Literacy*** — This session will explore ways to use children’s books and literature to invite babies and toddlers to explore and use their five senses. *(Christi Hancock)*

***Core Competency: Supporting Skill Development (4.2,3)***

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

***Literacy Through Their Eyes*** — This session will define the components of a literature-based classroom from the child’s perspective. This session will provide age-appropriate activities for 3s—Pre-K. *(Christi Hancock)*

***Core Competency: Supporting Skill Development (4.2,3)***

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

### ***I Love You Through and Through: Attachment and Infant/Toddler Development***

In this hands-on interactive session, participants will learn about attachment in infant and toddler development and its importance and impact in our work. *(Victoria Hughes)*

***Core Competencies: Child Growth and Development (1.1); Learning Environments, Planning Framework, Curriculum and Standards (3.1)***

***Licensing Standard 746.1309 (b. 1 – Child Growth and Development; d.10 – Planning developmentally appropriate learning activities)***

### ***Unlock Your Superpowers: Using Your Natural Strengths to Build a Stronger Workplace***

This session will engage participants in learning about their natural strengths and the power of using a strengths-based lens to build a cohesive and collaborative team environment. *(Victoria Hughes)*

***Core Competency: Professionalism and Ethics (9.2,3)***

***Licensing Standard 746.1309 (d. 7 – Professional Development)***

**Little Minds Like Math** — Research suggests early numerical skills lay the foundation for mathematical concepts children will encounter in school. This session will offer hands-on activities that address each outcome in the Texas Pre-K Guidelines Mathematics Domain. You will leave with ideas that will engage your children and foster the use of math in real ways in your classroom. (Cassie Larson)

**Core Competency: Supporting Skill Development (4.4)**

**Licensing Standard 746.1309 (b.1–Child Growth and Development; d.10 – Planning developmentally appropriate learning activities)**

**Sharing Little Moments Makes a Big Impact (Directors)** — Communication with parents is key to an impactful relationship with the families at your Center. Learn how today’s technology can help you share with families the wonderful moments their children experience while under your care, as well as and bring joy and peace of mind while they are away from their children. (Shannon Lenerose)

**Core Competencies for Administrators: Business and Operations Management (2.2)**

**Licensing Standard 746.1311 (d. – Management Techniques)**

**Growing Big Hearts for Jesus in Your Staff (Directors)** — What would your program look like if all your staff loved Jesus with all their heart and soul? Whether it is staff interactions or teacher’s attitudes your leadership as a director can set the tone of your program. This session will include tools and tips that will help your staff grow their hearts for Jesus. (Brenda Loftus)

**Core Competencies: Learning Environments, Planning Framework, Curriculum and Standards (3.1); Supporting Skill Development (4.7)**

**Licensing Standard 746.1309 (b.3 – Age-appropriate Curriculum; d.10 – Planning developmentally appropriate learning activities)**

**A Heart for Generational Differences** — Music is one way to lay a spiritual foundation and teach young children about God. Learn how to incorporate music through singing, listening, playing instruments, and movement even with the infants and toddlers. (Dr. Shelly Melia)

**Core Competencies: Learning Environments, Planning Framework, Curriculum and Standards (3.1); Supporting Skill Development (4.7)**

**Licensing Standard 746.1309 (b.3 – Age-appropriate Curriculum; d.10 – Planning developmentally appropriate learning activities)**

**Get the Kids Outdoors . . . and Give Them Lots of Loose Parts** — Loose parts motivate and captivate children with their mobility and endless possibilities. Come learn what they are and how you can incorporate loose parts into your outdoor play to increase engagement and promote purposeful play. (Dr. Shelly Melia)

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

**Licensing Standard 746.1309 (b.3 – Age-appropriate Curriculum; d.10 – Planning developmentally appropriate learning activities)**

**A Heart for Boy Behaviors** — Teaching boys young and old can be challenging! In this session, you will explore the development of boys and outline strategies, resources and ways to teach and support the boys in your classroom. (Dennis Sarine)

**Core Competencies: Child Growth and Development (1.1); Learning Environments, Planning Framework, Curriculum and Standards (3.1)**

**Licensing Standard 746.1309 (b. 1 – Child Growth and Development; d.10 – Planning developmentally appropriate learning activities)**

***Igniting Passion and Purpose in the Hearts of Educators*** — A unique, engaging session that will uncover what things need to be in place to best care and teach the preschoolers with whom you have been entrusted. Focus will be on practical tips and strategies to create happy children and pleasant classrooms! (*Renee Terry*)

***Core Competency: Professionalism and Ethics (9.3)***

***Licensing Standard 746.1309 (d.7 – Professional Development)***

***Learn to Move; Move to Learn*** — Did you know that kindergarten and first grade children who can skip well are also better readers? Skipping and cross-midline exercises ignite neuron connections in the left & right hemisphere of the brain development that are crucial for reading skills! Did you know that exercise increases oxygen to the brain, which improves focus and memory in children? In this session, you will learn how to incorporate fun locomotor skills into your daily classroom routine and help your children learn to move and thus, create more learning! (*Renee Terry*)

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

***Licensing Standard 746.1309 (b.1 – Child Growth and Development; b.3 – Age-appropriate Curriculum)***

## **Opening Keynote**

***Connecting the Dots: Developmental Theories and Spiritual Formation*** — Do you wonder how young children develop their thought patterns? It's a very complex process. However, there are many things you can do 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. (*Dr. Shelly Melia*)

***Core Competencies: Child Growth and Development (1.1); Learning Environments, Planning Framework, Curriculum and Standards (3.1)***

***Licensing Standard 746.1309 (c.1-Child Growth and Development); d.10 – Planning developmentally appropriate learning activities)***

## **Closing Keynote**

***Cultivating a Joyful Heart*** — As leaders in early childhood education, we must pour into the lives of countless little ones. In a world full of stress and negativity, it's crucial to intentionally pour from a heart that is filled up with joy! In this session you will be inspired and equipped to start your day off with a positive mindset and habits that will allow you to choose JOY every single day!! (*Renee Terry*)

***Core Competency: Professionalism and Ethics (9.3)***

***Licensing Standard 746.1309 (d.7 – Professional Development)***