

2015 Houston Area Conference
October 10, 2015
Session Titles and Descriptions

unwrapped: thinking outside the box
Romans 12:2

Unwrapping the Role of the Director — 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.

(Led by Mary Ann Bradberry)

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

Unwrapping Grief in Young Children — A child's response to crisis, trauma, or death is different from an adult's response. By understanding children's responses to these situations, teachers can be better equipped to help navigate children through difficult times. (Mary Ann Bradberry)

Core Competencies: Child Growth and Development (1.1,2); Responsive Interactions and Guidance (2.1,2)

Let's Be REASONABLE — In this session teachers will explore numbers, not just counting to 8 and knowing the numeral 8, but understanding that 8 is 4 and 4 and 6 and 2, and that 8 is less than 9 and more than 7. Teachers will also learn ways to help children all about numbers. (Luanne Coffee)

Core Competency: Supporting Skill Development (4.4)

What's in Your Closet? — Ever wonder what you are going to do today? We will explore what is in your closet that you are not using, forgot that you have, never knew what to do with, or never thought using "that way" in teaching infants and toddlers. Plus this session will involve a fun "make and take." (Luanne Coffee)

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

Everyone Could Use a Little Encouragement — How can we nurture a genuine sense of competence in our children while encouraging them to grow in areas of weakness? This session offers tools for teachers to use and offers the 4-1-1 on self-esteem. (Pam McDonald)

Core Competencies: Responsive Interactions and Guidance (2.1,2); Supporting Skill Development (4.1)

Can You Hear Me Now? — All relationships involve communication both talking and listening. The way teachers choose to communicate with children can foster a close and respectful relationship or it can be the first shot of World War III. This session will explore how teachers can communicate more effectively and positively with children.

(Pam McDonald)

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

Circle Time is Lots of Fun! — Circle Time can and should be exciting, engaging, and developmentally appropriate. This session offers tips and ideas for keeping circle time fun while incorporating music, literacy, math, and science. (Melissa McKenzie)

Core Competency: Supporting Skill Development (4.2,3,4,5,7,9)

DAP in the Classroom — Early childhood professionals must provide children with a safe, nurturing, and responsive environment by implementing developmentally appropriate practices (DAP). This session examines DAP and how they are reflected in a typical early childhood classroom.

(Melissa McKenzie)

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

How to Care for Children with Allergies — With the rise of food-related allergies, it is likely that a teacher will be faced with a child who has a severe allergic reaction to food. This session will inform teachers about foods that trigger allergies, how to recognize a reaction and how to respond, what to do in an emergency and classroom practices to keep all children safe.

(Ann McKitrick)

Core Competency: Health, Safety, and Nutrition (8.1,2,3)

You're Making Me Crazy! Positive Classroom Guidance — Discipline is a big factor in an early childhood classroom, and it is important for the teacher to be informed and ready to help children manage their behavior. This session will help each teacher understand her own approach and how to guide children in a way that works for everyone. (Ann McKitrick)

Core Competencies: Responsive Interactions and Guidance (2.1,2); Supporting Skill Development (4.1)

Brain Development: What is Going On in There? — Have you ever wondered what is happening inside the minds of the children in your classroom? Do you become frustrated when they just don't seem to understand? Let's learn together what is happening in the brain of infants and young toddlers?

(Debbie Simmons)

Core Competency: Child Growth and Development (1.1,4,5)

How to Help Families — As teachers and directors, we often see children and families struggling. While we cannot solve all the problems, we can come along side these families. In this session, we will learn ways to support these families and help them thrive. (Debbie Simmons)

Core Competency: Families and Community Relationships (7.1,2,5)

Getting to the Heart of the Child — Wouldn't it be great if every child listened and obeyed the first time! Why is it that children today are more distracted than ever? Why are more and more children struggling in preschool and classroom settings? To be successful, teachers have to understand how to connect with the heart of the child and this session will help you learn how to do just that! (Debbie Simmons)

Core Competency: Responsive Interactions and Guidance (2.1)

Baby Babble and Toddler Talk — Come and unwrap language development in infants and toddlers and see how daily routines and language activities promote learning.

(Jeanine Wilburn)

Core Competencies: Supporting Skill Development (4.2); Child Growth and Development (1.1)

David and Goliath: Facing the Giants of Childcare Administration (Directors) This session will help Directors explore ways to meet the many challenges of staff development, licensing regulations and family concerns with the strength and peace that David demonstrated in 1 Samuel (Jeanine Wilburn)

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

Keynotes:

Opening

Through God's Eyes — Early Childhood Educators are called to be attuned and responsive to the uniqueness of each child, embracing the God-given qualities that make every child special. Learn what it means to see every child through God's eyes.

(Melissa McKenzie)

Core Competencies: Child Growth and Development (1.2; 2.1); Responsive Interactions and Guidance (2.1)

Closing:

Unwrapping the Lesson — It's time to unwrap the potential inside each one of us to become the teacher or director God desires us to be.

(Melissa McKenzie)

Core Competency: Professionalism and Ethics (9.3)