



2018 Tyler Area Session Titles and Descriptions

Note: Participants will be reminded throughout each session of the importance of active supervision and engagement with children.

Our Experience: Using Music to Teach Children to Pray — The playful and the prayerful are not opposites. And when it comes to playing and praying, children are naturals. In this session, you will play and pray as you explore fun ways to take the lessons of God's great love beyond the walls of the church. *(Mark Burrows)*

Core Competencies: Supporting Skill Development (4.3,7)

Licensing Standard 746.1309 (d.10 – Planning developmentally appropriate learning activities)

Our Song: Using Music to Teach about God — In this session, you will sing and move as you explore the power of song to engage children in God's Great Story. *(Mark Burrows)*

Core Competency: Supporting Skill Development (4.3,7)

Licensing Standard 746.1309 d.10 – Planning developmentally appropriate learning activities)

Move to Learn; Learn to Move — This interactive session will give you great ways to incorporate movement, music, and learning in your classroom. You will learn how brain breaks help with classroom management, plus some new information on the correlation between movement and learning. Plan to move 'n groove in the upbeat and energetic session. *(Beth Cannon)*

Core Competencies: Child Growth and Development (1.1); Supporting Skill Development (4.3,9)

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

Unity in the Preschool Community — What is it like when women work with women? This interactive session will help you explore your personality and how you fit and work cohesively with your team. You will engage in a fun personality test to discover the unique ways that God has gifted both you and your co-workers. *(Beth Cannon)*

Core Competency: Professionalism and Ethics (9.2,3)

Licensing Standard 746.1309 (d.7 – Professional Development)

Help! My Heart is Overwhelmed (New Teachers) —Are you new to teaching young children and feeling a little overwhelmed? Find help in this session as you discover the basics every early childhood educator must know to be the best! This experience will pack your mind and heart with essential teaching tools!

(Stephanie Chase)

Core Competency: Professionalism and Ethics (9.2,3)

Licensing Standard 746.1309 (d. 7 – Professional Development)

Little Hearts and Little Minds Need the Bible — In this session, discover creative, developmentally appropriate ways, fun ways to use the Bible with preschoolers. You'll leave with a heart full of Bible stories and a mind full of Bible activities to immediately put in use. *(Stephanie Chase)*

Core Competencies: Learning Environments, Planning Framework, Curriculum and Standards (3.1,2); Supporting Skill Development (4.2,3)

Licensing Standard 746.1309 (d. 10 – Planning developmentally appropriate learning activities)

Circle Time Tips and Tricks for Shaping Little Minds — Circle Time can be the best of the day! Discover fresh new ideas that can make circle time a great learning experience for preschoolers of all ages! *(Stephanie Chase)*

Core Competency: Learning Environments, Planning Framework, Curriculum and Standards (3.1,2)

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

Understanding Gender Development in Girls — This session will provide a deeper understanding of how girls develop gender identity and why they often struggle with sexual identity. This valuable information will assist teachers in understanding how to support healthy gender formation in the classroom and also how to help parents understand the growth and development of their daughters. *(Ricky Chelette)*

Core Competency: Child Growth and Development (1. 1,2,4)

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

Dealing with Difficult Behavior — Do you deal with biters, hitters, runners, or whiners? Do you know kids who can't sit still, can't wait their turn or keep their hands to themselves? Trauma, anxiety, and the lack of self-regulation skills are often at the root of these behaviors. This session will provide tools for your behavior management toolbox and help you guide these children to more adaptive behaviors. *(Kristin Mathis)*

Core Competency: Responsive Interactions and Guidance (2.1,2,3)

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

Creating a Sensory Friendly Classroom — Learn about the “Sensory Players” and the difference understanding them can make in your classroom. Walk away with sensory solutions for sensitive kids and larger-than-life seekers. We'll cover using a sensory survey, a sensory behavior log, a “safe place”/sensory corner, and a classroom “sensory diet”. Come and learn how to make your classroom a more welcoming place for EVERY student. *(Kristin Mathis)*

Core Competencies: Child Growth and Development (1. 2); Responsive Interactions and Guidance (2.1,2)

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

Little Hands, Big Work — Hand development is an important task of early childhood! Come learn tips to make fine motor skills easier and more fun. You will sample activities and tools to add to the things you are already doing. Fun sensory recipes, sensory tables, and how to handle “sensitive” and “grabby” hands will be explored. This session will focus on fine motor skills for kids 18 months and older. *(Kristin Mathis)*

Core Competency: Child Growth and Development (1.1,5); Supporting Skill Development (4.9)

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

The Joys of Teaching in an Outdoor Classroom —Does the thought of teaching in an outdoor classroom send butterflies through your stomach? How do you as a teacher engage with children in an outdoor setting? This session will answer these and other questions related to the outdoor classroom and how it can bring joy to both you and the children you teach. This session will also introduce you to a great resource for helping teachers and directors understand how the outdoor classroom can be invaluable in shaping the minds of young children. *(Paula Miller)*

Core Competencies; Learning Environments, Planning Framework Curriculum, and Standards (3.1,2)

Licensing Standard 746.1309 (d.10 – Age-appropriate Curriculum)

Lesson Planning for Play-based Learning –Come to this session and learn from an experienced teacher how to plan creatively for intentional learning. You will brainstorm ideas and ways to meet classroom objectives through play and see actual lesson plans. *(Allison Jessee)*

Core Competency: Learning Environments, Planning Framework, Curriculum, and Standards (3.1): Supporting Skill Development (4.2.3)

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

Opening an Art Studio in Your Preschool – Have you thought about creating an Art Studio in your school, but didn't know where to begin! Or maybe you were afraid to try? Come hear how to create art experiences for young children that allow them to enjoy the process of learning about art and art materials and use their God-given creativity. *(Allison Jessee)*

Core Competency: Learning Environments, Planning Framework, Curriculum, and Standards (3.1,2)

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

Classroom Management: Inclusion Strategies for Diverse Learners — This session will provide a discussion of challenging behaviors, strategies for classroom management and simple approaches for children with undiagnosed or high functioning social skills disorders (i.e. Autism Spectrum Disorders, ODD, and Sensory Integration Disorders). Participants will gain practical knowledge on how to adjust the classroom to include all children and maintain a developmentally-appropriate play-based curriculum.

(Audrey Rowland)

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); (d.1 – Care of Children with Special Needs)

Success with Toddlers — How can teachers set toddlers up for success every day? This session will review the cognitive, physical and language development of toddlers and discuss best practices for creating an enriched environment and curriculum specifically for this age group. We will discuss how to prevent and respond to challenging behaviors - including biting. Participants will see examples of toddler programs, gain new strategies, and better understand this unique stage of development.

(Audrey Rowland)

Core Competencies: Child Growth and Development (1.1,2); 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)

Staying Play-based in a Readiness World — Children learn through play! But how do we ensure that high-quality play is happening in our programs? With parent demands for academic readiness, schedules dominated by specials, and the pressure to keep up with the program down the street, how do we make a place (and a case) for play? In this session, we will review why play is critical to learning, how to implement productive play in your program, and how to talk to parents about the importance of play.

(Audrey Rowland)

Core Competencies: Child Growth and Development (1.5); Learning Environments, Planning Framework, Curriculum, and Standards (3.1)
Licensing Standard 746.1309 (b.1 – Child Growth and Development); (d.4 – Age-appropriate Curriculum)

It All Begins with Infants: Shaping Minds from the Start —What we do in our classrooms and how we interact with children affects how children's brains develop. Come learn about the vital impact that bonding and attachment have on early brain development. Also discover ways to promote secure bonding and attachment along with nine ways to build the young child's brain. (Kristin Omo)

Core Competencies: Child Growth and Development (1.1.4); Supporting Skill Development (4.2)
Licensing Standard 746.1309 (b.1 – Child Growth and Development); (e.3- Understanding Early Childhood Brain Development)

Science: It's Not Just Frogs — Come take a look at what you already do through learning centers and other activities that incorporate Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. Also, learn how to speak the language for these activities, plus fun, inexpensive, hands on activities to add to the classroom! (*Kristin Omo*)

Core Competency: Supporting Skill Development (4.4,5,7,8)

Licensing Standard 746.1309 (b.3 – age-appropriate curriculum; d.10 – Planning developmentally appropriate learning activities)

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work — Working with a church staff can be challenging for a weekday director. Weekday directors have dreams and visions like every other staff member. All staff members are convinced their particular ministry is the most important, and wants their ministry to be represented well within the church. How, as directors, can we work more effectively with our children's minister, pastors, and other staff to ensure that at the end of the day Jesus is glorified and people are growing in their relationship with the Lord? By thinking about what is best for the Kingdom, this goal can be accomplished. (*Erin Woodfin*)

Core Competencies for Administrators: Human Resource Leadership and Development (3.1,2,4)

Licensing Standard 746.1311 (d. &e. – Management Techniques, Leadership & Staff Supervision)

You Are Not Alone! — As the director of a weekday program there are times when you are so busy taking care of teachers, children, and parents you forget to take care of yourself. One cannot overestimate the challenges a director faces. Without consistent affirmation and encouragement, the risk of discontentment and/or burnout is real. Directors need to know how to take care of themselves in the midst of their job. There are often things that arise in a weekday program that a director is not properly trained to face, and the efforts to come up with how to best handle these situations can be exhausting. This session will lead directors to think through what God has called them to, and how to take care of themselves, so that they can continue to minister to the children, teachers, and parents who enter their center each day. (*Erin Woodfin*)

Core Competencies for Administrators: Human Resource Leadership and Development (3.1,2,4)

Licensing Standard 746.1311 (d. &e. – Management Techniques, Leadership & Staff Supervision)

Opening Keynote

Understanding Gender Development in Boys — 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. (*Ricky Chelette*)

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

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

Closing Keynote

Access Your Quest for a Big Heart — You approached the new school year refreshed, renewed, and full of excitement and new ideas! So how do you keep that positive mindset throughout the year? This closing presentation will pose some thought-provoking questions and help you leave the conference with thoughts about where you want to go with God in your professional and personal life and ways to keep a BIG HEART for shaping the minds of young children throughout the year. (*Beth Cannon*)

Core Competency: Professionalism and Ethics (9.2,3)

Licensing Standard 746.1309 (d.7- Professional Development)