



2019 West Texas Session Titles and Descriptions

Teaching All God's Children (Parts 1 & 2) — *Part 1* of this presentation will focus on normal speech, language, and cognitive development in children, birth to six years. This will also include how to identify red flags that might indicate a need for a child to be referred to a speech-language pathologist.

Part 2 of the presentation will focus on strategies and activities to children with suspected speech, language, and cognitive delays and disorders.

(Traci Fredman & Betty Coneway)

Core Competencies: Child Growth and Development (1.1,2); Supporting Skill Development (4.2)

Licensing Standard 746.1309 (b.1 – Child Growth and Development; d.11 – Observation and Assessment)

What You Do Matters! It's the Manager (Directors) — While today's workplace has been going through historic change, the practice of management has been stuck in time! Current research indicates the new workforce wants their work to have deep mission and purpose. They want coaches who inspire them, communicate with them and develop their strengths. What better place to create this kind of workplace than in Christian early childhood programs. Come learn how you, as a Director, can influence staff engagement and increase employee performance. *(Victoria Hughes)*

Core Competencies for Administrators: Human Resource Leadership and Development (3.2,4)

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

Living Your Strengths: Using Your God-given Talents — Come to this session and engage in an opportunity to unlock your unique talents! You will learn how using your gifts and talents for growth and service will cultivate the staff you lead and the children you teach. *(Victoria Hughes)*

Core Competencies: Professionalism and Ethics (9.2)

Licensing Standard 746.1309 (d.7 – Professional Development)

You are a Brain Builder: Infant and Toddler Brain Development — Over a billion connections are formed inside the brain a baby in utero and those connections continue throughout the first five years. Come learn the developmental milestones of infants and toddlers and leave with activities that you can use to help your infants and toddlers strengthen their muscles and develop the skills needed to reach those critical milestones. You are building the brains of the next generation! (Victoria Hughes)

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

Licensing Standard 746.1309 (b.1–Child Growth and Development; e.3 – Understanding Early Childhood Brain Development)

Did You Say Yoga? That's right - yoga and preschoolers can go together. In fact, Yoga is a wonderful way for children to exercise their whole body. Yoga positions help develop both fine and gross motor skills as well as enhance flexibility, muscle strength, balance and posture. Children also build their self-confidence and self-awareness by gaining a better understanding of how their bodies work and move. Yoga also sharpens the child's ability to focus and relax, both of which are learned-skills. (Melissa McKenzie)

Core Competencies: Child Growth and Development (1.5); Supporting Skill Development (4.1,9)

Licensing Standard 746.1309 (b.1–Child Growth and Development; f.9 – Planning Developmentally Appropriate Learning Activities)

Showing Your Staff They Matter (Directors) — How do you show your teachers/staff they really matter to you? Come to this session and learn the importance of setting goals for professional growth that are personalized and relevant for each member of your staff and how you, as the Director, can support these goals. (Melissa McKenzie)

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

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

These Aren't Your Grandma's Bible Songs — Music activates the whole brain, which ensures better retention. What could be more important for young children to retain than God's Truth? There are many wonderful, sweet, new songs available today that share beautiful truths from the Bible. This session will help you expand your "Bible Song Library", learn some simple sign language and refuel your passion for sharing God's Message with preschoolers. (Melissa McKenzie)

Core Competencies: Learning Environments, Planning Framework, Curriculum and Standards (3.1); Supporting Skill Development (4.7,9)

Licensing Standard 746.1309 (b.3 – Age-appropriate Curriculum; f.9 – Planning Developmentally Appropriate Learning Activities)

Bring the Bible to Life — Do you intentionally plan to use the Bible and Bible verses and thoughts throughout the day? Do you need help identifying appropriate Bible stories for young children? This session is just what you need! Come and learn how to engage preschoolers in Bible stories through the use of pictures, simple props, actions, and most importantly, the Bible. (Heather Sutton)

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

Licensing Standard 746.1309 (b.3 – Age-appropriate Curriculum; f.9 – Planning Developmentally Appropriate Learning Activities)

Your Mental Health Matters: How to Manage Stress — As a teacher your energy is contagious and you set the emotional thermostat of your classroom. In this session, you will be empowered and equipped with TONS of tips for dealing with stress.

(Renee Terry)

Core Competencies: Professionalism and Ethics (9.2,3)
Licensing Standard 746.1309 (d.7 – Professional Development)

Every Teacher Matters: Inspiring Your Staff (Directors) — In this motivating session, you will learn how to inspire your teachers to perform with purpose and passion and how to help them draw deep and lasting meaning from their work. (Renee Terry)

Core Competencies for Administrators: Human Resource Leadership and Development (3.2,4)
Licensing Standard 746.1311 (d. e. – Management Techniques, Leadership or Staff Supervision)

Movement Matters: How to Engage Kids Through Movement — This interaction session will teach you how to incorporate locomotor skills and exercise into your teaching plans. Did you know cross midline exercises develop the part of the brain children need for learning reading skills? (Renee Terry)

Core Competencies: Learning Environments, Planning Framework, Curriculum and Standards (3.1,2); Supporting Skill Development (4.9)
Licensing Standard 746.1309 (b.3 – Age-appropriate Curriculum; f.9 – Planning Developmentally Appropriate Learning Activities)

Making Mathematical Connections Throughout the Day — Mathematics is woven into all 10 Texas Pre-K Domains and should be linked to everything that you teach throughout the day. Participants will walk away with engaging, hands on strategies that can be used again and again throughout the year so you can walk away from wasteful worksheets! This session is manipulative based and loads of fun for teachers and children. (Mamie Tice)

Core Competencies: Supporting Skill Development (4.4)
Licensing Standard 746.1309 (b.3 – Age-appropriate Curriculum)

Phonological Awareness and the Hokey Pokey – What's It All About —

In this session, participants will prime their listening ears and play with poems, rhymes and songs, which promote Phonological Awareness at home and in the classroom. Discover strategies to "turn your teaching around" and keep your students actively engaged all year long. (Mamie Tice)

Core Competencies: Supporting Skill Development (4.2,3)
Licensing Standard 746.1309 (b.3 – Age-appropriate Curriculum)

Handwriting Matters — Should you be concerned with writing development? Yes! Join this session to learn various tips and teaching techniques on preparing young children to master letter formation. (Judy Williams)

Core Competencies: Supporting Skill Development (4.3)
Licensing Standard 746.1309 (b.3 – Age-appropriate Curriculum)

Characteristics of a Really Good Phonics Program — Are you confused about how and if to teach phonics? This session will present the characteristics to consider when evaluating phonics curriculum and how to include value-added enhancement to curriculums when needed. (Judy Williams)

Core Competencies: Supporting Skill Development 4.3)

Licensing Standard 746.1309 (b.3 – Age-appropriate Curriculum; f.9 – Planning Developmentally Appropriate Learning Activities)

Opening Keynote

Making God Real to Every Child — God seeks to make Himself known to persons of all ages. Young children – infants thru preschool – are no exception. However, as teachers, we need to “tune in” to how children learn about God and how God becomes real to them. Young children embrace the world with awe and wonder. They need teachers who will give them time to explore, to see, feel, touch, and taste the world that God created for them. In this keynote, you will gain an understanding of how young children see God and how to guide these young children to understand and know God. (Melissa McKenzie)

Core Competencies: Child Growth and Development (1.1,5); Supporting Skill Development (4.5)^{SEP}

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

Closing Keynote

Every Child Deserves to Matter — Teaching is hard and teachers face daily challenges. However, as a teacher you can make a difference in the lives of every child in your classroom. It is up to teachers and other adults in a child’s life to create an environment where every child feels loved and cared for. God created every child so every child deserves to matter to someone!

(Doug Curry)

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

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