Help! I Don't Know What to Do with Those Kids! Helping Children Who Experienced Trauma (FULL DAY - 6 hours) 

Children who have experienced trauma in their early years will often exhibit behaviors that can challenge and undermine the well-being of the classroom and the self-confidence of even the most well-seasoned classroom teacher. In this interactive full-day session, participants learn how early trauma impacts children’s brains; how to handle your own "triggers" when faced with challenging behaviors and practical classroom interventions that help to heal the trauma and thus, change behaviors. This session will be beneficial for programs that are experiencing increased and more severe challenging behaviors in classrooms.

Early Childhood Public Policy: Federal and State Update 

How Do I Answer THAT? Responding to Children’s Questions About Bodies, Reproduction, & Sexuality

Learn how to stay calm and answer difficult questions effectively. Reflect on the reasons for our discomfort, and how our own questions were answered as children. Practice steps for answering common sexual questions from children, and how to partner with families to do the same.

Laughing the Stress Away

Teaching science to young learners can be daunting. We will show you how to make teaching science easy. Science areas can be implemented in an early childhood classroom to get students excited about science. Find out how to make your science area an irresistible area to learn and explore. Learn how to include young learners in the science process skills like observing, describing, categorizing, predicting, experimenting, and drawing conclusions. Engage with our facilitator in research-proven classroom activities to increase your confidence, repertoire of tools and content knowledge.

Fight, Flight or Freeze: Examining Challenging Behaviors Through a Trauma Lens

Every teacher faces challenging behaviors in their classroom but when trauma is a factor, behaviors can seem impossible to support. In this session, challenging behavior will be dissected to determine the function and examined through a traditional behavioral lens before trauma is explored to see how it can impact and exacerbate behaviors in young children. Participants will gain insight on how trauma impacts developing brains, how children display trauma and techniques to use in the classroom to tackle these behaviors. This session will wrap up with a discussion on teacher self-care. We are passionate about the work we do in early childhood but it can be trying and we need support as well.
**KEYNOTE: What if Today Was Their Only Day?**
Through active and engaging storytelling Lisa brings you back to her first day of school, taking you on a grand tour of Miss Mary’s Nursery School while she shares the sights, sounds and smells of the place where, at the young age of three, she decided to become a teacher. This inspiring keynote gets participants back in touch with their personal how and why of their own decision to become a teacher and encourages them to answer the question: If it WAS their only day, what will they remember?

---

**Friday, April 25th  1:00 PM - 2:30 PM**

**Let Go of the Lasso**
Are you tired of trying to lasso your families to get them involved in the classroom? Research has proven that family engagement is vital to the care and education of children, but what all does family engagement entail? Learn how to implement successful family engagement techniques that will have parents going beyond volunteering for snack time to building authentic relationships with teachers, administration and each other.

**I-Gens, Millennials, Gen-X’s, Baby Boomers, Traditionalists...Oh My! Incorporating Key Components to Engage All Learners**
For the first time in history, five generations of workers will soon be working side by side! Although we often lump adult learners together in theory, in reality “adult learners” are a mix of distinct generations with different histories, characteristics, preferences and values. This interactive session will focus on these differences as well as generational similarities to determine common themes that can be explored to engage multi-generational learners. We will also look at how recent brain research impacts learning. This workshop is a must for any leader wanting to address adult learners across different generations, incorporate adult learning principles, create effective learning environments, and encourage learning application in the workplace.

**Working through Ethical Dilemmas in the Early Childhood Profession (Part 1)**
What are professional ethics and why do we need them? This interactive session will dive into the NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct and how to utilize it to resolve ethical dilemmas. Participants will discuss the responsibilities of an early childhood educator when navigating ethical issues and the process for making decisions that are respectful and supportive to all involved. Come ready to engage in problem solving dilemmas you face each day.

**What Happens in Washington Shouldn't Stay There! Public Policy in Action!**
*Description coming soon.*

**Ohio Early Childhood Race and Rural Equity**
Attendees will be given a briefing on the Ohio Early Childhood Race and Rural Equity project, funded by the Kellogg Foundation, including an equity data analysis looking at metrics for Ohio children from birth through college and getting a deeper understanding of how child-serving systems are serving, or not serving, all Ohio children.
Supporting Successful Transitions to Kindergarten – Tools and Tips
At the heart of successful transitions is the ability for preschools, elementary schools, and families to work closely together, share information, build relationships, and foster continuity across settings. This session will provide information related to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), a federal law that requires local education agencies (LEAs) receiving Title I funds to develop agreements with Head Start and other early childhood providers to increase local coordination. Participants will receive a demonstration of online resources to strengthen transition practices that promote coordination, support high-quality educational experiences, and facilitate the seamless transition of children from early childhood settings to kindergarten.

CDA, Your Council and YOU! ▶️ Featured Speaker
This session will feature updates on the latest happenings at the Council for Professional Recognition including, navigating the new online system ‘YourCouncil,’ new credentials on the horizon, and expanding CDA internationally. The session will also highlight stories from Ohio area early childhood practitioners, PD specialists, and advocacy organizations.

Friday, April 25th 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Managing Change in the Childcare Setting ▶️ Admin/Director Focus
This session will prepare participants to become change agents in their childcare organizations. Current research and best practices in organization development and change management will be shared through the lens of early childhood organizations.

Working Through Ethical Dilemmas in the Early Childhood Profession (Part 2)
What are professional ethics and why do we need them? This interactive session will dive into the NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct and how to utilize it to resolve ethical dilemmas. Participants will discuss the responsibilities of an early childhood educator when navigating ethical issues and the process for making decisions that are respectful and supportive to all involved. Come ready to engage in problem solving dilemmas you face each day.

You’re a Professional! Understanding the Attributes of the Early Care and Education Professional and the Profession
The conversation starts with us! Participants will define and discuss the characteristics of an early childhood professional and the core values we are committed to uphold. Discover how to utilize the code of ethical conduct and develop an advocacy stance for the profession. Learn how to build a supportive network through professional organizations that elevate the valuable work we do.

Coaching in ECE: Impacting Teacher Practice through a Partnership Lens ▶️ Admin/Director Focus
Looking to increase your resources for staff development? Attend this session and look closely at why relationships are key to impacting teacher practice in your role as a coach! Become familiar with Practice-Based Coaching and successful strategies to empower your staff. Learn how a program was able to impact teacher practice through identifying and utilizing the strengths of the teaching staff to impact change within one another.
Individualizing Professional Development and Mentoring to Help Teachers Implement the Creative Curriculum® and GOLD® with Fidelity

This session aims to give coaches, mentors, and administrators a greater understanding of the coaching role along with practical strategies for improving their work with teachers and caregivers at all levels of implementation. Participants will discover ways to enhance the quality of their coaching and tailor it to the individual strengths, needs, and opportunities they observe in their programs using Teaching Strategies® Coaching to Fidelity resources.

Friday, April 25th 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Promoting Healthy Sexual Development in Young Children: Tools to Support Educators and Families (2 hours)

Learn what healthy sexuality looks like in young children and how to support children’s growth. Understand why sexual development is a critical part of physical, cognitive, and social-emotional development. Participate in brainstorming and role-play to develop and practice strategies to hold more confident discussions about these topics with children, families, and staff.

Friday, April 25th 3:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Changing the Way We See Behaviors: Becoming Trauma Competent (2.5 hours)

Did you ever wonder why the children in your care exhibit all types of behaviors? In this session, you will learn how to see behaviors through the lens of trauma by increasing your awareness of the many meanings behind those behaviors. This change in vision will allow you to become a trauma competent caregiver by understanding how trauma is experienced and the importance of connection.

Friday, April 25th 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Guiding Change: Let’s Talk! Featured Speaker

With growing evidence about the critical importance of the first five years of life, the imperative to professionalize the early childhood education field has never been greater. This session will engage participants in structured conversations about what has – and hasn’t changed over the past 12 years. What leadership approaches and systems thinking skills are not applicable to ECE’s challenges? What guiding principles should be developed to support the field’s decision-making? This session will engage participants in spirited discussion to deepen their thinking about ECE’s adaptive and systemic challenges.

Friday, April 25th 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Ohio Directors’ Network: Working Together to Advance Our Work

Program directors need opportunities to share ideas and find solutions to today’s challenges. Come and meet others who walk 10,000 steps daily in your shoes! We will use our time together to engage in open dialogue to support and inspire each other in providing high quality care in our communities. Bring your business card! Make plans to join us at the conference and return to your programs connected to a Directors’ Network from across Ohio. Non-Credit.