Ohio Early Childhood Conference | April 25-27 | Sandusky, OH
Thursday April 25th Infant & Toddler Sessions

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Making Connections through Intentional Instruction
We will address intentional teaching strategies in the early learning environment and employ them to achieve the most out of children’s play and lead them to school readiness. We will consider the physical environment, daily schedule, and interactions that are both child and teacher directed. These curriculum neutral strategies will be seen as an integral part of lesson plans and teachable moments.

The Opioid Crisis: The Effects on Young Children and Their Families!
A wave of young children now entering early childhood programs pose special problems because they were exposed directly to opiates before birth. Many others have been indirectly affected by the opioid crisis, with the impact on young children’s development and behavior being detrimental. This presentation focuses on the latest research on opioid-exposed young children and the use of practical intervention strategies that can be effectively implemented on them. We will also discuss strategies to combat the psychological trauma found in the families associated with addiction.

(Re)Considering Materials Through a Toddler Lens
Remember the adage about giving a man a fish or teaching him to fish for a lifetime? Let’s consider loose parts materials - using the fish in this scenario - which fishing experience do you want to embark on? In this session, participants will go beyond simply looking for a cute 'Pinterest-esque' activity with loose parts and materials and will support them in finding a deeper and more meaningful understanding of WHY we are doing this work with children, rather than just looking for something to do with children to fill in a box on a planning document. This session will provide both a theoretical framework for WHY this work is important as well as providing the HOW and the WHAT with the materials through first hand experiences with the toddlers in our classroom as well as providing an opportunity to work and create with the materials themselves!

Ohio Department of Education’s Strategic Plan and Early Childhood Education: Each Child, Our Future
Each Child, Our Future aims to ensure every child is challenged, prepared and empowered to become a resilient, lifelong learner who contributes to society. Ohio’s five-year strategic plan for education. Co-designed over the last year by parents, educators, employers, philanthropic leaders, policymakers and students, the plan seeks to lift aspirations, guide development of state-level policies and promote quality education practices across the state. By meeting the needs of the whole child, we’re giving children tools for success that will last far beyond their years in Ohio’s preK-12 education system.

Getting to Know GOLD®
Are you new to GOLD® and interested in learning more? Get a guided tour of the new MyTeachingStrategies™ platform: its features, its functionality, and how to navigate within it. You will discover how it can help you observe children with the curricular objectives in mind, understand what children know and can do and where they need to go next, and use that understanding to plan meaningful experiences that are appropriately challenging for individual children and your group.
Thursday April 25th  10:45 AM -11:45 AM

**KEYONTE Building Your Bounce: 23 Questions That Can Change The Way You Look At Life!**

Building Your Bounce is a keynote designed to meet you where you are and take you to a place of greater strength, determination, and resiliency. Participants are sure to leave this presentation with energy, enthusiasm and a commitment to make a few positive changes in their lives that will lead to greater happiness and fulfillment that will undoubtedly resonate in the work they do every day with children and families. This presentation will emphasize how important it is that adults take care of themselves and promote their social-emotional health; how the social-emotional well-being of adults impacts the children in their care in both positive and negative ways; and specific, simple and inexpensive strategies to reduce stress and promote their social-emotional health.

Thursday, April 25th  1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

**Conscious Discipline®- You Can Do it! (Part 1)**

The Conscious Discipline® approach provides a transformational, whole-school solution for social-emotional learning, discipline and self-regulation. Learn the steps to beginning successful Conscious Discipline implementation in your classroom as a preschool teacher and Conscious Discipline® Certified Instructor join together to share their practical experience to help you get started in your Conscious Discipline® journey. Discover how to use the latest brain research and resources to help children progress from aggression to calm self-regulation, freeing them to make better choices and empathize with others.

**Get Your Motor Running! Fun Physical Activities for Toddlers and Preschoolers**

Join in cooperative games and use simple equipment to promote motor skill development and increase moderate to vigorous physical activity. Learn how to make inexpensive props for inside and outdoor play. Discover how physical activity enhances brain function and learning. Leave ready to plan and select developmentally appropriate movement activities that promote physical activity throughout the day!

**The Heartbeat and Flow of Teaching: Leading with Compassion, Celebrating with Passion, and Connecting with Collaboration! (Part 1)**

Leadership development is an essential component of every early childhood professional. Early childhood professionals should take time to reinvent, energize, excel, and preserve in their professional roles. Empowering early childhood leaders with a clear vision that provides focus and encourages cooperation are needed today for all children and families! Explore effective ways to format your personal leadership style by discovering the power of flow and investigating attributes that create flow and passion into the heartbeat of teaching. This interactive workshop is designed to discover the compassionate leader in you, investigate your passions and leadership dispositions for teaching, and identify the power of team work and communication skills for effective collaboration.

**Where the Boys Are Version 2.0 (Part 1)**

This training explores the possibility that boys have different needs in the classroom than girls. Many of those differences can be related to the way that the different genders are socialized, as well as, differences in brain structure. Based on these differences and the fact that boys seem to be falling behind girls academically, teachers are asked to examine current teaching methods and explore new
methods that might be more engaging to males.

Using Responsive Teaching and Caregiving within The Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers & Twos to Support Language Development

Daily routines and experiences such as diapering or playing with toys offer opportunities to build positive relationships with young children that foster trust and security while promoting rich language development. In this session, participants will explore strategies within The Creative Curriculum® for Infants, Toddlers & Twos that they can use every day to create a language-rich environment, which helps children build language and literacy skills such as developing vocabulary, hearing the different sounds and rhythms of language, enjoying stories and books, and exploring writing.

Rhythm and Rhyme: Supports for Children Who Have Experienced Trauma (Part 1)

In this session, Dr. Bruce Perry's trauma research will frame our discussion of using rhythm and rhyme as a strategy to support students’ regulation. In this hands-on session, participants will act out poems with parachutes, participate in a kinesthetic shared reading, sing songs, build instruments, play rhyming games, and role-play strategies to connect rhythm with rhyme.

Check Your Face and Other Body Parts at the Door

Spend this session checking out yourself and how your physical affect and actions may impact the young children you serve. A unique opportunity to reflect on your physical self and how that contributes to building esteem, rapport, and trust in young children.

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

Empathy 101: Increasing your Capacity for Empathy

Participants will identify and recognize their current levels of compassion and empathy. They will be able to use new knowledge gained regarding empathy and apply that to their personal and professional lives. Participants will leave with a fresh perspective on their job, work and life.

Teaching Consent to Young Children (2 hours)

In an age of frequent assault allegations and abuse statistics, how do we raise children to understand, set, and respect personal boundaries? How can we take preemptive steps to protect children from abuse? Families and caregivers send daily messages about consent without realizing it, and we can help them be intentional with words and actions. We will discuss consent and developmentally appropriate practice, using breakout group discussion and role-play.

Measuring Classroom Quality with OCOT: The Ohio Classroom Observation Tool

What does “quality” look like in the early childhood classroom? What criteria is used to determine developmentally appropriate environment and interactions? In this session, an overview of the Ohio Classroom Observation Tool (OCOT) used in the SUTQ rating process will be provided. A deeper look at the indicators of quality used in the tool and how they are assessed during the onsite visit will be reviewed and discussed. This session will be beneficial for all early childhood program staff regardless of participation in SUTQ.

Building Your STEAM Team

During this interactive journey, we will discuss developmentally appropriate activities for S.T.E.A.M.
(Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics). We will define each component and explore how they can be integrated in centers and throughout the learning environment. We will look at the learning environment

**The Heartbeat and Flow of Teaching: Leading with Compassion, Celebrating with Passion, and Connecting with Collaboration! (Part 2)**

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**How Developmentally Appropriate Practice Impacts You**

Participants will explore the research behind developmentally appropriate practice and review the three core considerations, 12 guiding principles, five guidelines for effective teaching, and ten teaching strategies that support developmentally appropriate practice.

**Communication Skills for Challenging Conversations: An Overview**

This session will provide an overview of NAEYC’s 5 Modules on Communication Skills for Challenging Conversations: principles of family centered care, communication skills and strategies, setting limits,
when a teacher has a concern and when a parent has a concern. Effective approaches to conducting difficult conversations will be discussed and skills and tips for building confidence when navigating these conversations will be provided. Participants will leave empowered to establish and maintain partnerships with families they serve.

Thursday, April 25th 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

**Celebrate Today, Today: Still Teaching in the Key of Life!** 🌟
Join Vincent and Mimi for a total participation session that pairs music with age-appropriate activities and simplified signs to introduce shared community values to children and the professionals who teach them. Songs which convey values should be engaging and fun, but they should also be purposeful: showing young learners the connection between music and participation in social groups both in and outside of the classroom. Movements and simplified ASL-based signs accompany every song, along with an active discussion of the values within.

**Bag of Tricks! Transition Tools and Tips** 🌟
You don’t have to be a magician to create transitions that help young children move smoothly and joyfully from one activity to the next. Add to your collection of quick and amusing learning activities to facilitate transitions with children. These "in-between" activity times are valuable teachable moments.