

# Conference Presentation Details



## \*Key to Sessions\*

IT= Infant/Toddler topics, PS= Preschool topics, SA= School Age Topics, LD= Leadership Topics, ALL= All Participants, CCQS= Session will help with the Quality System

Friday, April 19th		Leaders Create Rising Stars!
The Business of Childcare	<u>Kaden McBride</u> <u>Southwest Technical</u>	Description coming soon
Moving Beyond “Good Job!” Meaningful ways to Praise & Engage your Staff	<u>Lauren Fredman</u> <u>Office of Child Care</u>	This presentation will explore various ways to consistently and genuinely implement staff praise and recognition in child care programs. Participants will examine how staff are currently acknowledged, have the space to share and brainstorm with others and walk away with new ideas that they can implement with their staff that will positively impact the workplace culture and benefit the children in their care.
Keynote: Leaders Can Fly Too	<u>Simon Bolivar</u> <u>Child Care Licensing</u>	This is a simple approach to the importance of being part of the process of building and supporting our leadership. Both staff and children are part of the process of making leaders, but so often we do not recognize or are aware of the human nature of the leader and their ability to fly. This presentation will provide a view of what leadership in the making could be. It is an out-of-the-box approach to working with all and allowing for leaders to lead. This approach will also be applicable to the staff hiring and training process. It will address key components of supporting and keeping engaged staff and staff engaged.
Saturday, April 20th		7-8 am Registration 8-4pm Presentations
Keynote:		
Building Relationships with Children & Families that are Out of This World!	<u>Ron Mohl</u> <u>Lakeshore Learning</u>	Open two-way communication between families and educators is necessary for a child’s success. Research shows that the more families and educators share relevant information with each other about a child, the better equipped both will be to help that child achieve academically. Therefore, it is imperative that we gain the trust of families, so that we can be a partner with them to support their child’s learning and growth. But it doesn’t stop there. We must also build positive relationships with each child. Each moment that caregivers and children interact is an opportunity to develop positive relationships. In this keynote, we will explore effective communication strategies to build positive relationships with children and their families to promote the success of each child.
Sessions 1 & 2: 10-11, 11:15-12:15		
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Early Childhood Environment *ALL	<u>Ron Mohl</u> <u>Lakeshore Learning</u>	How do we advance equity in our classroom? In this session, we will define important terms including diversity, equity, and inclusion and dive into the recommendations set by NAEYC on how to create a caring, equitable community of engaged learners. Through the lens of NAEYC’s recommendations, we will define what a high-quality learning environment is and how to engage all children in meaningful, open-ended learning activities. We will also discuss effective teacher-child interactions to not only build nurturing relationships with all children, but to scaffold children to meet their individual needs.

<p><b>The Top 10 Skills Children Can't Do! (And Skills They Can Do!)</b> *ALL</p>	<p><b><u>Heidi Petersen</u></b> <b><u>The Children's Center</u></b> <b><u>Utah</u></b></p>	<p>We need to rethink what children can and can't do based on their stage of development. Children are not "aggressive" because they push, take from others, or bite. They are not "bad" because they leave activities not interesting to them or say they "no". Children are showing behaviors that are developmentally appropriate. We need to remember what children are good at!</p> <p>Come learn the top ten skills that young children can't do and how to support the skills they can do in the classroom.</p>
<p><b>The Trauma of Unmet Needs- Understanding Children with Fractured Foundations</b> *ALL</p>	<p><b><u>Laura Hunter</u></b> <b><u>CAC-WSU</u></b></p>	<p>-Understanding Causes (ACES, Attachment Trauma, Current research on Childhood neglect) -What does a failed identity crisis look like in young children? (Discussion on Erikson's theory of psychosocial development) -Recognizing Associated Behaviors (distinguishing these behaviors from developmentally expected behaviors.)</p>
<p><b>Understanding Quality and the Personal Perspective of it!</b> *ALL, CCQS</p>	<p><b><u>Crystal Knippers</u></b> <b><u>CAC-WSU</u></b></p>	<p>In this presentation we will look at indicators of quality and how you can address those indicators in ways that empower you in your work. Quality supports not only positive outcomes for children but also for caregivers. Let's chat about how you are supporting quality in the work you are already doing.</p>
<p><b>Music and Movement: A Powerful Tool for Challenging Behaviors</b> *ALL</p>	<p><b><u>Janet Wahlquist-Johnston</u></b> <b><u>Care About Childcare</u></b> <b><u>WSU</u></b></p>	<p>Music and movement can be a powerful tool to help children manage their feelings and behaviors. Music can help install calm and promote self-regulation, and bring joy. In this workshop we will look at specific music and movement activities you can start using right away in your classroom or program that can have a positive impact on challenging behaviors, and have a positive impact for all children..</p>
<p><b>Using the Ages and Stages Questionnaires: Identify delays and celebrate children in your program.</b> *IT, PS, LD, CCQS</p>	<p><b><u>Sarah Armknecht</u></b> <b><u>Help Me Grow Utah</u></b></p>	<p>Learn about using the Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) in your program! Learn how to get free access to the ASQ through the state's integrated screening system so you can better identify and help children with under-detected delays, as well as celebrate the milestones and abilities of all the children in your program. Discover how using the ASQ can increase family engagement as you work together towards the best child outcomes.</p>
<p><b>Diversity Among the Neurodiverse: What disabilities are out there and how can we recognize them?</b> *ALL</p>	<p><b><u>Kayla Robertson</u></b> <b><u>RRCI</u></b></p>	<p>Come and learn about the diversity among the neurodiverse! We will discuss the different cues to look for with selected different disabilities under the following categories of physical, genetic, mental/emotional, and cognitive. This is a great opportunity to learn more on how to recognize them in both a professional and personal situation, as well as what supports you can offer or look for to support these rising generations.</p>
<p><b>Building Rising Stars with TOP Star</b> *LD, ALL</p>	<p><b><u>Kristi Sharp</u></b> <b><u>Southwest Health Department</u></b></p>	<p>You've heard of the TOP Star program, but how do you take advantage of it? In this session we will learn where to request information and support, steps involved in being endorsed and requirements. Come learn how to make a lifelong impact on the children you care for every day.</p>
<p><b>Building a Culture of Family Engagement</b> *ALL, CCQS</p>	<p><b><u>Joyce Hasting</u></b> <b><u>Care About Childcare</u></b> <b><u>UVU</u></b></p>	<p>Working with parents and families can be a challenge, but it is vital part of any early childhood program. We will discuss the importance of building a culture of family engagement from the first contact and continue for everyday after.</p>
<p><b>Nurturing Young Minds in Nature's Classroom</b> *ALL</p>	<p><b><u>Brionne Neilson</u></b> <b><u>SUU</u></b> <b><u>Kelly Goonan</u></b> <b><u>SUU</u></b></p>	<p>Join us for an enlightening presentation that delves into the crucial role of outdoor experiences in early childhood development. Discover the latest research on why nature is an invaluable learning environment for young children, gain innovative ideas for engaging outdoor activities, and explore strategies for overcoming challenges and barriers to outdoor learning.</p>
<p><b>Building a Star, One Protective Factor at a Time</b> *SA, ALL</p>	<p><b><u>Verlina Adame, Angie Toone</u></b> <b><u>Utah Afterschool Network</u></b></p>	<p>Every child can be a STAR! And while risk factors bombard children from every side, physically, mentally, emotionally, and environmentally, YOU are a powerful protective factor! Learn how your relationship with a child can be a major protective factor and how we can model for children and youth resilience through the five social emotional strategies of CASEL; self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making.</p>

<p><b>Learn the Signs. Act Early Can Help</b> *IT, PS</p>	<p><b><u>Janel Preston, B.S.</u></b> <u>Institute for Disability Research, Policy, &amp; Practice</u></p>	<p>As an early childhood educator, you are a valuable resource to parents! They look to you for information about their child, and they trust you. CDC's "Learn the Signs. Act Early." (LTSAE) has FREE research-based, parent-friendly resources on child development to help you boost family engagement and your own professional development.</p>
<p><b>Lunch: 12:12-1:30pm</b></p>		
<p><b>Sessions 3 &amp; 4 1:45-2:45, 3-4pm</b></p>		
<p><b>Could this be better? An invitation to change the rules so they serve you.</b> *LD, ALL</p>	<p><b><u>Katrina Herd</u></b> <u>Early Learning Center, Guadalupe School</u></p>	<p>Your program has policies and procedures and everyone has an opinion about what those should include. It can feel like the demands on you to demonstrate your worth is a horrible carousel of change. How do you balance the needs of families and the demands of your regulators? This session is an invitation to look at your current day to day practices with a critical eye. Are practices serving you, your program, staff, and families? Or are there things that can be better?</p>
<p><b>Advocacy and Early Care and Learning: Why Your Story Matters</b> *LD, ALL</p>	<p><b><u>Brigette Weier</u></b> <u>Care for Kids Network</u> <b><u>Caressa King</u></b> <u>IncludeU School</u></p>	<p>Advocacy can be a word that often induces anxiety and induces images of rallies and marches. While it can be those actions, the simple fact is that advocacy is simply adding your voice with a community to amplify the needs of you and your community. This workshop will offer introductory information on advocacy, from why it matters to how to begin. We will offer opportunities for practicing your "elevator pitch" for early care and learning support as well as ideas and support for first steps. You will come away confident that your story, your families' stories and you community's stories matter and should be heard!</p>
<p><b>State of Child Care: Recap of the 2024 Legislative Session</b> *LD, ALL</p>	<p><b><u>Anna Thomas</u></b> <b><u>Jenna Williams</u></b> <u>Voices for Utah Children</u></p>	<p>Join us to learn about what just happened in the world of childcare during the 2024 Legislative Session! Childcare was a hot topic at the Utah State Capitol this year, with multiple pieces of legislation proposed, including: funding for ongoing stabilization grants, using state buildings for new child care programs, expanding Utah's minimal Child Tax Credit, and more! Anna and Jenna will share the results of multiple efforts to expand state investment in the childcare sector, and do their best to answer your questions about where things go from here..</p>
<p><b>Time-In: Strategies to help with our challenging stars</b> *PS, SA</p>	<p><b><u>Paula Kerchenski</u></b> <u>Utah Tech University</u></p>	<p>This session will look at the current research on behavioral interventions in the classroom. The presentation will focus on strategies that can be implemented in the classroom to help children develop self-control. Through active participation methods, participants will learn how to implement some practical and effective strategies, immediately into their practice.</p>
<p><b>Preschool Expulsions and Suspensions, and Why We Should Care</b> *ALL</p>	<p><b><u>Jill Chesley-McGinnis</u></b> <u>The Children's Center Utah</u></p>	<p>There is an epidemic of preschool suspensions in the U.S. and the long-term consequences for young children are severe. Young children who are expelled or suspended from Preschool lose opportunities to learn, socialize, strengthen behavior skills, and develop positive relationships with adults and learning in general. Surprisingly, many of these children are engaging in typical and developmental behaviors. This workshop will explore strategies that reduce the likelihood of preschool expulsion, increase early childhood educators' awareness, and break the cycle of expulsion.</p>
<p><b>How To Support Professional Development with ECHO</b> *LD</p>	<p><b><u>Janel Preston, B.S.</u></b> <u>Institute for Disability Research, Policy, &amp; Practice</u> <b><u>Curt Phillips</u></b> <u>USU Project ECHO</u></p>	<p>Project ECHO® is a lifelong learning and guided practice model that exponentially increases workforce capacity to provide the application of best practices. ECHO Networks provide ongoing support for educators, healthcare providers, and families in a rural state where specialized knowledge is not always locally available. By removing these barriers to specialized knowledge, outcomes for students, patients, and families are improved.</p>
<p><b>Telling the story of the childcare crisis</b> *ALL</p>	<p><b><u>Haley Swenson</u></b> <u>New America</u></p>	<p>How can we push back against tired and false narratives of early education? The experienced journalist and storyteller Haley Swenson has been covering child care for five years, and she's learned some key insights she will share about how to engage the public to support investment in child care. She will also provide useful tips for those</p>

		interested in developing their own voice as writers and advocates and joining the public debate in op eds and public forums.
<b>Debunking childcare myths: Separating fact from fiction</b> *ALL	<b><u>Pam Reclosado, Tiffany Raban, Emily Todd</u></b> <b><u>Care About Childcare</u></b>	Join us for an eye-opening journey as we tackle common misconceptions surrounding childcare. From debunking myths and exploring the truth in childcare this presentation will equip you with evidence-based insights to navigate the world of childcare with confidence. Get ready to challenge assumptions, empower yourself with knowledge and walk away with confidence to take back to your classroom.
<b>Tough Behaviors Due to Mental Health and/or Disability</b> *PS, SA	<b><u>Jennifer Shepherd</u></b> <b><u>Washington County School District</u></b>	Kids come in all shapes and sizes. They have different functions of behaviors and triggers that can affect their daily lives. Jennifer will discuss particular behaviors that are attached to a child's disability and/or mental health issues. Knowing how to find the function of behaviors, their triggers, and how to respond to extreme situations is key to finding a balance between the worker, child, and family. Learn how to identify a disability and the best strategies to use for these children.
<b>Am I a Bad Seed? Using Children's Books to Teach Emotional Regulation</b> *ALL	<b><u>Kristy &amp; Joey DeGraaf</u></b> <b><u>The Learning Tree</u></b>	In this workshop we will discuss the basics of emotional regulation and co-regulation for early childhood educators and caregivers. We will review strategies to help children improve their emotional intelligence with a focus on using children's books and storytelling techniques as a tool to enhance learning.
<b>Active Engagement in Early Childhood Classrooms</b> *ALL	<b><u>Brittney Nelson</u></b> <b><u>Washington County School District Preschools</u></b>	Active engagement in early childhood refers to the involvement and participation of young children in various learning activities that stimulate their cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development. It is a teaching approach that encourages children to be actively involved in the learning process rather than being passive recipients of information.

\*These codes are suggestions. Please register for any session you are interested in!

The content of some of the sessions may be emotionally challenging. We invite you to keep an open mind and always take care of your mental health.