

# 2025 Summer Conference

## One Goal: Building The Future Together

### “Putting Families And Children First”



Hilton Tampa Downtown • Tampa, Florida  
July 16-18, 2025

## 2025 SUMMER CONFERENCE

### Wednesday, July 16, 2025

9:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.	EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS & SERVICES EXHIBITS	Bayshore I
12:00 NOON-12:45 P.M.	FIRST TIMERS' ORIENTATION SESSION	Palma Ceia II
1:00 P.M.-3:00 P.M.	OPENING GENERAL SESSION Keynote Speaker: Dr. Melissa L. Baralt	Bayshore II
3:15 P.M.-4:45 P.M.	CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS	
1. Brain-Body Movements For Learning	Child Growth & Development	Bayshore V
2. Teach, Tackle/Transform: Master Age-Appropriate Curriculum/Challenging Behaviors	Dev Appropriate Curriculum	Bayshore VI
3. From Play To Problem Solving: Supporting Young Children's Executive Functions	Child Growth & Development	Bayshore VII
4. The Federal Landscape: Assessing The Opportunities For Early Care & Education	Public Policy & Advocacy	Palma Ceia II
5. Child Care Resource & Referral: First Step For Families & Providers	Family Engagement	Palma Ceia III
6. Supporting Instructional Coaching For Teacher Growth	Management & Leadership	Palma Ceia IV
7. Decoding The Unspoken: Understanding Nonverbal Cues/Actions Infant-Toddler	Child Growth & Development	Esplanade I
8. Compliance Made Easy: Tackling the Top 10 Child Care Licensing Challenges	Health, Safety & Nutrition	Esplanade II
9. Lights, Camera, Strategies! Fostering Neurodiversity/Celebrating The Learner	Special Needs	Esplanade III
10. Take Back Your Classroom	Mental Health/Behaviors	Garrison
5:00 P.M.-6:00 P.M.	“REDISCOVERING YOUR CHILD”	Bayshore II

# 2025 SUMMER CONFERENCE

Thursday, July 17, 2025

**8:00 A.M.-10:15 A.M.**

**COFFEE BREAK**

**Bayshore I**

**8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.**

**COMMERCIAL EXHIBITS**

**Bayshore I**

**8:30 A.M.-10:00 A.M.**

**CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS**

11. Teamwork In Motion: A Collaborative Planning Approach	Management & Leadership	Bayshore V
12. Let's Take It Outside: Exploring (FELDS) Through Nature	Dev Appropriate Curriculum	Bayshore VI
13. Toddlers & Autism: The Importance Of Early Social Communication	Child Growth/Special Needs	Bayshore VII
14. Understanding The Development From Symbol To Sign - The Foundation	Child Growth & Development	Palma Ceia II
15. Setting Goals & Making Plans	Management & Leadership	Palma Ceia III
16. Empowering Child Care Professionals: Training & Certifications	Health, Safety & Nutrition	Palma Ceia IV
17. Aprendizaje Activo Con Lego® Six Bricks: Estrategias	Dev Appropriate Curriculum	Esplanade I
18. Intentional Interactions: Promoting Learning & Persistence Through Play	Dev Appropriate Curriculum	Esplanade II
19. The Power Of Your Story: Parents & Educators As Strong Advocates For Progress	Public Policy & Advocacy	Esplanade III
20. Emotional Intelligence Strategies For Teachers	Child Growth & Development	Garrison

**10:15 A.M.-11:45 A.M.**

**CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS**

21. Provoking Wonderment: Igniting Children's Natural Curiosity Thru Everyday Science	Dev Appropriate Curriculum	Bayshore V
22. Sensory Processing: How It All Works!	Child Growth/Special Needs	Bayshore VI
23. NDBIs & Autism: Empowering Parents, Impacting Families	Child Growth/Special Needs	Bayshore VII
24. 2025 State & Federal Legislative Review	Public Policy & Advocacy	Palma Ceia II
25. Success Starts With You: Tools To Thrive In Early Childhood Education	Management & Leadership	Palma Ceia III
26. Positive Social Skills & Emotional Competencies Supporting Prekindergarten	Special Needs	Palma Ceia IV
27. Active Learning With Six Bricks: Strategies To Enhance Early Childhood Dev	Dev Appropriate Curriculum	Esplanade I
28. Designing Weather For All: Using AI & UDL In Early Childhood Learning	Dev Appropriate Curriculum	Esplanade II
29. VPK Accountability, Improvement Plan & Curriculum Requirements	Public Policy & Advocacy	Esplanade III
30. Creating Confident, Capable Children With Music	Child Growth & Development	Garrison

**12:00 NOON-1:15 P.M.**

**RESEARCH PRESENTATION**

Keynote Speaker: Barbara Papantoakis

**Bayshore II**

# 2025 SUMMER CONFERENCE

Thursday, July 17, 2025

**1:30 P.M.-2:30 P.M.**

## CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS

31. All Behavior Is Communication: Understanding/Responding Infant/Toddler Behavior	Mental Health/Behaviors	Bayshore V
32. Mindfulness Matters: Caring With Presence	Management & Leadership	Bayshore VI
33. Enhancing Teaching Practices Thru Executive Function: Modeling/Implementation	Child Growth & Development	Bayshore VII
34. Early Steps: Partnering With Early Educators To Support The Dev Of Children	Special Needs	Palma Ceia I
35. Emphasizing Regard For Children's Perspectives In PreK/Toddler Classrooms	Child Growth & Development	Palma Ceia I
36. To Screen & Assess Children Or Not?	Screenings/Assessments/Eval	Palma Ceia III
37. Acquisition & Use Of Knowledge & Skills In Prekindergarten	Special Needs	Palma Ceia IV
38. Embracing The Science Of Reading In Early Childhood Classrooms	Child Growth & Development	Esplanade I
39. Talking To Toddlers - Building Blocks For Reading Success	Child Growth & Development	Esplanade II
40. Enhancing Instruction & Interactions In Early Childhood	Child Growth & Development	Esplanade III
41. Unlocking PreK Potential: The Science of Reading Drives Early Reading Success	Dev Appropriate Curriculum	Garrison

**2:45 P.M.-3:45 P.M.**

## CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS

42. Laugh For The (Mental) Health: Laughter & Laughter Yoga Support Pyramid Model	Mental Health/Behaviors	Bayshore II
43. Calm The Chaos: Tips For Smooth Transitions	Mental Health/Behaviors	Bayshore V
44. Power Of Communication	Management & Leadership	Bayshore VI
45. Teaching With Child Development In Mind	Child Growth & Development	Bayshore VII
46. Elevating Quality Of Feedback In Prekindergarten/Toddler Classrooms: Strategies	Child Growth & Development	Palma Ceia I
47. Asking Effective Questions For Instructional Support CLASS™ Scoring System	Child Growth & Development	Palma Ceia II
48. School Readiness Developmental Screening	Screenings/Assessments/Eval	Palma Ceia III
49. Use Of Appropriate Behaviors To Meet Needs In PreKindergarten	Special Needs	Palma Ceia IV
50. Come On In! Powering Your Partnerships With Families	Family Engagement	Esplanade I
51. Using FELDS To Build Resiliency In Our Youngest Learners	Child Growth & Development	Esplanade II
52. First To See/Support: Child Care Educators Leading Way In Early Intervention	Screenings/Assessments/Eval	Esplanade III
53. Play, Pixels, & Proficiency: Integrating Science Of Reading For Generation Alpha	Dev Appropriate Curriculum	Garrison

**4:00 P.M.-5:00 P.M.**

## CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS

54. Jump, Skip Let's Get Moving	Child Growth & Development	Bayshore II
55. Play, CLASS™ & Standards: The Three Crosswords For Success	Child Growth & Development	Bayshore V
56. Reach For The Stars Using FAST Star Early Literacy Data	Screenings/Assessments/Eval	Bayshore VI
57. Creating Confident Writers: Strategies To Make Early Writing Enjoyable	Dev Appropriate Curriculum	Bayshore VII
58. Assistive Technology Tools For Tomorrow: Creating Classrooms Today For Children	Special Needs	Palma Ceia I
59. Fostering Positive Behaviors In Children Of All Abilities Through CLASS™	Child Growth & Development	Palma Ceia II
60. Supporting Family Engagement With Early Literacy Resources & Training	Family Engagement	Palma Ceia III
61. Individualizing With Ease	Special Needs	Palma Ceia IV
62. Empowering Early Learning Directors: A Fellowship Initiative	Management & Leadership	Esplanade I
63. Every Interaction Counts: Improving Language Environments In Early Childhood Ed	Child Growth & Development	Esplanade II
64. Fostering Positive Classroom Interactions In Child Development Centers	Child Growth & Development	Garrison

**7:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.**

**“COME ALIVE WITH MUSIC AND  
KARAOKE/LIP SYNC PARTY”**

**Bayshore II**

# 2025 SUMMER CONFERENCE

## Friday, July 18, 2025

**8:00 A.M.-10:15 A.M.**

**COFFEE BREAK**

**Bayshore I**

**8:00 A.M.-11:45 A.M.**

**COMMERCIAL EXHIBITS**

**Bayshore I**

**8:30 A.M.-10:00 A.M.**

**CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS**

65. Understanding Behavior-Teaching Rather than Punishing	Mental Health/Behaviors	Bayshore II
66. Four Essential EQ Competencies For Educational Leaders: Keeping Your Head	Management & Leadership	Bayshore V
67. Let's Meet Them Where They Are! (The Whole Child Approach)	Child Growth & Development	Bayshore VI
68. Beyond Handprints & Footprints - Promoting Creative Expressions Infants/Toddlers	Child Growth & Development	Bayshore VII
69. Reteniendo La Excelencia: Avanzando Educadorespar Con TEACH E INCENTIVES	Collaboration	Palma Ceia I
70. STEM & Literacy: Discover, Explore, & Learn	Dev Appropriate Curriculum	Palma Ceia II
71. What If We Got It Right From The Start? A Dyslexia-Informed Approach For All	Special Needs	Palma Ceia III
72. Jeopardy: Florida's Early Learning Roadmap Edition	Public Policy & Advocacy	Palma Ceia IV
73. Collaborative Strategies For Reducing Challenging Behaviors In Preschoolers	Mental Health/Behaviors	Esplanade I
74. Blooming Empathetic Leadership In Early Childhood	Management & Leadership	Esplanade II
75. Beyond The Checkmark: Digital Portfolios For Authentic Assessment	Screenings/Assessments/Eval	Esplanade III
76. Intentional Integration For READY Children	Dev Appropriate Curriculum	Garrison

**10:15 A.M.-11:45 A.M.**

**CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS**

77. The Second Year: Helping Young Toddlers Develop Socially & Emotionally	Child Growth & Development	Bayshore V
78. The Importance Of Sensory Play & YOU!	Child Growth/Special Needs	Bayshore VI
79. Once Upon A Story: Supporting Young Children's Literacy Dev Thru Dramatic Play	Dev Appropriate Curriculum	Bayshore VII
80. Retaining Excellence: Advancing ECE Educators Through TEACH & INCENTIVES.	Collaboration	Palma Ceia I
81. Nature-Based Learning In The Outdoor Classroom	Dev Appropriate Curriculum	Palma Ceia II
82. Build A Toolbox for Emotional Intelligence	Mental Health/Behaviors	Palma Ceia III
83. Receta, No Un Menú: Mapa De Ruta Para El Futuro De La Educación Temprana	Public Policy & Advocacy	Palma Ceia IV
84. It Takes A Village: Cultivating Family Engagement	Family Engagement	Esplanade I
85. Understanding...Caring...Compassion for Every Child	Mental Health/Behaviors	Esplanade II
86. Leveraging Data Types For Continuous Improvement	Management & Leadership	Esplanade III
87. Music Starts With The Heartbeat!	Child Growth & Development	Garrison

**12:00 NOON-1:30 P.M.**

**CLOSING GENERAL SESSION**

Keynote Speaker: Holly Elissa Bruno

**Bayshore II**



## 2025 Summer Conference

One Goal: Building The Future Together “Putting Families And Children First”

July 16, 17, 18, 2025

Hilton Tampa Downtown • Tampa, Florida

### Program Schedule

#### Wednesday, July 16, 2025

10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Registration

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Educational Programs & Services Exhibits

12:00 noon-12:45 p.m.

First Timers' Orientation Session

1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Opening General Session

Keynote: **Dr. Melissa L. Baralt**

3:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m.

Concurrent Presentations

5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

“Rediscovering Your Child”

Hosted by the Hilton Tampa Downtown. All conference participants are invited to attend. This is an excellent opportunity to network with speakers and colleagues.

#### Thursday, July 17, 2025

8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Registration

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Commercial Exhibits

8:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

Concurrent Presentations

12:00 noon-1:15 p.m.

Research Presentation includes Lunch

Keynote: **Detdctc'Rercpwqcnku**

(Ticket Required)

1:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Concurrent Presentations

5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Presenters' Appreciation

7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

“Come Alive With Music/Karaoke/Lip Sync Party”

A fun evening of music, karaoke, lip sync performances, prizes, and dancing.

#### Friday, July 18, 2025

8:00 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

Commercial Exhibits

8:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

Concurrent Presentations

12:00 noon-1:30 p.m.

Closing General Session

Keynote: **Holly Elissa Bruno**

### Keynote Speakers

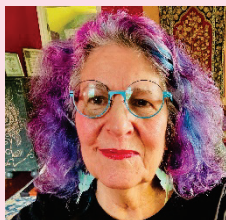
#### Opening General Session



**Dr. Melissa L. Baralt** began her career as a primary school teacher in Maracaibo, Venezuela. She then attended Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. to study how the brain acquires language and what teachers, caregivers, and parents can do to maximize the language learning process. At Florida International University, Dr. Baralt

has two key roles: language teacher trainer and psycholinguistics researcher. Some of her research areas: Psycholinguistics, Bilingualism and second language acquisition, Bilingual language development in children, Sociocultural and Environmental factors that affect parent-child interaction, Bilingual education, Methodologies of language teaching, Language teacher education and cognition. Dr. Baralt will share in her keynote the Role of Caregiver Speech in Child Development: What Every Educator Should Know.

#### Closing General Session



**Holly Elissa Bruno**, best-selling and award-winning author, international keynote speaker, and podcaster. She served as Assistant Attorney General for the state of Maine and Assistant Dean at the University of Maine School of Law. An alumna of Harvard University's Institute for Educational

Management, she teaches leadership courses for Wheelock College, most recently in Singapore. Bruno has written several books; her current writing focuses on transforming childhood trauma into healing wisdom and finding hope in unbearable times. She will share the importance of You in her keynote, "Hats Off to You: Everyday Miracle Workers in Children's Lives."

### Research Presentation



**Barbara Papantoakis** has been in the field of early education for over twenty-seven years, the last six with the Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County. She will share their research through participation in the LENA program, particularly in both CLASS™ and TS GOLD assessments. The results have been very

promising, and they are thrilled with the impact it's having on early childhood development.

### Guest Rresenters

**Whitney Pesek**

*Federal Legislative Review*

**Ingrid Kanics**

*Sensory Processing/Sensory Play*