

# 2026 Summer Conference

## One Goal: Building The Future Together

### “Putting Families And Children First”



Hilton Tampa Downtown • Tampa, Florida  
July 8-10, 2026

## 2026 SUMMER CONFERENCE

### Wednesday, July 8, 2026

<b>8:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.</b>	<b>REGISTRATION</b>	<b>Galleria B</b>
<b>9:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.</b>	<b>EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS &amp; SERVICES EXHIBITS</b>	<b>Bayshore I</b>
<b>12:00 NOON-12:45 P.M.</b>	<b>FIRST TIMERS' ORIENTATION SESSION</b>	<b>Palma Ceia II</b>
<b>1:00 P.M.-3:00 P.M.</b>	<b>OPENING GENERAL SESSION</b> Keynote Speaker: Dr. Kimberly P. Johnson	<b>Bayshore II</b>
<b>3:15 P.M.-4:45 P.M.</b>	<b>CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS</b>	
1. Conecta/Aprende/Actúa: Herramientas Esenciales Para El Desarrollo Socioemocional	Mental Health/Behaviors	Bayshore V
2. Scribbles Matter	Dev Appropriate Curriculum	Bayshore VI
3. Everyday Moments That Matter: Caring For Young Children And Ourselves	Mental Health/Infant & Toddler	Bayshore VII
4. The Federal Landscape: Assessing The Opportunities For Early Care And Education	Public Policy & Advocacy	Palma Ceia II
5. Early Childhood Educator Coaching...It's A Thing!!!	Management & Leadership	Palma Ceia IV
6. Strengthening Emergent Literacy Skills Through Screening And Assessment	Child Growth/Screenings	Esplanade I
7. Seeing Families, Supporting Children	Family Engagement	Esplanade II
8. Every Child Ready: Strategic Supports Elevating Outcomes For VPK Learners	Child Growth & Development	Esplanade III
9. Storytime That Grows SUPERPOWERS	Child Growth & Development	Garrison
<b>5:00 P.M.-6:00 P.M.</b>	<b>“REDISCOVERING YOUR CHILD”</b>	<b>Bayshore II</b>

# 2026 SUMMER CONFERENCE

Thursday, July 9, 2026

**8:00 A.M.-13:00 P.M.**

**REGISTRATION**

**Galleria B**

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

**COMMERCIAL EXHIBITS**

**Bayshore I**

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

**CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS**

10. Building Safe Brains:Supporting Self-Regulation In Early Childhood Through LEGO®	Mental Health/Behaviors	Bayshore V
11. From Marks To Messages:Every Child's Hand Can Tell Their Story	Dev Appropriate Curriculum	Bayshore VI
12. Flush With Success:Comprehensive Potty-Learning Strategies	Child Growth & Development	Bayshore VII
13. Developing Positive Conflict Resolution Skills	Management & Leadership	Palma Ceia II
14. Setting Goals And Making Plans	Management & Leadership	Palma Ceia IV
15. The Vibe You Bring Is The Climate We Feel	Child Growth & Development	Esplanade I
16. Ver A Las Familias, Apoyar A Los Niños	Family Engagement	Esplanade II
17. Positive Social Skills And Emotional Competencies In Part B Prekindergarten	Special Needs	Esplanade III
18. Talk Like You Mean It:Conversational Exchanges Feedback Vs Language Modeling	Dev Appropriate Curriculum	Garrison

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

**CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS**

19. The Leadership Effect:How To Lead Strong, Stable Teams	Management & Leadership	Bayshore V
20. Igniting Curiosity:The Power Of Play	Dev Appropriate Curriculum	Bayshore VI
21. The Scoop On Schema Play	Child Growth & Development	Bayshore VII
22. 2026 State And Federal Legislative Review	Public Policy & Advocacy	Palma Ceia II
23. Success Starts With You:Tools To Thrive In Early Childhood Education	Management & Leadership	Palma Ceia IV
24. Relationships:The Foundation Of Healthy Infant/Toddler Development	Child Growth/Infant & Toddler	Esplanade I
25. From Observation To Action:Turning Milestone Observations InTeaching Decisions	Child Growth/Screenings	Esplanade II
26. Pause, Reflect, Grow:How Reflection Transforms Early Childhood Practice	Mental Health/Behaviors	Esplanade III
27. Where Play Meets Literacy:Building Family Partnerships Thur Play-Based Learning	Family Engagement	Garrison

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

**RESEARCH PRESENTATION**

**Bayshore II**

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Pamela C. Phelps

# 2026 SUMMER CONFERENCE

Thursday, July 9, 2026

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

## CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS

28. Supporting The Child Care Workforce Through Trauma Informed Practices	Management & Leadership	Bayshore V
29. "Help It Stick"	Mental Health/Behaviors	Bayshore VI
30. Classroom Arrangement Essentials To Support Social Skills	Special Needs	Bayshore VII
31. Understanding Behavior And The Power Of "I Wonder"	Child Growth & Development	Palma Ceia II
32. Early Identification Developmental Concerns/Referral Process In School Readiness	Screenings/Assessments/Eval	Palma Ceia III
33. Exploring Professional Development/Compensation TEACH And INCENTIVE\$ FL	Collaboration	Palma Ceia IV
34. Empowering Child Care Professionals: Training And Certifications	Health, Safety and Nutrition	Esplanade I
35. Supporting Early Literacy Through Resources, Trainings, and Strategies	Dev Appropriate Curriculum	Esplanade II
36. Entering Quality, Concise Notes In WELS	Management & Leadership	Esplanade III
37. Start The Music From The Beginning!	Child Growth/Infant & Toddler	Garrison

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

## CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS

38. Beyond Bubble Baths: Self-Care/Burnout Prevention Early Childhood Professionals	Mental Health/Behaviors	Bayshore II
39. What If We Got It Right From The Start? Dyslexia Informed Approach	Child Growth/Special Needs	Bayshore V
40. Improve Your Communication Skills - An Overview To Crucial Conversations	Collaboration/Management	Bayshore VI
41. Supporting Classroom Communication And Language Development	Special Needs	Bayshore VII
42. Pebbles And Prose: The Storytelling Power Of Loose Parts	Dev Appropriate Curriculum	Palma Ceia II
43. La Evaluación Del Desarrollo Como Herramienta Para Incrementar La Participación	Screenings/Assessments/Eval	Palma Ceia III
44. Stronger Together: Building Teams That Thrive	Management & Leadership	Palma Ceia IV
45. Compliance Made Easy: Tackling the Top 10 Child Care Licensing Challenges	Health, Safety and Nutrition	Esplanade I
46. Preschool To Kindergarten: Summer Bridge Prog Supports Whole-Child Readiness	Child Growth & Development	Esplanade II
47. Building Advocacy Skills In Early Childhood: The ALTP Experience	Public Policy & Advocacy	Esplanade III
48. Songs That Can Be Shared At Home	Family Engagement	Garrison

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

## CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS

49. Moving With "CLASS@"	Child Growth & Development	Bayshore II
50. Creating An Impactful Future With CLASS@ 2nd Edition	Management & Leadership	Bayshore V
51. Every Interaction Counts: Improving Language Environments Early Childhood Ed	Child Growth & Development	Bayshore VI
52. Achieving Gold Seal Status: What Providers Need To Know	Management & Leadership	Bayshore VII
53. Classroom Management Toolkit: Strategies For Effective Classroom Management	Dev Appropriate Curriculum	Palma Ceia II
54. Developmental Screening As A Tool For Parent Engagement	Screenings/Family Engagement	Palma Ceia III
55. Explorando El Desarrollo Profesional Y La Compensación TEACH & INCENTIVE\$ FL	Collaboration	Palma Ceia IV
56. CARES: Streamlining The Application Process And Key System Updates	Health, Safety and Nutrition	Esplanade I
57. Early Steps: Partnering With Early Educators Support Development-1 Step At Time	Special Needs	Esplanade II
58. A Strength-Based Approach Supporting Young Children With Neurodivergency	Special Needs	Garrison

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

**"COME ALIVE WITH MUSIC AND  
KARAOKE/LIP SYNC PARTY"**

**Bayshore II**

# 2026 SUMMER CONFERENCE

## Friday, July 10, 2026

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

**COMMERCIAL EXHIBITS**

**Bayshore I**

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

**CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS**

59. Dramatic Play-More Than A Housekeeping Area	Child Growth & Development	Bayshore V
60. Building And Sustaining Resilient Early Childhood Professionals	Mental Health/Behaviors	Bayshore VI
61. Storytelling With CLASS@!	Dev Appropriate Curriculum	Bayshore VII
62. Simple Moves, Big Results:Building Thinking and Language Through Movement	Child Growth & Development	Palma Ceia II
63. Profit With Purpose:The Business Of Caring	Management & Leadership	Palma Ceia III
64. All She "ROTE"	Dev Appropriate Curriculum	Palma Ceia IV
65. Teaching Tools For Young Children:Strategies To Promote Social-Emotional Dev	Mental Health/Behaviors	Esplanade I
66. Autism:Making Every Classroom Work For Every Child	Special Needs	Esplanade II
67. Getting Started With Advocacy:It's Not As Hard As You Think	Public Policy & Advocacy	Esplanade III
68. Using Music, Books And Puppets To Enhance Learning	Child Growth & Development	Garrison

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

**CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS**

69. The Power Of Play	Child Growth/Special Needs	Bayshore V
70. Neurosensory Teaching:Supporting Self-Regulation/Positive Classroom Interactions	Mental Health/Behaviors	Bayshore VI
71. Big Language In Small Moments	Dev Appropriate Curriculum	Bayshore VII
72. Giggles, Games, And Growth:Learning Through Playful Connections	Child Growth & Development	Palma Ceia II
73. ECE Leadership Challenge:From Teacher Turnover To Teacher Transformation	Management & Leadership	Palma Ceia III
74. Empowering Early Educators With Transformative Tools/Knowledge Family Success	Screenings/Family Engagement	Palma Ceia IV
75. Fueling Flame:Educator Wellness, Beating Burnout, Applying Frameworks To Self	Management & Leadership	Esplanade I
76. Florida's Early Learning Roadmap:Progress, Gaps, And What Comes Next	Public Policy & Advocacy	Esplanade II
77. Becoming A Behavior Detective	Mental Health/Behavior	Esplanade III
78. Groove You Way To A Better Classroom	Child Growth & Development	Garrison

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

**CLOSING GENERAL SESSION**

**Bayshore II**

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Teri DeLucca



## 2026 Summer Conference

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

July 8, 9, 10, 2026

Hilton Tampa Downtown • Tampa, Florida

### Program Schedule

#### Wednesday, July 8, 2026

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. Kimberly P. Johnson**

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 9, 2026

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: **Dr. Pamela C. Phelps**

*(Ticket Required)*

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

Concurrent Presentations

5:15 p.m.-6:15 p.m.

Presenters' Appreciation

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

“Come Alive With Music Party”

A fun evening of music, prizes, and dancing.

#### Friday, July 10, 2026

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: **Dr. Teri DeLuca**

### Guest Presenter

**Whitney Pesek, Washington, D.C.**

*Federal Legislative Review*

### Keynote Speakers

#### Opening General Session



**Dr. Kimberly P. Johnson**, children's author and educator, is passionate about education, but even more passionate about making sure that our educators and families know their value. She grew up in a household with grandparents who could not read or write - yet they encouraged her to be the best person she could be! Now, Dr. Kimberly has committed

her life's journey to “empowering our children to know that they can succeed, no matter what their circumstances are.” She is the author of 28 children's books. Dr. Kimberly received her Doctorate in Curriculum, Teaching, and Leadership from Northeastern University in Boston, MA. Her keynotes are engaging, entertaining, and encouraging. She is proud to be a former Head Start Kid!

#### Closing General Session



**Dr. Teri DeLuca** doesn't just motivate audiences—she moves them to action. She has a Dual PhD in Developmental Psychology and Educational Psychology. Blending brain science, human behavior research, and powerful real-world stories, Dr. Teri creates change and impacts early education from top to bottom, not just in the

care teachers provide, but in the way they think and feel about their jobs, the way the world views the role of an early educator, and the way directors and owners lead and operate their centers. Her keynotes are funny, honest, deeply relatable, and refreshingly practical...audiences will leave with clear action steps they're excited to use immediately.

#### Research Presentation



Since we have been observing the play and development of young children, 1930's at least, we have known that girls have good language and social skills, and boys have spatial and mathematical thinking skills. When we look at where four-year olds play, we find that boys move to blocks and girls engage in dramatic play whenever

and wherever they can. Research has shown repeatedly that teacher-scaffolded dramatic play experiences that are designed to include boys enhance the literacy and language skills of both boys and girls. In the past two months, the Children's Forum has helped gather information about dramatic play opportunities being offered in our four-year-old programs. **Dr. Pamela C. Phelps** will share these research findings.