

2026 One Goal: Building The Future Together



“Putting Families and Children First”

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for Infants, Toddlers & Preschoolers



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**2026 SUMMER CONFERENCE
 ONE GOAL: BUILDING THE FUTURE TOGETHER
 “PUTTING FAMILIES AND CHILDREN FIRST”™**

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2026 CONFERENCE SPONSORS

Creative Center for Childhood Research & Training
Association of Early Learning Coalitions
Children's Forum
Division of Early Learning/Florida Department of Education
Florida Alliance of Children's Councils and Trusts
Florida Association for Child Care Management
Florida Association for the Education of Young Children
Florida Department of Children & Families
Florida Department of Health
Florida Family Child Care Home Association
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Florida Kiwanis Foundation
Florida Institute of Education at University of North Florida
The Children's Movement of Florida
The Lucy Project

2026 PLANNING COMMITTEE

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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

8:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.	REGISTRATION	Galleria B
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. Kimberly P. Johnson	Bayshore II
3:15 P.M.-4:45 P.M.	CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS	
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
5:00 P.M.-6:00 P.M.	“REDISCOVERING YOUR CHILD”	Bayshore II

2026 SUMMER CONFERENCE

Thursday, July 9, 2026

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

COFFEE BREAK

Sponsored by WELS Systems Foundation

Bayshore I

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/Infant & Toddler	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

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Pamela C. Phelps

Bayshore II

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 Challenge	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 PARTY"

Bayshore II

2026 SUMMER CONFERENCE

Friday, July 10, 2026

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

COFFEE BREAK

Sponsored by Teachstone "Coffee With CLASS[®]"

Bayshore I

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/Infant & Toddler	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 Your Way To A Better Classroom	Child Growth & Development	Garrison

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

CLOSING GENERAL SESSION

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Teri DeLucca

Bayshore II

**PROGRAM TRACKS
AT-A-GLANCE**

July 8, 9, 10 Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Program Track	Day-Session Number	Time	Room	Program Title
Child Growth and Development	Wednesday-6	3:15 p.m.- 4:45 p.m.	Esplanade I	Strengthening Emergent Literacy Skills Through Screening And Assessment
Child Growth and Development	Wednesday-8	3:15 p.m.- 4:45 p.m.	Esplanade III	Every Child Ready: Strategic Supports Elevating Outcomes For VPK Learners
Child Growth and Development	Wednesday-9	3:15 p.m.- 4:45 p.m.	Garrison	Storytime That Grows SUPERPOWERS
Child Growth and Development	Thursday-12	8:30 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.	Bayshore VII	Flush With Success: Comprehensive Potty-Learning Strategies For Classroom, Families, And Beyond
Child Growth and Development	Thursday-15	8:30 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.	Esplanade I	The Vibe You Bring Is The Climate We Feel
Child Growth and Development	Thursday-21	10:15 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.	Bayshore VII	The Scoop On Schema Play
Child Growth and Development	Thursday-24	10:15 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.	Esplanade I	Relationships: The Foundation Of Healthy Infant/Toddler Development
Child Growth and Development	Thursday-25	10:15 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.	Esplanade II	From Observation To Action: Turning Milestone Observations Into Teaching Decisions
Child Growth and Development	Thursday-31	1:30 p.m.- 2:30 p.m.	Palma Ceia II	Understanding Behavior And The Power Of "I Wonder"
Child Growth and Development	Thursday-37	1:30 p.m.- 2:30 p.m.	Garrison	Start The Music From The Beginning!
Child Growth and Development	Thursday-39	2:45 p.m.- 3:45 p.m.	Bayshore V	What If We Got It Right From The Start? A Dyslexia Informed Approach To Early Literacy For All
Child Growth and Development	Thursday-46	2:45 p.m.- 3:45 p.m.	Esplanade II	From Preschool To Kindergarten: Designing A Summer Bridge Program That Supports Whole-Child Readiness And Program Growth
Child Growth and Development	Thursday-49	4:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.	Bayshore II	Moving With "CLASS®"
Child Growth and Development	Thursday-51	4:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.	Bayshore VI	Every Interaction Counts: Improving Language Environments In Early Childhood Education

Program Track	Day-Session Number	Time	Room	Program Title
Child Growth and Development	Friday-59	8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.	Bayshore V	Dramatic Play - More Than A Housekeeping Area
Child Growth and Development	Friday-62	8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.	Palma Ceia II	Simple Moves, Big Results: Building Thinking And Language Through Movement
Child Growth and Development	Friday-68	8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.	Garrison	Using Music, Books And Puppets To Enhance Learning
Child Growth and Development	Friday-69	10:15 a.m.-11:45 a.m.	Bayshore V	The Power Of Play
Child Growth and Development	Friday-72	10:15 a.m.-11:45 a.m.	Palma Ceia II	Giggles, Games, And Growth: Learning Through Playful Connections
Child Growth and Development	Friday-78	10:15 a.m.-11:45 a.m.	Garrison	Groove Your Way To A Better Classroom
Collaboration	Thursday-33	1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.	Palma Ceia IV	Exploring Professional Development And Compensation With TEACH And INCENTIVE\$ Florida
Collaboration	Thursday-40	2:45 p.m.-3:45 p.m.	Bayshore VI	Improve Your Communication Skills - An Overview To Crucial Conversations
Collaboration	Thursday-55	4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.	Palma Ceia IV	Explorando El Desarrollo Profesional Y La Compensación Con TEACH & INCENTIVE\$ Florida
Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum	Wednesday-2	3:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m.	Bayshore VI	Scribbles Matter
Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum	Thursday-11	8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.	Bayshore VI	From Marks To Messages: Every Child's Hand Can Tell Their Story
Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum	Thursday-18	8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.	Garrison	Talk Like You Mean It: Conversational Exchanges In Quality Of Feedback Versus Language Modeling
Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum	Thursday-20	10:15 a.m.-11:45 a.m.	Bayshore VI	Igniting Curiosity: The Power Of Play
Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum	Thursday-35	1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.	Esplanade II	Supporting Early Literacy Through Resources, Trainings, And Strategies
Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum	Thursday-42	2:45 p.m.-3:45 p.m.	Palma Ceia II	Pebbles And Prose: The Storytelling Power Of Loose Parts

Program Track	Day-Session Number	Time	Room	Program Title
Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum	Thursday-53	4:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.	Palma Ceia II	The Classroom Management Toolkit: Universal Strategies For Effective Classroom Management
Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum	Friday-61	8:30 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.	Bayshore VII	Storytelling With CLASS®!
Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum	Friday-64	8:30 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.	Palma Ceia IV	All She "ROTE"
Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum	Friday-71	10:15 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.	Bayshore VII	Big Language In Small Moments
Family Engagement	Wednesday-7	3:15 p.m.- 4:45 p.m.	Esplanade II	Seeing Families, Supporting Children
Family Engagement	Thursday-16	8:30 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.	Esplanade II	Ver A Las Familias, Apoyar A Los Niños
Family Engagement	Thursday-27	10:15 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.	Garrison	Where Play Meets Literacy: Building Family Partnerships Through Play-Based Learning
Family Engagement	Thursday-48	2:45 p.m.- 3:45 p.m.	Garrison	Songs That Can Be Shared At Home
Family Engagement	Thursday-54	4:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.	Palma Ceia III	Developmental Screening As A Tool For Parent Engagement
Family Engagement	Friday-74	10:15 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.	Palma Ceia IV	Empowering Early Educators With Transformative Tools And Knowledge For Family Engagement And Early Intervention Success
Health, Safety and Nutrition	Thursday-34	1:30 p.m.- 2:30 p.m.	Esplanade I	Empowering Child Care Professionals: Training And Certifications
Health, Safety and Nutrition	Thursday-45	2:45 p.m.- 3:45 p.m.	Esplanade I	Compliance Made Easy: Tackling The Top 10 Child Care Licensing Challenges
Health, Safety and Nutrition	Thursday-56	4:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.	Esplanade I	CARES: Streamlining The Application Process And Key System Updates
Infant and Toddler	Wednesday-3	3:15 p.m.- 4:45 p.m.	Bayshore VII	Everyday Moments That Matter: Caring For Young Children And Ourselves Through Relationship-Based Practices
Infant and Toddler	Thursday-24	10:15 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.	Esplanade I	Relationships: The Foundation Of Healthy Infant/Toddler Development

Program Track	Day-Session Number	Time	Room	Program Title
Infant and Toddler	Thursday-26	10:15 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.	Esplanade III	Pause, Reflect, Grow: How Reflection Transforms Early Childhood Practice
Infant and Toddler	Thursday-37	1:30 p.m.- 2:30 p.m.	Garrison	Start The Music From The Beginning!
Infant and Toddler	Friday-72	10:15 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.	Palma Ceia II	Giggles, Games, And Growth: Learning Through Playful Connections
Management and Leadership	Wednesday-5	3:15 p.m.- 4:45 p.m.	Palma Ceia IV	Early Childhood Educator Coaching...It's A Thing!!!
Management and Leadership	Thursday-13	8:30 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.	Palma Ceia II	Developing Positive Conflict Resolution Skills
Management and Leadership	Thursday-14	8:30 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.	Palma Ceia IV	Setting Goals And Making Plans
Management and Leadership	Thursday-19	10:15 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.	Bayshore V	The Leadership Effect: How To Lead Strong, Stable Teams
Management and Leadership	Thursday-23	10:15 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.	Palma Ceia IV	Success Starts With You: Tools To Thrive In Early Childhood Education
Management and Leadership	Thursday-28	1:30 p.m.- 2:30 p.m.	Bayshore V	Supporting The Child Care Workforce Through Trauma Informed Practices
Management and Leadership	Thursday-36	1:30 p.m.- 2:30 p.m.	Esplanade III	Entering Quality, Concise Notes In WELS
Management and Leadership	Thursday-40	2:45 p.m.- 3:45 p.m.	Bayshore VI	Improve Your Communication Skills - An Overview To Crucial Conversations
Management and Leadership	Thursday-44	2:45 p.m.- 3:45 p.m.	Palma Ceia IV	Stronger Together: Building Teams That Thrive
Management and Leadership	Thursday-50	4:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.	Bayshore V	Creating An Impactful Future With CLASS®2nd Edition
Management and Leadership	Thursday-52	4:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.	Bayshore VII	Achieving Gold Seal Status: What Providers Need To Know
Management and Leadership	Friday-63	8:30 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.	Palma Ceia III	Profit With Purpose: The Business Of Caring
Management and Leadership	Friday-73	10:15 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.	Palma Ceia III	The ECE Leadership Challenge: From Teacher Turnover To Teacher Transformation
Management and Leadership	Friday-75	10:15 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.	Esplanade I	Fueling The Flame: Educator Wellness, Beating Burnout, And Applying Early Learning Frameworks To Yourself

Program Track	Day-Session Number	Time	Room	Program Title
Mental Health/ Managing Behaviors	Wednesday-1	3:15 p.m.- 4:45 p.m.	Bayshore V	Conecta, Aprende Y Actúa: ¡Herramientas Esenciales Para El Desarrollo Socioemocional Con Un Toque Mágico!
Mental Health/ Managing Behaviors	Wednesday-3	3:15 p.m.- 4:45 p.m.	Bayshore VII	Everyday Moments That Matter: Caring For Young Children And Ourselves Through Relationship-Based Practices
Mental Health/ Managing Behaviors	Thursday-10	8:30 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.	Bayshore V	Building Safe Brains: Supporting Self-Regulation In Early Childhood Through LEGO® Serious Play®
Mental Health/ Managing Behaviors	Thursday-26	10:15 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.	Esplanade III	Pause, Reflect, Grow: How Reflection Transforms Early Childhood Practice
Mental Health/ Managing Behaviors	Thursday-29	1:30 p.m.- 2:30 p.m.	Bayshore VI	“Help It Stick”
Mental Health/ Managing Behaviors	Thursday-38	2:45 p.m.- 3:45 p.m.	Bayshore II	Beyond Bubble Baths: Self-Care And Burnout Prevention For Early Childhood Professionals
Mental Health/ Managing Behaviors	Friday-60	8:30 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.	Bayshore VI	Building And Sustaining Resilient Early Childhood Professionals
Mental Health/ Managing Behaviors	Friday-65	8:30 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.	Esplanade I	Teaching Tools For Young Children: Targeted Strategies To Promote Social-Emotional Development
Mental Health/ Managing Behaviors	Friday-70	10:15 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.	Bayshore VI	Neurosensory Teaching: Supporting Self-Regulation And Positive Classroom Interactions In Early Childhood
Mental Health/ Managing Behaviors	Friday-77	10:15 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.	Esplanade III	Becoming A Behavior Detective
Public Policy and Advocacy	Wednesday-4	3:15 p.m.- 4:45 p.m.	Palma Ceia II	The Federal Landscape: Assessing The Opportunities For Early Care And Education
Public Policy and Advocacy	Thursday-22	10:15 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.	Palma Ceia II	2026 State And Federal Legislative Review
Public Policy and Advocacy	Thursday-47	2:45 p.m.- 3:45 p.m.	Esplanade III	Building Advocacy Skills In Early Childhood: The ALTP Experience
Public Policy and Advocacy	Friday-67	8:30 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.	Esplanade III	Getting Started With Advocacy: It's Not As Hard As You Think
Public Policy and Advocacy	Friday-76	10:15 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.	Esplanade II	Florida's Early Learning Roadmap: Progress, Gaps, And What Comes Next

Program Track	Day-Session Number	Time	Room	Program Title
Screenings/ Assessments/ Evaluations	Wednesday-6	3:15 p.m.- 4:45 p.m.	Esplanade I	Strengthening Emergent Literacy Skills Through Screening And Assessment
Screenings/ Assessments/ Evaluations	Thursday-25	10:15 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.	Esplanade II	From Observation To Action: Turning Milestone Observations Into Teaching Decisions
Screenings/ Assessments/ Evaluations	Thursday-32	1:30 p.m.- 2:30 p.m.	Palma Ceia III	Early Identification Of Developmental Concerns And Referral Process In The School Readiness Program
Screenings/ Assessments/ Evaluations	Thursday-43	2:45 p.m.- 3:45 p.m.	Palma Ceia III	La Evaluación Del Desarrollo Como Herramienta Para Incrementar La Participación De Los Padres
Screenings/ Assessments/ Evaluations	Thursday-54	4:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.	Palma Ceia III	Developmental Screening As A Tool For Parent Engagement
Screenings/ Assessments/ Evaluations	Friday-74	10:15 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.	Palma Ceia IV	Empowering Early Educators With Transformative Tools And Knowledge For Family Engagement And Early Intervention Success
Special Needs	Thursday-17	8:30 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.	Esplanade III	Positive Social Skills And Emotional Competencies In Part B Prekindergarten
Special Needs	Thursday-30	1:30 p.m.- 2:30 p.m.	Bayshore VII	Classroom Arrangement Essentials To Support Social Skills
Special Needs	Thursday-39	2:45 p.m.- 3:45 p.m.	Bayshore V	What If We Got It Right From The Start? A Dyslexia Informed Approach To Early Literacy For All
Special Needs	Thursday-41	2:45 p.m.- 3:45 p.m.	Bayshore VII	Supporting Classroom Communication And Language Development
Special Needs	Thursday-57	4:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.	Esplanade II	Early Steps: Partnering With Early Educators To Support Development: One Early Step At A Time
Special Needs	Thursday-58	4:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.	Garrison	Reframing Special Needs: A Strength-Based Approach To Supporting Young Children With Neurodivergency
Special Needs	Friday-66	8:30 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.	Esplanade II	Autism: Making Every Classroom Work For Every Child
Special Needs	Friday-69	10:15 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.	Bayshore V	The Power Of Play

Nancy D. Thomas Collaboration Award

Nancy Duran Thomas was a lifelong educator, a preschool teacher, a county curriculum consultant, coordinator of exceptional student education, and Director of the Office of Early Intervention, Florida Department of Education. She was the driving force behind many collaborative efforts to ensure high quality programs for all young children and their families. This conference was Nancy's vision, and she made it a reality in 1987. Although she passed away in 2000, her memory lives on in this conference. In 2000, the One Goal Summer Conference Planning Committee wanted to recognize Nancy for her many collaborative achievements, so they established the Nancy D. Thomas Collaboration Award. The award is presented to individuals for their statewide efforts to foster and maintain collaboration among programs and services for all children and their families in the State of Florida. The One Goal Summer Conference Planning Committee would like to recognize those individuals who have received the Nancy D. Thomas Collaboration Award.



2000
Nancy D. Thomas



2001
Marilyn "Mickey" Segal



2002
Bebe Fearnside



2003
Williams S. Fillmore, Jr.



2004
Ann K. Levy



2005
Carole Fox Abbott



2006
Barbara Mainster



2007
Mary E. Bryant



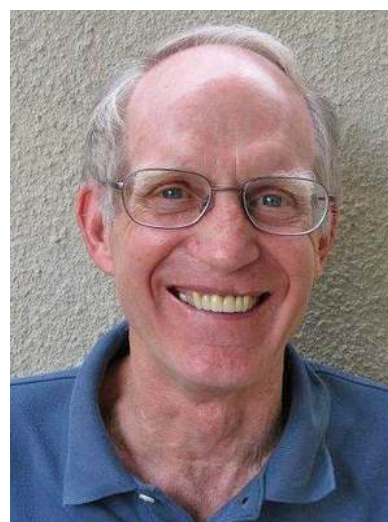
2008
Wil Blechman



2009
Landis Stetler



2010
Samuel P. Bell, III



2013
Ed Feaver



2018
Pamela C. Phelps



2019
Theodore Granger



2022
Phyllis Kalifeh

Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards

To help you in selecting workshops, we have included the Domains for the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards (FELDS):

Physical Development
Approaches to Learning
Social and Emotional Development
Language and Literacy
Mathematical Thinking
Scientific Inquiry
Social Studies
Creative Expression Through the Arts

Florida Core Competencies for Early Care and Education Practitioners

To help you in selecting workshops, we have included the Core Knowledge Areas for the Core Competencies for Practitioners:

Health, Safety, and Nutrition
Child Development and Learning
Building Family and Community Relationships
Teaching and Learning Environments and Interactions
Curriculum
Observing, Documenting, Screening, and Assessing to Support Young Children and Their Families
Professionalism

Preschool Child Development Associate Competency Standards

To help you in selecting workshops, we have included the Child Development Associate Competency Standards (CDA):

- I. To Establish and Maintain a Safe, Healthy Learning Environment
- II. To Advance Physical and Intellectual Competence
- III. To Support Social and Emotional Development and to Provide Positive Guidance
- IV. To Establish Positive and Productive Relationships with Families
- V. To Ensure a Well-Run, Purposeful Program that is Responsive to Participant Needs
- VI. To Maintain a Commitment to Professionalism

Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five Developmental Domains

To help you in selecting workshops, we have included the Central Developmental Domains for the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (HSELOF):

Approaches to Learning
Social and Emotional Development
Language and Literacy
Cognition
Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development

SPOTLIGHTING THE EXHIBITS!

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2026

Educational Programs & Services Exhibits

Bayshore I

Wednesday, July 8, 2026, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Exhibits will spotlight various educational programs and services available.

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026 and FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2026

Commercial Exhibits

Bayshore I

Thursday, July 9, 2026, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday, 10, 2026, 8:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

The sales reps purchase the items they have on display, so please support their efforts by visiting the exhibitor booths.

We would like to thank the following exhibitors for their sponsorship:

Child's Play, Inc. – Co-Sponsor Research Presentation Luncheon

Kaplan Early Learning Company – Co-Sponsor Conference Bags

Lakeshore Learning Materials – Co-Sponsor “Come Alive With Music Party”

Playground (Childcare Management System Software)

ProSolutions Training/CCEI

Teachstone - Sponsor Friday Coffee Break

WES Systems Foundation – Sponsor Thursday Coffee Break

**FIRST TIMERS' ORIENTATION SESSION
WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2026**

12:00 NOON-12:45 P.M. One Goal Summer Conference: 101

Palma Ceia II

If this is your first time attending the conference...then this session is for you! We will share information and tips to help you get the most out of the conference. We will not only provide an overview of the conference and conference events, but answer many important questions, such as: Where are the Esplanade meeting rooms? Where do the locals go for lunch? Who are the people in the pink vests? Where do I go, if I need assistance? Come and join us....we want your conference experience to be enjoyable.

Karan Hiester

Florida Family Child Care Home Association

1859 Mango Tree Drive

Edgewater, FL 32141

Phone: 386-689-3046

E-Mail: educate71@hotmail.com

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2026

1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

OPENING GENERAL SESSION

Bayshore II

Presiding:

Pamela C. Phelps, PhD
One Goal Summer Conference
Tallahassee, Florida

Keynote Speaker:

Kimberly P. Johnson, PhD
Children's Author, Educator, Speaker
Simply Creative Works
Clemson, South Carolina



Children's author and educator, **Dr. Kimberly P. Johnson** grew up in Shelby, NC. She is passionate about education, but even more passionate about making sure that our educators and families know their value. Dr. Johnson 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, she has committed her life's journey to "empowering our children to know that they can succeed, no matter what their circumstances are". Dr. Johnson received her Doctorate in Curriculum, Teaching, and Leadership from Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts. Dr. Johnson holds a master's degree from Clemson University, in Youth Development and Leadership. Dr. Johnson has an Early

Childhood Education Degree and a Communications Degree from University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill. She completed her post-doctorate work in the Advanced Leadership Program at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education. Dr. Johnson is a creative thinker and has a passion for teaching and helping others. Dr. Johnson is currently a faculty member at Clemson University and teaches Creative Activities for Youth, Designing Effective Youth Programs, Youth and Family, and Working with Diverse Youth. Dr. Johnson is a course facilitator for Leading Learning, Managing Evidence and Leading with Equity and Excellence courses at Harvard University in the Graduate School of Education. She has received numerous Community awards to include the Paul Harris Fellow Award given by Rotary International for her work in literacy, the York County Citizen of the Year Award, the Walker Solomon Award from the South Carolina Educators Association, the Omega Psi Phi Perseverance Award, the Carl Carpenter Gold Heart Award for Community and Educational Contributions and the National Heritage Award. Dr. Johnson was the guest reader for President and Mrs. George Bush at the White House for their Annual Easter Egg Roll. She has been on the Today Show in New York City, interviewed by the London Times and the Tokyo Shimbun newspapers. Dr. Johnson is the author of 28 children's books. She is married to Jeff Johnson who retired from the United States Air Force after 22 years of service and has 7-year-old twin daughters, Jessie and Allie. Dr. Johnson is proud to be a former Head Start Kid!

www.simplycreativeworks.com

CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2026

3:15 P.M. - 4:45 P.M.

1. Conecta, Aprende Y Actúa: ¡Herramientas Esenciales Para El Desarrollo Socioemocional Con Un Toque Mágico!

Bayshore V

¿Te gustaría aprender estrategias esenciales que te prepararán para apoyar a tu equipo con confianza y profundizar las conexiones con la comunidad de tu salón de clases? Esta es tu oportunidad. En esta sesión, lograremos llevar el modelo pirámide de la teoría a la práctica. Ven y participa y aprende sobre las herramientas para iniciar cambios significativos, actividades inspiradoras que mejorarán su vida diaria y una oportunidad única para crecer, conectarse y fomentar la comunidad. Esta sesión se ofrecerá en español, invitando a todos a participar y conectarse a través de nuestro idioma.

Program Track: Mental Health/Managing Behaviors

Target Audience: Directors, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced

Core Competencies: Professionalism

CDA Standards: Professionalism

Presenters:

Paola Ramirez, *Learning and Development Facilitator*
Program-Wide Positive Behavior Support (PWPBS)
University of South Florida
13301 Bruce B. Downs Boulevard
Tampa, FL 33612

Phone: 305-283-1870
E-Mail: paolaramirez@usf.edu

Andrea Harris, *Learning and Development Manager*
Program-Wide Positive Behavior Support (PWPBS)
University of South Florida
13301 Bruce B. Downs Boulevard
Tampa, FL 33612

Phone: 208-807-8334
E-Mail: harrisa15@usf.edu

2. Scribbles Matter

Bayshore VI

This interactive presentation explores print-related skills experienced in early education classrooms that build children's knowledge of and interest in writing. Participants will examine the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards (FELDS) Language and Literacy domain's seventh component, Emergent Writing within activity plans; and align FELDS benchmarks with the Classroom Assessment Scoring System® (CLASS®) tool.

Program Track: Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum

Target Audience: Directors, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2026

3:15 P.M. - 4:45 P.M.

FELDS Domains: Language and Literacy
Core Competencies: Child Development and Learning
CDA Standards: Physical and Intellectual Competence
HSELOF Domains: Language and Literacy

Presenters:

Karla Sotelo-Blanco, South VPK Regional Facilitator

Florida Department of Education/Division of Early Learning
16256 SW 26th Street
Miramar, FL 33027

Phone: 305-814-6667
E-Mail: Karla.Sotelo-Blanco@del.fldoe.org

Lexi Langieri, Northeast VPK Regional Facilitator

Florida Department of Education/Division of Early Learning
1941 NW 33rd Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32605

Phone: 352-872-1189
E-Mail: Lexi.Langieri@del.fldoe.org

**3. Everyday Moments That Matter: Caring For Young Children
And Ourselves Through Relationship-Based Practices**

Bayshore VII

Infant and early childhood mental health is foundational to healthy development and lifelong well-being. This presentation explores relationship-based strategies that early learning professionals can use to support the mental development of infants and young children. Participants will examine the critical role educators play in nurturing early brain development and meeting children's emotional development through consistent, predictable, and responsive care. Through reflection and practical examples, this session highlights everyday opportunities to strengthen relationships with young children, while also supporting educator well-being and preventing burnout.

Program Track: Mental Health/Managing Behaviors
Infant and Toddler

Target Audience: Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced

FELDS Domains: Social and Emotional Development
Language and Literacy

Core Competencies: Health, Safety, and Nutrition
Child Development and Learning

CDA Standards: Physical and Intellectual Competence
Social and Emotional Development

HSELOF Domains: Social and Emotional Development
Language and Literacy

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2026

3:15 P.M. - 4:45 P.M.

Presenters:

Cindy Brown, *Endorsement Coordinator*
Florida Association for Infant Mental Health
P.O. Box 558431
Miami, FL 33255

Phone: 813-545-0317
E-Mail: endorsement@faimh.org

Jamie Dolan, *Training Coordinator*
Florida Association for Infant Mental Health
P.O. Box 558431
Miami, FL 33255

Phone: 321-698-8593
E-Mail: training@faimh.org

4. The Federal Landscape: Assessing The Opportunities For Early Care And Education

Palma Ceia II

This presentation will provide an update on the opportunities and challenges facing the field of early care and education from the federal level. Significant legislation will be discussed, as well as ways that the field can have an impact on conversations, both at home and in Congress. Understanding the windows of opportunity, as well as the budget process, is critical in moving the agenda for young children and their families forward in our country.

Program Track: Public Policy and Advocacy

Target Audience: Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

Core Competencies: Professionalism

CDA Standards: Professionalism

Presenter:

Whitney Pesek, *JD, Director, Federal Child Care Policy*
National Women's Law Center
11 Dupont Circle, NW, #800
Washington, DC 20036

Phone: 202-588-5180
E-Mail: wpesek@nwlc.org



Whitney Pesek is the Director of Federal Child Care Policy at the National Women's Law Center. Previously, she has led federal legislative strategy on work and family issues at Paid Leave for the United States (PL+US) and ZERO TO THREE. Pesek has also led legislative oversight of Ohio's incarcerated youth and other vulnerable populations. She served in AmeriCorps and has experience as an Early Head Start Teacher. She holds a JD from Georgetown University Law Center, and a BA in Sociology from Ohio University.

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3:15 P.M. - 4:45 P.M.

5. Early Childhood Educator Coaching...It's A Thing!!!

Palma Ceia IV

Early Childhood Educator Coaching is a powerful, relationship-based professional development approach designed to strengthen teaching practices and improve outcomes for young children. This interactive presentation introduces participants to the core principles, purpose, and impact of coaching within early learning environments. Participants will begin by defining what early childhood educator coaching is - and what it is not - by exploring its key components, including reflective practice, collaborative goal-setting, observation, feedback, and continuous improvement. Through discussion and real-world examples, attendees will build a shared understanding of coaching. This presentation will also highlight the importance of early childhood educator coaching in supporting educator growth, enhancing classroom quality, promoting positive child outcomes, and reducing professional isolation and burnout. Participants will discover how effective coaching fosters confidence, competence, and a culture of ongoing learning within early childhood settings. By the end of the session, participants will have a clear definition of early childhood educator coaching and a deeper understanding of why it is an essential investment in both educators and the children they serve.

Program Track: Management and Leadership

Target Audience: Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Training & Technical Staff

Core Competencies: Professionalism

CDA Standards: Professionalism

Presenters:

Jennifer Dews, *Director of Early Learning*
Episcopal Children's Services (ECS4Kids)
8649 Baypine Road, Building 7, Suite 300
Jacksonville, FL 32256

Phone: 904-579-6801
E-Mail: jennifer.dews@ecs4kids.org

Leslie Albrektson, *Manager of Early Learning*
Episcopal Children's Services (ECS4Kids)
8649 Baypine Road, Building 7, Suite 300
Jacksonville, FL 32256

Phone: 904-535-5307
E-Mail: leslie.albrektson@ecs4kids.org

**6. Strengthening Emergent Literacy Skills Through Screening
And Assessment**

Esplanade I

Delays in speech, language, and emergent literacy skills are among the earliest indicators of potential learning disabilities. Early identification is necessary for children to receive timely intervention and developmental supports. This session will explore how the use of developmental screening and ongoing child assessment play a critical role in identifying children with early literacy or language concerns and ensure they receive interventions to build these foundational skills. Participants will be introduced to examples of screening and assessment tools, and additional Florida Department of Education, Division of Early Learning resources to support screening,

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2026

3:15 P.M. - 4:45 P.M.

assessment, and intervention. An overview of the School Readiness Child Assessment program and the requirements for conducting developmental screening on School Readiness children will also be provided.

Program Track: Child Growth and Development
Screenings/Assessments/Evaluations

Target Audience: Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support,
Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

FELDS Domains: Language and Literacy

Core Competencies: Child Development and Learning
Observing, Documents, Screening, and Assessing

CDA Standards: Physical and Intellectual Competence

HSELOF Domains: Language and Literacy

Presenters:

Matthew Moore, School Readiness Specialist
Florida Department of Education/Division of Early Learning
325 West Gaines Street, #544
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Phone: 904-718-0304
E-Mail: matthew.moore@del.fldoe.org

Lisette Levy, PhD, DEL Program Analyst
Florida Department of Education/Division of Early Learning
325 West Gaines Street, #544
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Phone: 850-320-0661
E-Mail: lisette.levy@del.fldoe.org

7. Seeing Families, Supporting Children

Esplanade II

This practice-based session highlights a holistic approach to supporting young children with a strong focus on meaningful family engagement. Participants will explore how intentional, trust-based partnerships with families deepen the accuracy and impact of developmental screenings, and strengthen children's social-emotional, cognitive, and physical growth. Through real world examples, this presentation demonstrates how shared language, aligned roles, and family-centered practices within a unified early childhood program reduces fragmentation, enhances early intervention efforts, and significantly improves outcomes for children and families across early learning settings.

Program Track: Family Engagement

Target Audience: Directors, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced

Core Competencies: Building Family and Community Relationships
Professionalism

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2026

3:15 P.M. - 4:45 P.M.

CDA Standards: Positive and Productive Relationships with Families
Professionalism

Presenters:

Maria Gutierrez, *Child Development Manager*
Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County
2300 High Ridge Road, Suite 115
Boynton Beach, FL 33426

Phone: 561-600-9428
E-Mail: maria.gutierrez@elcpalmbeach.org

Brenda Rivera, *Early Intervention Manager*
Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County
2300 High Ridge Road, Suite 115
Boynton Beach, FL 33426

Phone: 561-231-5866
E-Mail: brenda.rivera@elcpalmbeach.org

Lorca Acosta, *Family Engagement Manager*
Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County
2300 High Ridge Road, Suite 115
Boynton Beach, FL 33426

Phone: 561-600-9424
E-Mail: lorca.acosta@elcpalmbeach.org

**8. Every Child Ready: Strategic Supports Elevating Outcomes
For VPK Learners**

Esplanade III

This presentation showcases coordinated initiatives to strengthen school readiness outcomes for Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) children. Participants will learn how adaptive learning tools, literacy instruction, and professional supports connect to meet the needs of children identified through VPK Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) Assessments. The presentation highlights Age of Learning, the Sprint to Readiness lesson plans, and the coaching and family engagement model, demonstrating how data-driven interventions strengthen instructional quality and advance progress for VPK children.

Program Track: Child Growth and Development

Target Audience: Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Training & Technical Staff

Core Competencies: Teaching and Learning Environments and Interactions
Professionalism

CDA Standards: Well-Run, Purposeful Program
Professionalism

Presenters:

Chelsea Reinhart, *Vice President of Quality Supports*
Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County
2300 High Ridge Road, Suite 115
Boynton Beach, FL 33426

Phone: 561-600-9422
E-Mail: chelsea.reinhart@elcpalmbeach.org

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2026

3:15 P.M. - 4:45 P.M.

Melissa Mercado, *Director of Programs-Projects*
Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County
2300 High Ridge Road, Suite 115
Boynton Beach, FL 33426

Phone: 561-231-5873
E-Mail: melissa.mercado@elcpalmbeach.org

Olivia Chopra, *Director of Grants and Contracts*
Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County
2300 High Ridge Road, Suite 115
Boynton Beach, FL 33426

Phone: 561-514-3306
E-Mail: olivia.chopra@elcpalmbeach.org

9. Storytime That Grows SUPERPOWERS

Garrison

Using interactive literacy, simple routines, and meaningful moments can build confident, kind, and curious learners. This presentation highlights the power of interactive literacy to motivate young learners, strengthen behavior skills, and create a classroom where every child feels valued. Techniques will be presented that will encourage participation, curiosity, and collaboration in classroom settings. This session will explore how purposeful language, visual supports, and simple routines can reinforce resilience and help children navigate challenges. Educators will leave equipped with developmentally appropriate, child-centered strategies that boost attention, improve social interactions, and make literacy an anchor for both academic and emotional growth.

Program Track:	Child Growth and Development
Target Audience:	Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff
FELDS Domains:	Social and Emotional Development Language and Literacy
Core Competencies:	Child Development and Learning
CDA Standards:	Social and Emotional Development Well-Run, Purposeful Program
HSELOF Domains:	Social and Emotional Development Language and Literacy

Presenter:

Julie Woik, *Author/Program Developer*
Whimsical Wizard Worldwide, Inc.
4403 Lost Forest Road
Sarasota, FL 34235

Phone: 941-504-9230
E-Mail: julie@lillythelash.com

5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

“REDISCOVERING YOUR CHILD”

Bayshore II

This is an excellent opportunity to network with speakers and colleagues. Snacks and punch (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) provided compliments of the Hilton Tampa Downtown.

CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

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

**10. Building Safe Brains: Supporting Self-Regulation In
Early Childhood Through LEGO® Serious Play®**

Bayshore V

Young children learn best when they feel safe, connected, and emotionally supported. This interactive session introduces educators to strategies that strengthen self-regulation and emotional connection in early childhood classrooms. Using the LEGO® Serious Play® methodology, participants will build models that represent emotional safety, classroom relationships, and supportive learning environments. Through guided reflection and collaborative dialogue, educators will explore practical strategies to strengthen co-regulation, improve classroom interactions aligned with the CLASS® framework, and support social-emotional development aligned with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework.

Program Track:	Mental Health/Managing Behaviors
Target Audience:	Directors, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced
FELDS Domains:	Social and Emotional Development
Core Competencies:	Health, Safety, and Nutrition Child Development and Learning Teaching and Learning Environments and Interactions
CDA Standards:	Safe, Healthy Learning Environment Social and Emotional Development
HSELOF Domains:	Social and Emotional Development

Presenter:

Suzette Mirabal, *EdD, Licensed Professional Counselor*
Brain Connections Corp.
5566 NW 112 Path
Miami, FL 33178

Phone: 787-220-7564
E-Mail: smirabal@brainconnections.co

**11. From Marks To Messages: Every Child's Hand Can Tell
Their Story**

Bayshore VI

This session explores how emergent writing and reading develop together and why intentional writing experiences matter in early childhood classrooms. Participants will examine the emergent writing standard and benchmarks from age four through kindergarten and identify the developmental stages children progress through as writers. Through practical examples and classroom connections, educators will learn how to embed meaningful, developmentally appropriate writing opportunities across the daily schedule, supporting children as they build confidence, fine motor skills, and early literacy foundations.

Program Track: Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

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

Target Audience: Directors, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

FELDS Domains: Language and Literacy

Core Competencies: Child Development and Learning

CDA Standards: Physical and Intellectual Competence

HSELOF Domains: Language and Literacy

Presenters:

Chesnee Layne, *VPK Regional Facilitator, Northwest*

Florida Department of Education/Division of Early Learning

18377 NE Lois Fowler Road

Blountstown, FL 32424

Phone: 850-545-0248

E-Mail: Chesnee.Layne@del.fldoe.org

Lexi Langieri, *VPK Regional Facilitator, Northeast*

Florida Department of Education/Division of Early Learning

1941 NW 33rd Avenue

Gainesville, FL 32605

Phone: 352-872-1189

E-Mail: Lexi.Langieri@del.fldoe.org

12. Flush With Success: Comprehensive Potty-Learning Strategies For Classroom, Families, And Beyond

Bayshore VII

This presentation offers a comprehensive guide to potty training in early childhood settings, covering planning, implementation, routines, parent communication, and addressing challenges with empathy. Participants will gain evidence-based strategies and practical tools to the development of this milestone for children, families, and educators, while implementing best practices and interactions aligned with CLASS® for a smooth and successful potty training experience.

Program Track: Child Growth and Development

Target Audience: Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

FELDS Domains: Physical Development
Social and Emotional Development

Core Competencies: Child Development and Learning

CDA Standards: Physical and Intellectual Competence
Social and Emotional Development

HSELOF Domains: Social and Emotional Development
Perceptual, Motor and Physical Development

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

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

Presenter:

Sandy Ampudia, *Director of Professional Development*

The Discovery Source

74 Berlin Avenue

Saint Cloud, FL 34771

Phone: 786-355-5881

E-Mail: sandy@thediscoverysource.com

13. Developing Positive Conflict Resolution Skills

Palma Ceia II

Learning to talk with others and understanding how their words and body language convey their message to us is important, if we are going to communicate and solve problems well with others. This presentation will provide information that will help participants better understand their own communication styles and the styles of others.

Program Track: Management and Leadership

Target Audience: Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

Core Competencies: Building Family and Community Relationships
Professionalism

CDA Standards: Positive and Productive Relationships with Families
Professionalism

Presenter:

Pamela C. Phelps, PhD., *Owner/Director of the Creative Pre-School, Vice Chair*

The Creative Center for Childhood Research & Training

2746 West Tharpe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32303

Phone: 850-422-1080

E-Mail: cccrt@comcast.net

14. Setting Goals And Making Plans

Palma Ceia IV

Setting goals and making plans are essential when envisioning our future steps. Emphasizing the value of variety, options, and choices, this interactive session aims to tap into our unique experiences and perspectives. By engaging with others, the goal is to foster mutual learning, providing a platform to both learn from others and share our own valuable experiences.

Program Track: Management and Leadership

Target Audience: Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

Core Competencies: Professionalism

CDA Standards: Positive and Productive Relationships with Families
Well-Run, Purposeful Program
Professionalism

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

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

Presenter:

Pam Kissoondyal, *Family Engagement Coordinator*
Florida and Virgin Islands Deafblind Collaborative
University of Florida College of Medicine
3430 NW 60th Lane
Gainesville, FL 32653

Phone: 352-672-4598
E-Mail: pamsk@ufl.edu

15. The Vibe You Bring Is The Climate We Feel

Esplanade I

Educators play a critical role in shaping the environment of their classrooms, whether positive or negative. The energy they bring into their classroom influences children's engagement, behavior, and the overall classroom environment. This presentation explores the importance of educators being emotionally in tune with themselves and their children in order to foster meaningful connections and positive interactions. By developing self-awareness and emotional responsiveness, educators can intentionally create supportive and productive learning environments where all children can thrive.

Program Track: Child Growth and Development

Target Audience: Administrators, Directors, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced

FELDS Domains: Social and Emotional Development

Core Competencies: Child Development and Learning
Teaching and Learning Environments and Interactions
Professionalism

CDA Standards: Social and Emotional Development
Well-Run, Purposeful Program
Professionalism

HSELOF Domains: Social and Emotional Development

Presenter:

Devon McTier, *Director of Professional Development*
R'Club Childcare
4140 49th Street North
St. Petersburg, FL 33711

Phone: 727-698-5130
E-Mail: dmctier@rclub.net

16. Ver A Las Familias, Apoyar A Los Niños

Esplanade II

Esta sesión de carácter práctico destaca un enfoque holístico para el apoyo a los niños pequeños, con un fuerte énfasis en la participación significativa de las familias. Los participantes explorarán cómo las alianzas intencionales, basadas en la confianza y establecidas con las familias, profundizan la precisión y el impacto de las evaluaciones del desarrollo, a la vez que fortalecen el crecimiento socioemocional, cognitivo y físico de los niños. Mediante ejemplos de la vida real, la presentación muestra cómo un lenguaje compartido, roles alineados y prácticas centradas en la

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

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

familia dentro de un sistema unificado de atención a la primera infancia reducen la fragmentación, potencian los esfuerzos de intervención temprana y mejoran significativamente los resultados para los niños y las familias en diversos entornos de aprendizaje temprano.

Program Track: Family Engagement
Target Audience: Directors, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced
Core Competencies: Building Family and Community Relationships
Professionalism
CDA Standards: Positive and Productive Relationships with Families
Professionalism

Presenters:

Maria Gutierrez, *Child Development Manager*
Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County
2300 High Ridge Road, Suite 115
Boynton Beach, FL 33426

Phone: 561-600-9428
E-Mail: maria.gutierrez@elcpalmbeach.org

Brenda Rivera, *Early Intervention Manager*
Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County
2300 High Ridge Road, Suite 115
Boynton Beach, FL 33426

Phone: 561-231-5866
E-Mail: brenda.rivera@elcpalmbeach.org

Lorca Acosta, *Family Engagement Manager*
Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County
2300 High Ridge Road, Suite 115
Boynton Beach, FL 33426

Phone: 561-600-9424
E-Mail: lorca.acosta@elcpalmbeach.org

**17. Positive Social Skills And Emotional Competencies In
Part B Prekindergarten**

Esplanade III

In this session, we will review the breadth of the child outcomes and the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards, identify supports for children with disabilities, and plan and implement lessons to promote positive social skills and emotional competencies. Early childhood educators will identify ways to embed skills and standards across everyday settings, and plan and implement lessons to promote positive social skills and emotional competencies through participation in social games, and communicating with others, following social norms and adapting to change in routines, and expressing their own emotions and responding to the emotions of others.

Program Track: Special Needs and Inclusion
Target Audience: Direct Service Providers, Directors, Teachers: New, Teachers:
Experienced
FELDS Domains: Approaches to Learning
Social and Emotional Development

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

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

Core Competencies: Child Development and Learning

CDA Standards: Physical and Intellectual Competence
Social and Emotional Development

HSELOF Domains: Approaches to Learning
Social and Emotional Development

Presenter:

Melissa Gilliland, *Northeast Regional Facilitator*

Prekindergarten Exceptional Student Education Technical Assistance
4471 NE 29th Street
Ocala, FL 34470

Phone: 954-290-5980
E-Mail: pese-ne@ucf.edu

**18. Talk Like You Mean It: Conversational Exchanges In Quality
Of Feedback Versus Language Modeling**

Garrison

Many components of CLASS® can feel overwhelming to teachers, especially when it comes to recognizing and implementing those components. In this session, participants will learn the difference between Quality of Feedback vs Language Modeling, specifically when it comes to conversational exchanges. With this interactive and reflective approach, we hope that teachers and directors will gain skills and use practical techniques to differentiate between two of the most confusing dimensions in the Prekindergarten toolkit.

Program Track: Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum

Target Audience: Directors, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced

Core Competencies: Teaching and Learning Environments and Interactions

CDA Standards: Well-Run, Purposeful Program

Presenters:

Brianna DeOsca, *Education Specialist*
Episcopal Children's Services (ECS4Kids)
8649 Baypine Road, Building 7, Suite 300
Jacksonville, FL 32256

Phone: 904-343-2959
E-Mail: brianna.deosca@ecs4kids.org

April Bradford, *Program Assessor*
Episcopal Children's Services (ECS4Kids)
8649 Baypine Road, Building 7, Suite 300
Jacksonville, FL 32256

Phone: 904-343-2959
E-Mail: april.bradford@ecs4kids.org

Sherry Tindall, *Education Specialist*
Episcopal Children's Services (ECS4Kids)
8649 Baypine Road, Building 7, Suite 300
Jacksonville, FL 32256

Phone: 904-343-2959
E-Mail: sherry.tindall@ecs4kids.org

CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

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

19. The Leadership Effect: How To Lead Strong, Stable Teams

Bayshore V

Strong leadership plays a critical role in shaping the daily experiences of staff in early learning programs. The way leaders communicate, support staff, and respond during stressful moments can influence team morale, collaboration, and long term workforce stability. This session explores practical leadership communication strategies that help directors strengthen team relationships and create supportive work environments. Participants will examine how leadership behaviors influence engagement, trust, and staff retention. Through guided discussion and reflection, directors will learn communication tools that support respectful dialogue, strengthen teamwork, and encourage problem solving. Participants will leave with practical strategies they can use to support staff, strengthen teams, and build stable, effective programs.

Program Track: Management and Leadership

Target Audience: Administrators, Directors

Core Competencies: Building Family and Community Relationships
Professionalism

CDA Standards: Positive and Productive Relationships with Families
Well-Run, Purposeful Program
Professionalism

Presenter:

Cynthia Krosky, President

Achieving Corporate Excellence, Inc.

P.O. BO 2768

Oldsmar, FL 34677

Phone: 772-461-8313

E-Mail: achieve@achievingcorporateexcellence.com

20. Igniting Curiosity: The Power Of Play

Bayshore VI

As Albert Einstein famously noted, "I have no special talent. I am only passionately curious." What intentional choices can we make to encourage children's curiosity, while being a partner in play? In this presentation, we will learn how to intentionally engage children to cultivate curiosity through play.

Program Track: Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum

Target Audience: Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced

FELDS Domains: Social and Emotional Development

Core Competencies: Child Development and Learning

CDA Standards: Social and Emotional Development

HSELOF Domains: Social and Emotional Development

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

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

Presenter:

Ronald Mohl, *Professional Development Specialist*

Lakeshore Learning Materials
2695 East Dominquez Street
Carson, CA 90895

Phone: 561-727-9089
E-Mail: Rmohl@lakeshorelearning.com

21. The Scoop On Schema Play

Bayshore VII

This interactive session explores the powerful patterns behind young children's repeated play. From transporting and trajectory to enclosure and rotation, schemas reveal how children make sense of their world through movement, exploration, and repetition. This session translates research into practical strategies that early childhood educators can use to recognize schema-driven behavior and design playful learning experiences that honor children's curiosity. Walk away with fresh insight, concrete examples, and a renewed appreciation for the learning hidden in everyday play.

Program Track: Child Growth and Development

Target Audience: Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced

Core Competencies: Observing, Documents, Screening, and Assessing

CDA Standards: Well-Run, Purposeful Program

Presenter:

Suzanne D. Adinolfi, *PhD, Director of Research and Content Development*

Learning Beyond Paper
871 Squirrel Road
Defuniak Springs, FL 32433

Phone: 850-419-3445
E-Mail: sadinolfi@learningbeyondpaper.com

22. 2026 State And Federal Legislative Review

Palma Ceia II

The 2026 State and Federal Legislative Review Panel is comprised of representatives from public and private sector organizations that are involved in the early care and education area. Each panelist will provide a brief overview of budget and substantive issues addressed by the 2026 Florida Legislature and Congress impacting their particular organization/state agency, and associated rules and regulations that may be developed or impacted. Questions from the audience will be addressed by panelists following the overviews.

Program Track: Public Policy and Advocacy

Target Audience: Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support

Core Competencies: Professionalism

CDA Standards: Professionalism

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

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

Facilitator:

Ted Granger, *Early Childhood Consultant*
Tallahassee, FL 32309-9576

Phone: 850-556-5082
E-Mail: tgranger44@outlook.com

Panelists:

Molly Grant, *Executive Director*
Association of Early Learning Coalitions
206-B South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Phone: 229-413-2616
E-Mail: mgrant@aelcfl.org

Roy Keister, *Legislative Chair*
Florida Association of Child Care Management
Owner, Scottsdale Academy
3498 Mahan Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Phone: 650-219-2400
E-Mail: roy@scottsdaleacademy.com

Wanda Minick, *Executive Director*
Florida Head Start Association
111 North Gadsden Street, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Phone: 850-694-6477
E-Mail: wanda@flheadstart.org

Erin Smeltzer, *President and CEO*
Children's Forum
1211 Governors Square Boulevard, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32312

Phone: 850-681-7002
E-Mail: esmeltzer@thechildrensforum.org

Courtney Smith, *Director, Policy and Programs*
Florida Department of Children and Families, Office of Licensing
2415 North Monroe Street, Suite 400, Room N216
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Phone: 850-487-1111
E-Mail: courtney.smith@myflfamilies.com

Madeleine K. Thakur, *President and CEO*
The Children's Movement of Florida
3250 SW Third Avenue
Miami, FL 33129

Phone: 305-646-7230
E-Mail: madeleine.thakur@childrensmovementflorida.org

Dana Trabulsy, *Florida State Representative District 84*
2300 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, FL 34982

Phone: 772-710-1410

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

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

23. Success Starts With You: Tools To Thrive In Early Childhood Education

Palma Ceia IV

This energizing session brings the power of Success Principles to the field of early childhood education. Participants will learn how to lead with purpose, communicate with clarity, and stay grounded amidst daily challenges. Whether you're in the classroom, managing a program, providing support services, or running a home daycare, you'll gain practical tools to boost resilience, confidence, and impact - both personally and professionally.

Program Track: Management and Leadership

Target Audience: Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

Core Competencies: Building Family and Community Relationships
Professionalism

CDA Standards: Positive and Productive Relationships with Families
Well-Run, Purposeful Program
Professionalism

Presenter:

Pam Kissoondyal, *Family Engagement Coordinator*
Florida and Virgin Islands Deafblind Collaborative, UF
3430 NW 60th Lane
Gainesville, FL 32653

Phone: 352-672-4598
E-Mail: pamsk@ufl.edu

24. Relationships: The Foundation Of Healthy Infant/Toddler Development

Esplanade I

Infants and toddlers need more than just physical care for their survival; they also need emotional security, a safe base for learning, and information about the workings of the world. They thrive in the context of close, consistent, and nurturing relationships. But how do we create these relationships in busy infant and toddler programs? Participants learn why these relationships are so crucial, and research-based best practices that are the building blocks of relationships that meet the unique developmental needs of infants and toddlers.

Program Track: Child Growth and Development
Infant and Toddler

Target Audience: Directors, Teachers: New

FELDS Domains: Social and Emotional Development

Core Competencies: Child Development and Learning

CDA Standards: Social and Emotional Development

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

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

HSELOF Domains: Social and Emotional Development

Presenter:

Monique Wilkinson, *Instructional Specialist*
Florida State University
Center for Prevention & Early Intervention Policy
1339 East Lafayette Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Phone: 850-644-6180
E-Mail: mmwilkinson@fsu.edu

**25. From Observation To Action: Turning Milestone
Observations Into Teaching Decisions**

Esplanade II

Children show us who they are when we know what to look for. In this interactive session for educators of children birth to age five, you will learn practical, research-informed strategies for observing and tracking developmental milestones, without adding paperwork overload. We will explore reliable child development resources and compare documentation methods such as checklists, anecdotes, and digital tools. Using video clips, you'll practice observation techniques and discuss their strengths and limitations. You'll also learn how to use collected data to partner with families, collaborate with colleagues, and guide developmentally appropriate instruction.

Program Track: Child Growth and Development
Screenings/Assessments/Evaluations

Target Audience: Teachers: New

Core Competencies: Observing, Documents, Screening, and Assessing

CDA Standards: Well-Run, Purposeful Program

Presenters:

Rachel Chastain-Gross, *Early Childhood Content Development Senior Specialist*
University of Florida
Lastinger Center for Learning
6427 SW 37th Way
Gainesville, 32608

Phone: 904-860-4793
E-Mail: rcg@coe.ufl.edu

Tiffany Taylor-Jones, *Early Childhood Content and Implementation Manager*
University of Florida
Lastinger Center for Learning
1312 Palace Drive
Rockledge, FL 32955

Phone: 321-863-1693
E-Mail: ttaylorjones@ufl.edu

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

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

**26. Pause, Reflect, Grow: How Reflection Transforms
Early Childhood Practice**

Esplanade III

Reflective Supervision/Consultation (RSC) is a powerful approach that strengthens the capacity of professionals to support young children and families. This session introduces what RSC is - and is not - why it matters across early learning and care settings, and how it enhances practice, relationships, and outcomes. Hear directly from the Early Learning Coalition of Northwest Florida as they share why they invest in reflective practice and how it has impacted their team. Participants will leave with practical insights and a clear path to engage in infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH) learning.

Program Track: Mental Health/Managing Behaviors
Infant and Toddler

Target Audience: Administrators, Directors, Family Support, Training & Technical Staff

FELDS Domains: Social and Emotional Development

Core Competencies: Child Development and Learning
Building Family and Community Relationships
Observing, Documents, Screening, and Assessing
Professionalism

CDA Standards: Safe, Healthy Learning Environment
Social and Emotional Development
Positive and Productive Relationships with Families
Well-Run, Purposeful Program
Professionalism

HSELOF Domains: Social and Emotional Development

Presenters:

Suzan Gage, Executive Director

Early Learning Coalition of Northwest Florida, Inc.
4636 East Highway 90, Suite P
Marianna, FL 32446

Phone: 850-747-5400, ext.102
E-Mail: suzan.gage@elcnwf.org

Lindsay Holmes, Education Services Director

Early Learning Coalition of Northwest Florida, Inc.
4636 East Highway 90, Suite P
Marianna, FL 32446

Phone: 850-747-5400, ext.124
E-Mail: lindsay.holmes@elcnwf.org

Cindy Brown, Endorsement Coordinator

Florida Association for Infant Mental Health
P.O. Box 558431
Miami, FL 33255

Phone: 813-545-0317
E-Mail: endorsement@faimh.org

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

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

**27. Where Play Meets Literacy: Building Family Partnerships
Through Play-Based Learning**

Garrison

Play is a powerful pathway to early literacy and meaningful way to engage families in children's learning. Inspired by research on how young children naturally develop literacy through relationships and everyday experiences, this session explores how language and literacy grow through play. Participants will learn how to guide and empower families with simple, play-based strategies to support learning at home. Grounded in family engagement partnerships, this session highlights how educators can connect classroom experiences to home, creating strong, collaborative relationships that support children's overall development.

Program Track: Family Engagement

Target Audience: Administrators, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

Core Competencies: Building Family and Community Relationships

CDA Standards: Positive and Productive Relationships with Families

Presenter:

Denisha Ramos-Cubero, *Provider Services Manager*
Early Learning Coalition of Orange County
7700 Southland Boulevard, Suite #100
Orlando, FL 32809

Phone: 407-863-0723
E-Mail: dramos-cubero@elcoc.org

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

12:00 NOON – 1:30 P.M. RESEARCH PRESENTATION

Bayshore II

Presiding

Erin Smeltzer
One Goal Summer Conference
Tallahassee, Florida

Research:

Since we have been observing the play and development of young children, from the 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. Recent research has shown that boys particularly are having difficulty in school, and our reading scores for both girls and boys have dropped across the nation. 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.

Keynote Speaker:

Pamela C. Phelps, PhD
Owner/Director Creative Preschool
Vice Chair, Creative Center For Childhood Research & Training
Tallahassee, Florida



Dr. Pamela C. Phelps has over 50+ years' experience working with young children and their families. For nine years she taught kindergarten and first grade in the public schools of Wakulla and Leon Counties in the state of Florida. For the past fifty-two years, she has been the Owner/Director of the Creative Pre-School, providing care for children, ages two months through kindergarten. Creative has been chosen as a national and state model for the inclusion of young children with disabilities; continuously nationally accredited since 1989; and "A Gold Seal" program in the state of Florida. It is also the home of The Creative Pre-School Model Program Curriculum: Beyond Centers and Circle Time®. Dr. Phelps is the

Vice-President of The Creative Center for Childhood Research and Training, a non-profit corporation, providing training and program consultation for adults working with young children. She is an international consultant on early childhood education to the Republic of Indonesia and has conducted multiple national symposiums and workshops in that country and the Caribbean. Dr. Phelps is a past chair of the State of Florida's Coordinating Council for Early Childhood Services appointed by the Commissioner of Education for the State of Florida and a past member of The Florida Interagency Council for Infants and Toddlers. She has published articles in professional early childhood and special education journals; directed research in early childhood settings; and regularly conducts workshops for educators and parents on play and play environments, behavior management, and numerous other topics related to young children. Dr. Phelps has received numerous awards and recognitions.

Research Presentation Luncheon co-sponsored with Gardner Media/Child Play, Inc.

CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

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

28. Supporting The Child Care Workforce Through Trauma Informed Practices

Bayshore V

Supporting child care providers who work with children and families impacted by stress, adversity, and trauma, requires more than awareness. It requires training that meets professionals where they are, and equips them with practical strategies they can apply immediately. This session explores how organizations supporting early childhood programs can strengthen their capacity through Trauma Informed Practices (TIP) that help prevent re-traumatization by creating environments where individuals feel emotionally and physically safe. Participants will learn approaches that emphasize safety, trust, collaboration, empowerment, and awareness, while supporting providers and the children and families they serve. The session also highlights how training environments, delivery methods, and leadership practices influence engagement, workforce stability, resilience, and long-term program effectiveness.

Program Track: Management and Leadership

Target Audience: Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support, Teachers:
Experienced

FELDS Domains: Social and Emotional Development

Core Competencies: Child Development and Learning
Professionalism

CDA Standards: Social and Emotional Development
Positive and Productive Relationships with Families
Well-Run, Purposeful Program
Professionalism

HSELOF Domains: Social and Emotional Development

Presenter:

Cynthia Krosky, *President*

Achieving Corporate Excellence, Inc.

P.O. Box 2768

Oldsmar, FL 34677

Phone: 772-461-8313

E-Mail: achieve@achievingcorporateexcellence.com

29. "Help It Stick"

Bayshore VI

This presentation will cover how to understand, process, and retrieve information in the child's mind. Along with tools to help unwrap learning blocks, disorientation, foggy mind mapping, distortion roots, stuck recall, faulty learning sequence, mental priming, and support for anxiety-free learning. Come and be encouraged that all children and adults process information differently, and there is help.

Program Track: Mental Health/Managing Behaviors

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

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

Target Audience: Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

FELDS Domains: Social and Emotional Development

Core Competencies: Child Development and Learning
Teaching and Learning Environments and Interactions

CDA Standards: Physical and Intellectual Competence
Social and Emotional Development

HSELOF Domains: Social and Emotional Development

Presenter:

Sabrena Smith, Director of Programs
Central Florida Institute of Training (CFIT)
P.O. Box 20127
Bradenton, FL 34204

Phone: 407-891-0956
E-Mail: cda@cfitinc.com

30. Classroom Arrangement Essentials To Support Social Skills

Bayshore VII

This presentation focuses on the proactive steps of setting up a classroom environment to support children in their social development, as well as in their need for understanding the structure and routines for the day. We will be reviewing evidence-based strategies to foster positive social skills and help prevent challenging behaviors in a classroom. Additionally, we will provide strategies and visual examples to support preschool children with disabilities. We will review the components of classroom arrangement, visual schedules, classroom materials, and discuss strategies to support children as they move throughout their daily activities.

Program Track: Special Needs

Target Audience: Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced

FELDS Domains: Social and Emotional Development

Core Competencies: Child Development and Learning

CDA Standards: Social and Emotional Development

HSELOF Domains: Social and Emotional Development

Presenter:

Anna Milbert, West Central Regional Facilitator
Prekindergarten Exceptional Student Education Technical Assistance
13906 Woodbridge Terrace
Bradenton, FL 34211

Phone: 941-961-9410
E-Mail: pese-wc@ucf.edu

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

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

31. Understanding Behavior And The Power Of "I Wonder"

Palma Ceia II

Explore children's behavior through a reflective and curious lens. This interactive presentation focuses on using the phrase "I wonder" to better understand the meaning behind behaviors, strengthen relationships, and respond with empathy, intention, and developmentally appropriate strategies.

Program Track: Child Growth and Development
Target Audience: Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced
FELDS Domains: Social and Emotional Development
Core Competencies: Child Development and Learning
Teaching and Learning Environments and Interactions
CDA Standards: Safe, Healthy Learning Environment
Social and Emotional Development
HSELOF Domains: Social and Emotional Development

Presenter:

Jennifer Latterell, *Professional Development Manager*
Florida Association for the Education of Young Children
3551 South Blairstone Road
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Phone: 407-928-2461
E-Mail: JenniferL@flaeyc.org

32. Early Identification Of Developmental Concerns And Referral Process In The School Readiness Program

Palma Ceia III

This presentation will examine the importance of developmental screenings within School Readiness Programs to facilitate early identification of children who may have developmental concerns. It will also detail the referral process to ensure families are connected to appropriate early intervention services.

Program Track: Screenings/Assessments/Evaluations
Target Audience: Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support,
Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff
Core Competencies: Observing, Documents, Screening, and Assessing

Presenter:

Lisette Levy, *PhD, School Readiness Specialist*
Florida Department of Education/Division of Early Learning
325 West Gaines Street, #544
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Phone: 850-320-0661
E-Mail: lisette.levy@del.fldoe.org

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

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

**33. Exploring Professional Development And Compensation
With TEACH And INCENTIVE\$ Florida**

Palma Ceia IV

In this session, we will explore state and national data highlighting the importance of retaining well-trained and well-compensated educators in the classroom. Participants will learn about the many benefits of supporting professional development opportunities that lead to higher levels of education and greater financial stability for early childhood and family child care home educators in our state. We will also discuss how quality initiatives, including the TEACH Scholarship and INCENTIVE\$ Florida programs, contribute to a stronger and more sustainable early childhood education workforce, ultimately benefiting both educators and the young children they serve.

Program Track: Collaboration

Target Audience: Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

Core Competencies: Professionalism

CDA Standards: Professionalism

Presenters:

Briana Assante, Workforce Initiatives Specialist

Children's Forum

1650 Summit Lake Drive, Suite 210

Tallahassee, FL 32317

Phone: 850-487-6300

E-Mail: basantet@thechildrensforum.com

Martha Grant, Workforce Initiatives Coordinator (TEACH)

Children's Forum

1650 Summit Lake Drive, Suite 210

Tallahassee, FL 32317

Phone: 850-487-6300

E-Mail: mgrant@thechildrensforum.com

**34. Empowering Child Care Professionals: Training
And Certifications**

Esplanade I

The Office of Licensing will clarify the training timeline for Child Care Professionals, credentialing requirements, and common FAQs, addressing frequent provider violations related to introductory training, CPR/First Aid ratios, and annual in-service requirements.

Program Track: Health, Safety and Nutrition

Target Audience: Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

Core Competencies: Professionalism

CDA Standards: Professionalism

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

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

Presenters:

Katherine Jones, *Child Care Licensing Operations Manager*

Florida Department of Children & Families
2415 North Monroe Street, Suite 400
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Phone: 850-~~HEE~~-43GH
E-Mail: katherine.jones@myflfamilies.com

Lina Avila, *Child Care Licensing Training & Credentialing Supervisor*

Florida Department of Children & Families
2415 North Monroe Street, Suite 400
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Phone: 850-717-4369
E-Mail: lina.avila@myflfamilies.com

Giselle Salazar, *Credential Specialist*

Florida Department of Children & Families
2415 North Monroe Street, Suite 400
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Phone: 850-~~HEE~~-43GH
E-Mail: giselle.salazar@myflfamilies.com

**35. Supporting Early Literacy Through Resources, Trainings,
And Strategies**

Esplanade II

Help us move the needle on early literacy and reading proficiency! The Florida Grade-Level Reading Campaign has dozens of free resources for educators and parents of children ages birth-12, including Early Literacy Skill Building Tip Sheets, a digital library of online children's books, trainings and more! Join us to learn more about these resources and how you can access our monthly webinars and newsletters, which highlight helpful resources, services, and products supporting early language development through elementary school reading skills. We'll also discuss how to become a local GLR campaign community!

Program Track: Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum

Target Audience: Direct Service Providers

Core Competencies: Professionalism

CDA Standards: Professionalism

Presenter:

Jenn Faber, *Florida GLR Campaign Director*

Florida Alliance of Children's Councils and Trusts (FACCT)
1203 Governors Square Boulevard, Suite 102
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Phone: 239-565-6217
E-Mail: jfaber@facct.com

36. Entering Quality, Concise Notes In WELS

Esplanade III

This presentation will provide participants with an overview of the guidance for entering CLASS® program assessment notes into the WELS 4-Cycle Direct Entry system. Participants will be provided examples of the expectations of what observation notes, by dimension and cycle, should contain, and samples of the summary reports generated with the WELS system.

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

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

Program Track: Management and Leadership

Target Audience: Coalition Staff

Core Competencies: Professionalism

CDA Standards: Professionalism

Presenter:

Matthew Moore, School Readiness Specialist

Florida Department of Education/Division of Early Learning
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Phone: 904-718-0304
E-Mail: matthew.moore@del.fldoe.org

37. Start The Music From The Beginning!

Garrison

Babies enjoy music beginning in the womb. That Baby Bounce when listening to music is delightful. Come learn songs which have just been written for this age group, This presentation will present developmentally appropriate activities and materials for our youngest, as well as educate participants on their value in development.

Program Track: Child Growth and Development
Infant and Toddler`

Target Audience: Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced

FELDS Domains: Social and Emotional Development
Language and Literacy

Core Competencies: Child Development and Learning
Teaching and Learning Environments and Interactions

CDA Standards: Physical and Intellectual Competence
Social and Emotional Development

HSELOF Domains: Social and Emotional Development
Language and Literacy

Presenter:

Maryann Harman, Founder

Music With Mar., LLC
149 Garland Circle
Palm Harbor, FL 34683

Phone: 727-647-4235
E-Mail: Mar@musicwithmar.com

CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

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

**38. Beyond Bubble Baths: Self-Care And Burnout Prevention
For Early Childhood Professionals**

Bayshore II

Early childhood professionals give endlessly, often at the cost of their own well-being. This interactive session explores realistic self-care, emotional regulation, and burnout prevention strategies rooted in brain science and connection. Participants engage in reflection, interactive activities, and laughter-based stress relief to restore balance and joy at work.

Program Track: Mental Health/Managing Behaviors

Target Audience: Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

Core Competencies: Professionalism

CDA Standards: Professionalism

Presenter:

Rachael Moshman, *Lead Early Childhood Mental Health consultant*

Tykes and Teens

1617 14th Avenue

Vero Beach, FL 32960

Phone: 772-501-6425

E-Mail: rachaelm@tykesandteens.org

**39. What If We Got It Right From The Start? A Dyslexia Informed
Approach To Early Literacy For All**

Bayshore V

What if the strategies proven to support children with dyslexia are exactly what all children need from birth? In this engaging session, learn how a dyslexia informed Science of Reading aligned approach can strengthen early literacy in homes and early learning settings. Participants will explore early language development, sound awareness, and practical, play-based strategies that prevent reading struggles before they begin. Discover why the instruction essential for children with dyslexia represents high quality instruction for every child, and how getting it right from the start changes everything.

Program Track: Child Growth and Development
Special Needs

Target Audience: Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced

FELDS Domains: Language and Literacy

Core Competencies: Child Development and Learning
Building Family and Community Relationships

CDA Standards: Physical and Intellectual Competence
Positive and Productive Relationships with Families

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

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

HSELOF Domains: Language and Literacy

Presenter:

Kristy Rios, *Instructional Specialist*

The Lucy Project
2730 SW 3rd Avenue, Suite 304
Miami, FL 33129

Phone: 786-564-2664
E-Mail: kristy@lucyproject.org

**40. Improve Your Communication Skills - An Overview To
Crucial Conversations**

Bayshore VI

When it comes to the health of relationships, teams, and organizations, one thing affects everything: Communication. This session will explore the nine research-backed skills taught within the Crucial Conversation curriculum. These skills can assist you in both your personal and professional lives, and are meant to help you work through disagreement to achieve better results.

Program Track: Collaboration
Management and Leadership

Target Audience: Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support,
Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

Core Competencies: Building Family and Community Relationships
Professionalism

CDA Standards: Positive and Productive Relationships with Families
Professionalism

Presenter:

Jinan A Higginbotham, *Senior Director of Outreach & Communications*

Children's Forum
1650 Summit Lake Drive, Suite 210
Tallahassee, FL 32317

Phone: 850-655-7761
E-Mail: jhigginbotham@thechildrensforum.com

**41. Supporting Classroom Communication And Language
Development**

Bayshore VII

Participants in this session will learn to recognize the key components of communication, understand how to establish and support joint attention, and apply strategies that foster communication and language skills in the classroom. We will explore the difference between receptive and expressive language, as well as discuss the essential elements involved in a meaningful communicative exchange. Throughout the session, participants also reflect on the children in their classrooms, and consider how to best support those who may be experiencing delays in communication.

Program Track: Special Needs

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

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

Target Audience: Direct Service Providers, Directors, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced

FELDS Domains: Language and Literacy

Core Competencies: Child Development and Learning

CDA Standards: Physical and Intellectual Competence

HSELOF Domains: Language and Literacy

Presenter:

Gina Neuhofer, *South/Southwest Regional Facilitator*

Prekindergarten Exceptional Student Education Technical Assistance

13906 Woodbridge Terrace

Lakewood Ranch, FL 34211

Phone: 863-452-7892

E-Mail: tats-ssw@ucf.edu

42. Pebbles And Prose: The Storytelling Power Of Loose Parts

Palma Ceia II

Research suggests that open-ended materials empower child agencies, foster imagination and narrative thinking, and support holistic development. This interactive session is designed to inspire early childhood educators to tap into to the power of loose parts to engage their young learners, and support their development across multiple domains. Attendees will be invited to collaborate with other educators, while creating developmentally appropriate story provocations. A list of resources intended to further content knowledge and enhance classroom practice will be provided.

Program Track: Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum

Target Audience: Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

FELDS Domains: Approaches to Learning
Creative Expression Through the Arts

Core Competencies: Child Development and Learning
Teaching and Learning Environments and Interactions

CDA Standards: Physical and Intellectual Competence

HSELOF Domains: Approaches to Learning
Cognition

Presenter:

Suzanne Adinolfi, *PhD, Director of Research and Content Development*

Learning Beyond Paper

871 Squirrel Road

DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433

Phone: 850-419-3445

E-Mail: sadinolfi@learningbeyondpaper.com

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

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

43. La Evaluación Del Desarrollo Como Herramienta Para Incrementar La Participación De Los Padres

Palma Ceia III

¡Descubra cómo la evaluación del desarrollo puede fortalecer la participación de los padres! Esta sesión definirá el concepto de participación de los padres, compartirá hallazgos clave de la investigación y presentará estrategias prácticas para utilizar la evaluación del desarrollo como una herramienta poderosa que fomente una participación familiar significativa.

Program Track: Screenings/Assessments/Evaluations

Target Audience: Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

Core Competencies: Observing, Documents, Screening, and Assessing

Presenter:

Lisette Levy, PhD, School Readiness Specialist
Florida Department of Education/Division of Early Learning
325 West Gaines Street, #544
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Phone: 850-320-0661
E-Mail: cccrt@comcast.net

44. Stronger Together: Building Teams That Thrive

Palma Ceia IV

This session explores how core values shape a center's environment and define what a strong, effective team truly looks like. Participants will reflect on their current workplace environment and gain a deeper understanding of today's workforce, including what different generations need to feel supported, valued, and engaged. The presentation will also highlight practical strategies to strengthen teamwork and boost staff morale, including the use of staff committees, and meaningful recognition practices. Attendees will leave with practical, actionable strategies to foster a more connected, motivated team, and elevate the overall quality of their program.

Program Track: Management and Leadership

Target Audience: Administrators, Directors

Core Competencies: Professionalism

CDA Standards: Professionalism

Presenter:

Mariel Broffman, Quality Specialist
The Early Learning Coalition of St. Lucie County
5000 Dunn Road
Fort Pierce, FL 34981

Phone: 772-595-6424
E-Mail: broffmanm01@elcslc.org

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

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

45. Compliance Made Easy: Tackling the Top 10 Child Care Licensing Challenges

Esplanade I

The Office of Licensing will highlight the top ten licensing violations in child care facilities statewide and provide guidance on compliance with these common standards.

Program Track: Health, Safety and Nutrition

Target Audience: Direct Service Providers, Directors, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced

Core Competencies: Professionalism

CDA Standards: Professionalism

Presenters:

Hannah McGlothlin, *Policy and Programs Statewide Trainer*

Florida Department of Children & Families

2415 North Monroe Street, Suite 400

Tallahassee, FL 32303

Phone: 904-651-4898

E-Mail: hannah.mcglathlin@myflfamilies.com

Daria Lowman, *Child Care Licensing Policy Specialist*

Florida Department of Children & Families

2415 North Monroe Street, Suite 400

Tallahassee, FL 32303

Phone: 904-651-4898

E-Mail: daria.lowman@myflfamilies.com

46. From Preschool To Kindergarten: Designing A Summer Bridge Program That Supports Whole-Child Readiness And Program Growth

Esplanade II

The transition from preschool to kindergarten is one of the most significant changes young children and their families experience - and the summer months are a critical, often underutilized opportunity to support that transition. This session shares how one early childhood program replaced a traditional summer camp model with a three-month Summer Kindergarten Prep bridge program designed to sustain learning, build independence, and ease the transition from preschool into kindergarten. Grounded in state early learning standards, informed by direct input from local kindergarten teachers, and aligned with NAEYC's Developmentally Appropriate Practice framework, the program balanced foundational academic learning with equally essential social-emotional and independence skills. Children continued making meaningful gains during the summer while preparing for real-world kindergarten expectations, such as navigating larger playgrounds, increasing bathroom independence, managing lunch items, adjusting to reduced or eliminated nap times, and participating in longer periods of structured group learning. Designed for both administrators and classroom educators, this session will explore program-level planning and classroom implementation strategies, family engagement practices, and leadership decisions that supported ethical program growth. From a director perspective, participants will also examine how offering a Summer Kindergarten Prep bridge program addressed a community need, strengthened family trust, and resulted in the program doubling in size over the summer months.

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

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

Program Track: Child Growth and Development
Target Audience: Administrators, Directors, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced
Core Competencies: Child Development and Learning
Teaching and Learning Environments and Interactions
CDA Standards: Physical and Intellectual Competence
Well-Run, Purposeful Program

Presenter:

Nicole Williams, *Preschool Director*
Warner Christian Academy
1730 South Ridgewood Avenue
South Daytona, FL 32119

Phone: 386-761-3491
E-Mail: nwilliams@wcaeagles.org

47. Building Advocacy Skills In Early Childhood: The ALTP Experience

Esplanade III

Join us for an engaging information session about FLAEYC's Advocacy Leadership Training Program (ALTP), a unique opportunity to step into your power as an early childhood advocate. We are committed to elevating voices from across the field, including family child care providers, because your lived experience and leadership are critical to shaping policies that truly support children, families, and educators. Through ALTP, a small cohort of early childhood professionals receives hands-on training in how the legislative system works and how to confidently influence decision-makers. The journey culminates at NAEYC's Public Policy Forum in Washington, DC - an energizing national experience where participants sharpen their advocacy skills, learn from leaders across the country about what's working (and what's not), hear directly from representatives and policy experts, and gain practical guidance from media professionals on how to elevate and own their story. The experience concludes with meetings on Capitol Hill, where cohort members put their training into action by speaking directly with members of Congress and their staff. During this session, you'll also hear from past participants about how ALTP transformed their confidence, expanded their leadership, and propelled their advocacy journey to the next level.

Program Track: Public Policy and Advocacy
Target Audience: No Additional Equipment Requested
Core Competencies: Professionalism
CDA Standards: Professionalism

Presenters:

Camille Eckrem, *Advocacy Chair*
Florida Association for the Education of Young Children
2625 9th Avenue North
St Petersburg, FL 33713

Phone: 727-871-1142
E-Mail: camille.eckrem@gmail.com

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

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

Wendy Occhipinti, Executive Director
Florida Association for the Education of Young Children
10458 Highland Park Place
Palmetto, FL 34221

Phone: 609-306-3004
E-Mail: wendyo@flaeyc.org

48. Songs That Can Be Shared At Home

Garrison

Are there times when you have thought, "I wish I could teach this to the parents, too"? Parent involvement is an important part of learning. When parents know what we're teaching, they can extend the lessons at home. In this presentation, we will sing songs and dance to songs that children will be excited to show their parents. Get excited to share what you are doing so parents will get excited, too!

Program Track: Family Engagement

Target Audience: Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced

Core Competencies: Building Family and Community Relationships

CDA Standards: Positive and Productive Relationships with Families

Presenter:

Maryann Harman, Founder
Music With Mar., LLC
149 Garland Circle
Palm Harbor, FL 34683

Phone: 727-647-4235
E-Mail: Mar@musicwithmar.com

CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

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

49. Moving With "CLASS®"

Bayshore II

This interactive session introduces educators to the concept of MOVING with CLASS® the intentional daily interactions that shape classroom climate, relationships, and learning outcomes. Using the CLASS® Observation Tool as a guide, participants will explore practical "MOVES" that strengthen Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support. From greetings and behavior guidance to questioning and feedback, educators will learn how everyday interactions influence children's social-emotional growth, language, and thinking. Through real scenarios, reflection, and engaging activities, participants will leave with strategies to MOVE with purpose and confidence.

Program Track: Child Growth and Development

Target Audience: Directors, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

Core Competencies: Teaching and Learning Environments and Interactions

CDA Standards: Well-Run, Purposeful Program

Presenter:

Tamara Preston, *Early Childhood Consultant*
Early Childhood Training & Technical Assistance
158 Sand Pine Circle
Midway, FL 32343

Phone: 850-583-0817
E-Mail: earlychildhoodtrainingta@gmail.com

50. Creating An Impactful Future With CLASS® 2nd Edition

Bayshore V

As Florida implements CLASS® 2nd Edition, we'll explore how it: empowers educators with tools and strategies that focus on authentic interactions to support both academic and emotional growth; provides improved observation practices that offer specific insights for celebrating successes and identifying targeted areas for support; and simplifies the framework with clear language and practical strategies to make effective interactions more relatable and actionable for educators at all levels. We will learn from Early Learning Coalition leaders how they are preparing CLASS® Coaches, CLASS® Assessors, and Educators for these transitions.

Program Track: Management and Leadership

Target Audience: Administrators, Directors

Core Competencies: Professionalism

CDA Standards: Professionalism

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

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

Presenters:

Janet Ranaldi, *Partnership Development Manager*

Teachstone
1901 Tanglewood Drive NE
Saint Petersburg, FL 33702

Phone: 407-620-2468
E-Mail: janet.ranaldi@teachstone.com

Colleen Pantazis, *Partnership Success Manager*

Teachstone

Phone: 866-998-8352
E-Mail: colleen.pantazis@teachstone.com

Chelsea Reinhart, *Vice President of Quality Supports*

Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County
2300 Hugh Ridge, Suite 115
Boynton Beach, FL 33426

Phone: 561-600-9422
E-Mail: Chelsea.Reinhart@elcpalmbeach.org

**51. Every Interaction Counts: Improving Language Environments
In Early Childhood Education**

Bayshore VI

Teacher-child interactions are widely recognized as a critical component of high-quality child care, with a growing body of research linking rich early language environments to positive outcomes for children. After analyzing daylong audio recordings from more than 24,000 children, we now have an unprecedented look at what adult-child interaction actually looks like in early education settings. In this session, we'll also explore how one organization demonstrated a strong connection between intentional coaching supports and improvements in CLASS[®] scores.

Program Track: Child Growth and Development

Target Audience: Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Teachers: New,
Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

Core Competencies: Professionalism

CDA Standards: Professionalism

Presenters:

Gina Gates, *Regional Partnerships Director*

LENA
2685 Daisy Way
Hollywood, FL 33026

Phone: 954-804-7778
E-Mail: GinaGates@lena.org

Brianna DeOsca, *Education Specialist*

Episcopal Children's Services (ECS4Kids)
8649 Baypine Road, Building 7, Suite 300
Jacksonville, FL 32256

Phone: 904-343-2959
E-Mail: brianna.deosca@ecs4kids.org

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

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

52. Achieving Gold Seal Status: What Providers Need To Know

Bayshore VII

Discover what it takes to qualify for Gold Seal designation, including accreditation options, operational timelines, and inspection expectations that providers must meet.

Program Track: Management and Leadership

Target Audience: Administrators, Directors

Core Competencies: Professionalism

CDA Standards: Professionalism

Presenters:

Yolanda Garcia, *School Readiness Program Specialist*

Florida Department of Education/Division of Early Learning
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Phone: 850-717-8586
E-Mail: Yolanda.Garcia@del.fldoe.org

Felicia Bonner, *School Readiness Program Specialist*

Children's Forum
1650 Summit Lake Drive, Suite 210
Tallahassee, FL 32317

Phone: 850-655-7761
E-Mail: fbonner@thechildrensforum.com

**53. The Classroom Management Toolkit: Universal Strategies
For Effective Classroom Management**

Palma Ceia II

This presentation introduces the foundations of effective classroom management, highlighting core strategies and practical tools, which educators can use to create structured, engaging, and supportive learning environments. Participants will gain actionable techniques they can apply immediately to their classrooms.

Program Track: Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum

Target Audience: Directors, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

Core Competencies: Teaching and Learning Environments and Interactions

CDA Standards: Well-Run, Purposeful Program

Presenters:

Lexi Langieri, *Northeast VPK Regional Facilitator*

Florida Department of Education/Division of Early Learning
1941 NW 33rd Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32605

Phone: 352-872-1189
E-Mail: lexi.langieri@del.fldoe.org

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

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

Chesnee Layne, *Northwest VPK Regional Facilitator*
Florida Department of Education/Division of Early Learning
18377 NE Lois Fowler Road
Blountstown, FL 32424

Phone: 850-545-0248
E-Mail: chesnee.layne@del.fldoe.org

54. Developmental Screening As A Tool For Parent Engagement

Palma Ceia III

Discover how developmental screening can strengthen parent engagement! This session will define parent engagement, share key research insights, and present practical strategies for using screening as a powerful tool to foster meaningful family involvement.

Program Track: Screenings/Assessments/Evaluations
Family Engagement

Target Audience: Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support,
Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

Core Competencies: Building Family and Community Relationships
Observing, Documents, Screening, and Assessing

CDA Standards: Positive and Productive Relationships with Families

Presenter:

Lisette Levy, *PhD, School Readiness Specialist*
Florida Department of Education/Division of Early Learning
325 West Gaines Street, #544
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Phone: 850-320-0661
E-Mail: lisette.levy@del.fldoe.org

**55. Explorando El Desarrollo Profesional Y La Compensación
Con TEACH & INCENTIVE\$ Florida**

Palma Ceia IV

En esta sesión, exploraremos datos estatales y nacionales que destacan la importancia de retener a educadores bien capacitados y remunerados en el salón de clase. Los participantes aprenderán sobre los múltiples beneficios de apoyar oportunidades de desarrollo profesional que conducen a niveles más altos de educación y mayor estabilidad financiera para los educadores de campo de la educación temprana y de cuidado infantil en el hogar de familia en nuestro estado. También discutiremos cómo las iniciativas de calidad, incluidos los programas: Beca TEACH e INCENTIVE\$ Florida, contribuyen a una fuerza laboral de educación de la primera infancia más sólida y sostenible, beneficiando en última instancia tanto a los educadores como a los niños pequeños a quienes sirven.

Program Track: Collaboration

Target Audience: Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Teachers: New,
Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

Core Competencies: Professionalism

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

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

CDA Standards: Professionalism

Presenter:

Martha Grant, Workforce Initiatives Coordinator (TEACH)

Children's Forum

1650 Summit Lake Drive, Suite 210

Tallahassee, FL 32317

Phone: 850-487-6300

E-Mail: mgrant@thechildrensforum.com

56. CARES: Streamlining The Application Process And Key System Updates

Esplanade I

The Office of Licensing will provide a high level walkthrough of the online application process, spotlighting the new features and system enhancements introduced over the past year.

Program Track: Health, Safety and Nutrition

Target Audience: Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

Core Competencies: Professionalism

CDA Standards: Professionalism

Presenters:

Katherine Jones, Child Care Licensing Operations Manager

Florida Department of Children & Families

2415 N Monroe Street, Suite 400

Tallahassee, FL 32303

Phone: 850-438-4368

E-Mail: katherine.jones@myflfamilies.com

Yemi Quijada, Child Care Licensing Policy Specialist

Department of Children & Families

2415 N Monroe Street, Suite 400

Tallahassee, FL 32303

Phone: 850-438-4368

E-Mail: yemi.quijada@myflfamilies.com

57. Early Steps: Partnering With Early Educators To Support Development: One Early Step At A Time

Esplanade II

Early childhood educators play a critical role in identifying and supporting children with developmental delays and special needs. This session introduces the Florida's Early Steps program and highlights how early intervention supports children during the crucial first three years of life. Participants will learn about the referral process, the benefits of early intervention for children and families, and how educators can collaborate with Early Steps to create, developmentally supportive learning environments. Join us to explore how partnerships between educators and Early Steps can help every child thrive - one Early Step at a time.

Program Track: Special Needs

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

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

Target Audience: Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced

Core Competencies: Observing, Documents, Screening, and Assessing Professionalism

CDA Standards: Professionalism

Presenter:

Maria Cadigan, *Child Find Coordinator, Family Resource Specialist*

Gulf Central Early Steps- Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida

4630 17th Street

Sarasota, FL 34235

Phone: 941-957-8864

E-Mail: mariacadigan@hpcswf.com

**58. Reframing Special Needs: A Strength-Based Approach
To Supporting Young Children With Neurodivergency**

Garrison

Young children with developmental differences are often labeled, shaping how adults perceive their abilities. This session introduces a strength-based, developmentally grounded approach to supporting neurodivergent young children, including those with autism, ADHD, sensory needs, and developmental delays. Participants will learn how to shift from a "fix the behavior" mindset to a "support the need" mindset, creating supportive environments, and partnering effectively with families. This session offers practical strategies and real-world examples to help educators and caregivers promote dignity, connection, and meaningful participation for every child.

Program Track: Special Needs

Target Audience: Direct Service Providers, Family Support, Teachers: New

Core Competencies: Observing, Documents, Screening, and Assessing

CDA Standards: Social and Emotional Development
Positive and Productive Relationships with Families

Presenter:

Nishani Knight, *Educational Consultant*

Milestones to Mastery Consulting

3551 South Blairstone Road, Suite 105, #54

Tallahassee, FL 32301

Phone: 407-928-2461

E-Mail: contact@knightvisionenterprises.org

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

"COME ALIVE WITH MUSIC AND PARTY"

Bayshore II

An evening of music and fun...dancing and games. The event is co-sponsored with Lakeshore Learning Materials. Our DJ will provide music for dancing, and the Lakeshore staff will entertain you. Cash bar will be available. Soft drinks are complimentary.

CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2026

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

59. Dramatic Play - More Than A Housekeeping Area

Bayshore V

Dramatic play is often neglected in early childhood classrooms, and yet, it has been proven through years of research to enhance language, social, emotional, and cognitive skills. All of the Florida Early Learning and Development Standards can be presented through well planned and implemented dramatic play experiences. Enriched dramatic play experiences will help prepare children for later school success. This presentation will provide participants with information that will help them use dramatic play as a focus center in their programs.

Program Track:	Child Growth and Development
Target Audience:	Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced
FELDS Domains:	Approaches to Learning Social and Emotional Development
Core Competencies:	Child Development and Learning
CDA Standards:	Physical and Intellectual Competence Social and Emotional Development
HSELOF Domains:	Approaches to Learning Social and Emotional Development Cognition

Presenter:

Pamela C. Phelps, PhD, Owner/Director of the Creative Pre-School, Vice Chair

The Creative Center for Childhood Research & Training
2746 West Tharpe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Phone: 850-422-1080
E-Mail: cccrt@comcast.net

60. Building And Sustaining Resilient Early Childhood Professionals

Bayshore VI

Early childhood professionals play a vital role in supporting children's development and partnering with families. While much attention focuses on children's well-being, strengthening the resilience of the professionals who care for them, is essential to sustaining the field. This session explores practical strategies for building and sustaining resilience among early childhood professionals. Participants will examine common sources of stress in the field and learn realistic approaches that support emotional balance, healthy boundaries, and stress management. Through reflection and discussion, participants will identify simple practices that help maintain energy, strengthen professional well-being, and support long term sustainability in this important work.

Program Track:	Mental Health/Managing Behaviors
Target Audience:	Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2026

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

Core Competencies: Professionalism

CDA Standards: Professionalism

Presenter:

Cynthia Krosky, *President*

Achieving Corporate Excellence, Inc.

Post Office Box 2768

Oldsmar, FL 34677

Phone: 772-461-8313

E-Mail: achieve@achievingcorporateexcellence.com

61. Storytelling With CLASS®!

Bayshore VII

This engaging session is designed for preschool teachers who want to make storybooks a powerful tool for learning throughout the day. Participants will explore practical strategies for extending stories beyond circle time into centers, play, and daily routines. This presentation highlights how storytelling strengthens teacher-child interactions while supporting the key dimensions of the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS®). Connections to the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards will also be shared, helping teachers intentionally link story-based activities to language, literacy, and cognitive development goals. Teachers will leave with ready-to-use ideas that build skills and meaningful classroom connections.

Program Track: Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum

Target Audience: Directors, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced

FELDS Domains: Language and Literacy

Core Competencies: Child Development and Learning
Teaching and Learning Environments and Interactions

CDA Standards: Physical and Intellectual Competence

HSELOF Domains: Language and Literacy
Cognition

Presenters:

Beth Mueller, *Director, Child Development and Education Services*

Early Learning Coalition of Florida's Heartland

18501 Murdock Circle, Suite 200

Port Charlotte, FL 33948

Phone: 941-457-9246

E-Mail: bmuellet@elcfh.org

Lori McDonnell, *Child Development and Education Lead Data Specialist*

Early Learning Coalition of Florida's Heartland

18501 Murdock Circle, Suite 200

Port Charlotte, FL 33948

Phone: 941-255-1650, Ext. 109

E-Mail: lmcdonnell@elcfh.org

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2026

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

62. Simple Moves, Big Results: Building Thinking And Language Through Movement

Palma Ceia II

This evidence-informed session explores how intentional, reflex-based movement supports attention, regulation, and participation in early learning. Movement builds the body, the body supports regulation, and regulation allows for stronger teaching and learning interactions across all CLASS® domains. Educators will learn to teach balance, body awareness, and three-dimensional movement using simple materials. Through guided practice, participants apply questioning and language strategies that promote Concept Development and Language Modeling. Attendees leave with immediately transferable activities, language prompts, and transition strategies that strengthen CLASS® interactions and support school readiness for diverse learners.

Program Track: Child Growth and Development

Target Audience: Administrators, Directors, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

FELDS Domains: Physical Development
Social and Emotional Development

Core Competencies: Child Development and Learning

CDA Standards: Physical and Intellectual Competence
Social and Emotional Development

HSELOF Domains: Social and Emotional Development
Perceptual, Motor and Physical Development

Presenter:

Janis Nakagama, Neurodevelopmental Movement Educator

399 Lake Road
Lake Mary, FL 32746

Phone: 407-221-9009
E-Mail: nakagamajanis@gmail.com

63. Profit With Purpose: The Business Of Caring

Palma Ceia III

Running an early childhood center-based or family child care business is both a calling and a profession and sustainable success requires honoring both. This presentation challenges providers to embrace a powerful mindset shift: strong business systems don't compromise quality care, they protect it. Through practical frameworks and real-world application, participants will explore the connection between financial health, operational structure, and care excellence. Walk away with the tools and confidence to build a business that is as purposeful in its mission as it is sound in its foundation.

Program Track: Management and Leadership

Target Audience: Direct Service Providers, Directors, Teachers: Experienced

Core Competencies: Professionalism

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2026

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

CDA Standards: Professionalism

Presenter:

Valorie Wilkerson, Director

Destiny Institute
731 Green Court
Kissimmee, FL 34759

Phone: 407-697-5310
E-Mail: destinyinstitutetraining@yahoo.com

64. All She “ROTE”

Palma Ceia IV

This interactive presentation examines the roles of rote learning and experiential learning in the prekindergarten classroom. Through scenarios, question-and-answer activities, and guided discussions, participants will identify the advantages and disadvantages of both instructional approaches. Participants will also review and align the CLASS® Concept Development dimension with the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards (FELDS) to support instructional planning and learning goals.

Program Track: Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum

Target Audience: Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

Core Competencies: Professionalism

CDA Standards: Professionalism

Presenters:

Karla Sotelo-Blanco, VPK Regional Facilitator -South Florida Region

Florida Department of Education/Division of Early Learning
16256 SW 26th Street
Miramar, FL 33027

Phone: 305-814-6667
E-Mail: Karla.Sotelo-Blanco@del.fldoe.org

Linda Townsend, VPK Regional Facilitator, Southwest Region

Florida Department of Education/Division of Early Learning
680 3rd Avenue North
Safety Harbor, FL 34696

Phone: 813-616-2108
E-Mail: Linda.Townsend@del.fldoe.org

**65. Teaching Tools For Young Children: Targeted Strategies
To Promote Social-Emotional Development**

Esplanade I

Looking for strategies to address behavior challenges in the classroom? This session will describe how practitioners can develop targeted interventions that can be implemented within classroom routines and activities to address behavior. A no-cost guide and resources that can be used to assist this process will be shared.

Program Track: Mental Health/Managing Behaviors

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2026

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

Target Audience: Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

FELDS Domains: Social and Emotional Development

Core Competencies: Child Development and Learning

CDA Standards: Social and Emotional Development

HSELOF Domains: Social and Emotional Development

Presenter:

Anna Winneker, PhD, Research Assistant Professor
University of South Florida
318 50th Avenue North
Saint Petersburg, FL 33703

Phone: 727-434-8974
E-Mail: awinneker@usf.edu

66. Autism: Making Every Classroom Work For Every Child

Esplanade II

Understand the foundations of autism: Participants will gain a clear, strengths-based understanding of what autism is, including how it affects communication, behavior, sensory processing, and social interaction, in order to better support and include autistic children across environments. Understand what true inclusion looks like. Participants will learn how to move beyond the idea of placement and into creating environments that actively support and include autistic children. Participants will gain simple, actionable tools they can immediately apply in classrooms, sports programs, and home settings to better support autistic children. Shift mindset from compliance to connection: Participants will learn how to prioritize relationship-building, regulation, and understanding behavior as communication to create more positive and successful outcomes.

Program Track: Special Needs

Target Audience: Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced

Core Competencies: Professionalism

CDA Standards: Professionalism

Presenter:

Amanda Torin, Certified Clinical Autism Specialist, SLPA, Autism Coach
11504 Captiva Kay Drive
Riverview, FL 33569

Phone: 585-808-2988
E-Mail: Amackney5@gmail.com

67. Getting Started With Advocacy: It's Not As Hard As You Think

Esplanade III

Advocacy in early childhood education does not require a formal title, a policy background, or a grand strategy - it begins with informed, intentional conversations. This session explores how educators, administrators, and community partners can leverage their existing relationships and professional experiences to elevate the importance of high-quality early childhood care and education within their local communities. Participants will examine practical, approachable advocacy strategies that can be integrated into everyday leadership practice - from engaging families and staff to building relationships with local legislators and community stakeholders. The session will highlight how sharing program impact stories, workforce realities, and child outcomes can influence broader understanding and policy conversations. Attendees will leave with actionable tools and increased confidence to serve as informed, credible advocates for young children, families, and the early childhood workforce.

Program Track: Public Policy and Advocacy

Target Audience: Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: Experienced

Core Competencies: Professionalism

CDA Standards: Professionalism

Presenter:

Laurie McCracken, *Owner & Executive Director*

Baby Fox Academy

7041 Professional Parkway East

Lakewood Ranch, FL 34240

Phone: 520-788-7800

E-Mail: Laurie@BabyFoxAcademy.com

68. Using Music, Books And Puppets To Enhance Learning

Garrison

What a wonderful way to learn! Children and their brains get totally involved with the learning when a book, a puppet, and music are used. Come into a presentation where stories and songs will engage you and make you excited to share them with children!

Program Track: Child Growth and Development

Target Audience: Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced

FELDS Domains: Approaches to Learning
Social and Emotional Development
Language and Literacy

Core Competencies: Child Development and Learning

CDA Standards: Physical and Intellectual Competence
Social and Emotional Development

HSELOF Domains:

Approaches to Learning
Social and Emotional Development
Language and Literacy
Cognition
Perceptual, Motor and Physical Development

Presenter:

Maryann Harman, *Founder*
Music With Mar., LLC
149 Garland Circle
Palm Harbor, FL 34683

Phone: 727-647-4235
E-Mail: Mar@musicwithmar.com

CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2026

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

69. The Power Of Play

Bayshore V

Did you know that play is critical for brain development? That's right, research shows that children build brain connections as they play. Through play, adults also foster positive relationships with children and provide opportunities for children to strengthen their relationships with each other. This presentation will focus on how to "play" effectively with all children, including those with individualized needs and disabilities. Evidence-based practices will be shared to help you make a plan to maximize play opportunities in your classroom.

Program Track: Child Growth and Development
Special Needs

Target Audience: Administrators, Directors, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced,
Training & Technical Staff

FELDS Domains: Approaches to Learning
Social and Emotional Development
Language and Literacy
Creative Expression Through the Arts

Core Competencies: Child Development and Learning

CDA Standards: Physical and Intellectual Competence
Social and Emotional Development

HSELOF Domains: Approaches to Learning
Social and Emotional Development
Language and Literacy
Cognition

Presenters:

Jennifer Kelly, *Learning and Development Facilitator*
University of South Florida Tampa
13301 Bruce B. Downs Boulevard, MHC 2113A
Tampa, FL 33612

Phone: 813-974-8205
E-Mail: jenniferkell@usf.edu

Jennifer Nolan, *Learning and Development Facilitator*
University of South Florida Tampa
13301 Bruce B. Downs Boulevard, MHC 2113A
Tampa, FL 33612

Phone: 813-974-0688
E-Mail: jklue@usf.edu

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2026

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

**70. Neurosensory Teaching: Supporting Self-Regulation
And Positive Classroom Interactions In Early Childhood**

Bayshore VI

This presentation introduces the Neurosensory Teaching model and its application in early childhood classrooms to strengthen self-regulation, emotional connection, and learning readiness. Participants will explore how the development of sensory systems, co-regulation, and educator awareness of nervous system states can positively influence children's behavior, engagement, and classroom interactions. Strategies aligned with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework, and developmentally appropriate practices will be shared. Through practical examples and classroom applications, educators will learn how to create environments that support regulation, connection, and meaningful learning experiences for young children.

Program Track: Mental Health/Managing Behaviors

Target Audience: Administrators, Directors, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced,
Training & Technical Staff

FELDS Domains: Approaches to Learning
Social and Emotional Development

Core Competencies: Child Development and Learning

CDA Standards: Physical and Intellectual Competence
Social and Emotional Development

HSELOF Domains: Approaches to Learning
Social and Emotional Development

Presenter:

Suzette Mirabal, EdD, Licensed Professional Counselor
Brain Connections Corp.
5566 NW 112 Path
Miami, FL 33178

Phone: 787-220-7564
E-Mail: smirabal@brainconnections.co

71. Big Language In Small Moments

Bayshore VII

Strong language development happens in small, meaningful moments. Participants will explore practical ways to use conversation, questioning, and feedback to support language growth in young children. Oral language and vocabulary are critical predictors of later reading success, yet they require intentional support in early learning environments. This session connects research to practice by examining how early literacy strategies, founded in the Science of Reading, can accelerate language development in birth-to-five settings. Participants will explore ways to integrate these strategies into daily interactions and routines, and leave with practical tools to support language growth and strengthen early literacy outcomes.

Program Track: Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum

Target Audience: Administrators, Directors, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2026

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

FELDS Domains: Approaches to Learning
Social and Emotional Development
Language and Literacy
Creative Expression Through the Arts

Core Competencies: Child Development and Learning

CDA Standards: Physical and Intellectual Competence
Social and Emotional Development

HSELOF Domains: Approaches to Learning
Social and Emotional Development
Language and Literacy
Cognition

Presenter:

Rebecca Gonzalez, *Literacy Support Specialist*
University of Florida
Lastinger Center for Learning
1504 Heritage Drive
Valrico, FL 33594

Phone: 786-547-4011
E-Mail: rebecca.gonzalez@coe.ufl.edu

72. Giggles, Games, And Growth: Learning Through Playful Connections

Palma Ceia II

Discover how giggles, games, and everyday interactions support children's development across multiple learning pathways. In this engaging session, educators and leaders working in infant, toddler, and preschool classrooms will explore how playful moments can be used intentionally to support learning, while easing challenging behaviors through positive guidance and strong relationships. Participants will experience practical, easy-to-use strategies that build connection, spark engagement, and support pro-social skills. Through interactive activities, and shared discussion, you'll leave with ideas you can use right away to create joyful, supportive learning environments and strengthen children's learning and growth.

Program Track: Child Growth and Development
Infant and Toddler

Target Audience: Directors, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

FELDS Domains: Approaches to Learning
Social and Emotional Development

Core Competencies: Child Development and Learning

CDA Standards: Physical and Intellectual Competence
Social and Emotional Development

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2026

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

HSELOF Domains: Approaches to Learning
Social and Emotional Development

Presenters:

Cecile Hairston, *Provider Services Manager*
Early Learning Coalition of Orange County
7700 Southland Boulevard, Suite #100
Orlando, FL 32809

Phone: 407-506-2192
E-Mail: chairston@elcoc.org

Kayla Gravenmier, *Provider Services Manager*
Early Learning Coalition of Orange County
7700 Southland Boulevard, Suite #100
Orlando, FL 32809

Phone: 407-697-4278
E-Mail: kgravenmier@elcoc.org

**73. The ECE Leadership Challenge: From Teacher Turnover
To Teacher Transformation**

Palma Ceia III

Join this action-focused session tackling one of Early Childhood Education (ECE) leaders' most pressing challenges: building and maintaining a stable, motivated teaching team. Moving beyond turnover statistics, this interactive presentation explores proven strategies to transform teacher recruitment, development, and retention. Through real-world case studies and collaborative discussion, participants will discover innovative recruitment approaches that attract mission-aligned educators, learn practical leadership strategies fostering teacher growth and long-term commitment, and develop an actionable framework for creating a workplace environment that supports retention. Leave with concrete tools and strategies ready for immediate implementation to strengthen your program's teacher recruitment and retention efforts.

Program Track: Management and Leadership

Target Audience: Administrators, Directors

Core Competencies: Professionalism

CDA Standards: Well-Run, Purposeful Program
Professionalism

Presenter:

Chrystine Mitchell, *Director of Early Childhood Education Operations*
ChildCare Education Institute/ProSolutions Training
428 Oak Terrace
Reading, PA 19611

Phone: 717-468-6702
E-Mail: cmitchell@straighterline.com

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2026

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

**74. Empowering Early Educators With Transformative Tools
And Knowledge For Family Engagement And Early
Intervention Success**

Palma Ceia IV

This interactive presentation will focus on developing meaningful strategies for strengthening family engagement, including highly effective communication techniques for empowering families. Participants will discuss Florida's Early Learning and Developmental Standards and the Ages & Stages Questionnaires screening tool. They will also discuss solutions to address common barriers early educators encounter while engaging with families, navigating early intervention processes, and optimizing resource utilization. Additionally, learn how Florida's Child Care Resource and Referral program is available to assist early educators and families in supporting this effort.

Program Track: Screenings/Assessments/Evaluations
Family Engagement

Target Audience: Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New,
Teachers: Experienced

Core Competencies: Building Family and Community Relationships
Professionalism

CDA Standards: Positive and Productive Relationships with Families
Professionalism

Presenters:

Aimee Mallini, Lead Family Engagement and Consumer Education Coordinator

Florida Department of Education/Division of Early Learning

325 West Gaines Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399

Phone: 850-717-8664

E-Mail: aimee.mallini@del.fldoe.org

Angalena Cromartie, Project Coordinator

Florida Department of Education/Division of Early Learning

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Phone: 850-717-8575

E-Mail: angalena.cromartie@del.fldoe.org

**75. Fueling The Flame: Educator Wellness, Beating Burnout, And
Applying Early Learning Frameworks To Yourself**

Esplanade I

Who pours into the educators and leaders and who pours into children and families every day? This engaging session turns familiar early learning frameworks inward - applying their domains and dimensions to professional interactions that shape and sustain educator well-being. Participants will explore practical strategies to prevent burnout, mitigate compassion fatigue, and cultivate team relationships where birth-5 educators and leaders feel seen, supported, and energized to sustain their most important work.

Program Track: Management and Leadership

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2026

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

Target Audience: Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

Core Competencies: Professionalism

CDA Standards: Professionalism

Presenters:

Tiffany Taylor-Jones, *Early Childhood Content and Implementation Manager*

University of Florida for Learning

Lastinger Center

1312 Palace Drive

Rockledge, FL 32955

Phone: 321-863-1693

E-Mail: ttaylorjones@ufl.edu

Rachel Chastain-Gross, *Early Childhood Content Development Senior Specialist*

University of Florida

Lastinger Center for Learning

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Gainesville, 32608

Phone: 904-860-4793

E-Mail: rcg@coe.ufl.edu

**76. Florida's Early Learning Roadmap: Progress, Gaps, And
What Comes Next**

Esplanade II

Florida has made important progress in advancing early childhood priorities, but key gaps remain. This session provides a clear, engaging update on Florida's Early Learning Roadmap, including what has been accomplished, where challenges persist, and what it means for educators, families, and programs. Participants will explore how policy decisions directly impact classroom interactions and child outcomes, and learn practical ways to engage in advocacy that supports continued progress. Attendees will leave informed, empowered, and equipped with simple strategies to help shape what comes next for Florida's young children.

Program Track: Public Policy and Advocacy

Target Audience: Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

Core Competencies: Professionalism

CDA Standards: Professionalism

Presenters:

Varnessa McCray, *Director, Community Engagement*

The Children's Movement of Florida

3250 SW Third Avenue

Miami, FL 33129

Phone: 305-781-2646

E-Mail: varnessa.mccray@childrensmovementflorida.org

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2026

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

Daniela Borroto, *Director, Policy*
The Children's Movement of Florida
3250 SW Third Avenue
Miami, FL 33129

Phone: 904-576-0365
E-Mail: DBorroto@childrensmovementflorida.org

77. Becoming A Behavior Detective

Esplanade III

"Becoming a Behavior Detective" explores how behavior communicates unmet needs in young children. Grounded in Head Start guidance, the Head Start Program Performance Standards, and the Pyramid Model Consortium framework, this session focuses on preventative practices that strengthen social and emotional development. Participants will examine the roles of safety, connection, relationships, triggers, and "hot buttons" in behavioral escalation, while learning practical strategies for co-regulation, de-escalation, and recovery. Educators will leave with realistic, relationship-based strategies, which they can immediately implement to support emotional safety, and positive outcomes in early childhood settings.

Program Track: Mental Health/Managing Behaviors

Target Audience: Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

FELDS Domains: Social and Emotional Development

Core Competencies: Health, Safety, and Nutrition
Child Development and Learning

CDA Standards: Safe, Healthy Learning Environment
Social and Emotional Development

HSELOF Domains: Social and Emotional Development

Presenters:

Patricia L. Wiggins, *Mental Health & Wellness Manager*
Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA)
209 North 10th Avenue
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Martha Chandler, *Mental Health Specialist*
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Lake Placid, FL 33825

Phone: 863-260-2616
E-Mail: martha.chandler@rcma.org

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2026

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

78. Groove Your Way To A Better Classroom

Garrison

Music will be used as a structured instructional learning format to guide behavior, increase engagement, and drive productivity in the classroom. Through intentional songs, rhythms, and movement, educators can deliver clear directions, reinforce routines, and support smooth transitions. This approach transforms instruction into an interactive experience where children respond consistently to cues, reducing disruptions, and maximizing learning time. By embedding expectations in music, teachers create predictable environments that support emotional connection, active participation, and sustained focus, turning engagement into a proactive behavior management strategy rather than a reactive response.

Program Track: Child Growth and Development

Target Audience: Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced

FELDS Domains: Approaches to Learning
Social and Emotional Development

Core Competencies: Child Development and Learning

CDA Standards: Physical and Intellectual Competence
Social and Emotional Development

HSELOF Domains: Social and Emotional Development
Language and Literacy
Cognition

Presenter:

Shawn Brown, *Consultant*

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E-Mail: sbrown@rolemodelprofessionaldevelopment.com

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2026

12:00 NOON – 1:30 P.M.

CLOSING GENERAL SESSION

Bayshore II

Presiding:

Ted Granger
One Goal Summer Conference
Tallahassee, Florida

Keynote Speaker:

Teri DeLucca, PhD
Founder, CEO, Keynote Speaker, Trainer, Best-selling Author
Impact Early Education
Jacksonville, Florida



Dr. Teri DeLucca received a fellowship with The Heart of America Foundation in Washington, DC, which proved pivotal to her life's work. Working with teachers and students at impoverished schools in our nation's capital motivated her to further her education to have a larger impact. She began her career as a research scientist with a children's early literacy program, focusing on the early cognitive and socioemotional development of children from low-income families with an emphasis on the aspects of development that are important for school readiness and academic achievement. This research has been recognized by the Academic Pediatric Association's Young

Investigator Award, the Goldman Developmental Research Award, and the O. Ruth McQuown Women in Science Award. Later, Dr. DeLucca moved into an applied application of her research after accepting the position of Vice President of Operations for a system of privately owned preschools. During this time, she most enjoyed providing leadership, training, and coaching to teachers and directors so they could deliver the highest quality early learning experiences. Recently, Dr. DeLucca was honored to be recognized for her leadership skills with the Top 40 Under 40 Business Leaders Award. Through her time in the trenches running high-quality programs, she often found the need for professional support — not just for herself, but her staff, too. That's where the idea of Impact Early Education was born, and the name is quite literal in her motivations! As the Founder and CEO of Impact Early Education, it's her goal to create change and impact 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. It's through these aspects that the moving parts can come together with excellence and work like a well-oiled machine to produce the exceptional learning centers children, teachers, and directors deserve. Dr. DeLucca has a Dual PhD in Developmental Psychology and Educational Psychology and is a Member of the John Maxwell Team of Certified Coaches, Trainers, & Speakers.
Impact Early Education, 2518 Park Street, Jacksonville, FL 32204

**2026 SUMMER CONFERENCE
ONE GOAL: BUILDING THE FUTURE TOGETHER
“PUTTING FAMILIES AND CHILDREN FIRST”**

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Evan Goldman
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Colleen Pantazis, Noemi Garza
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The Discovery Source

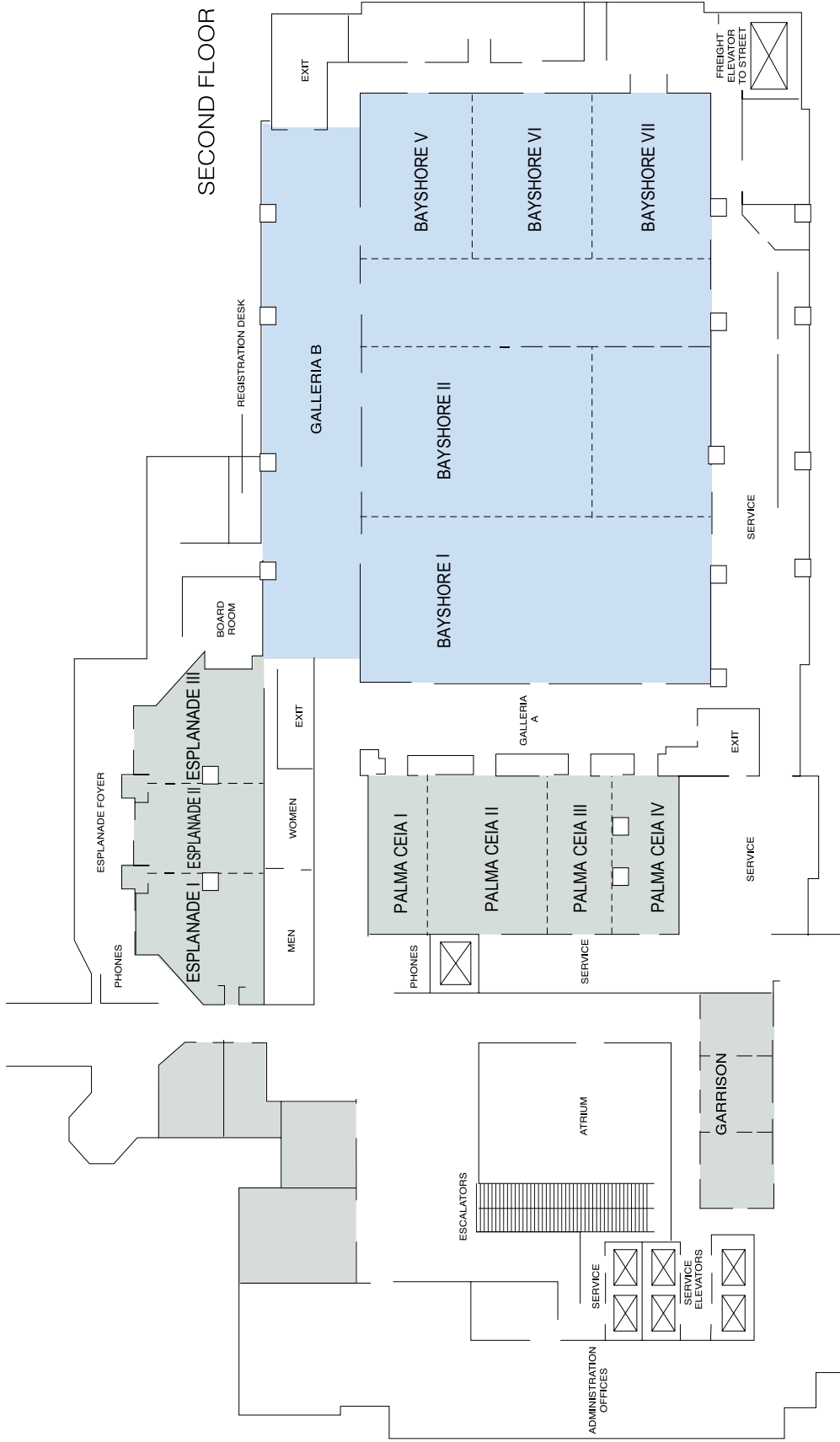
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Heidy Valdes
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cvaldes@welsfoundation.org

PROGRAM PRESENTERS

PRESENTER	DESCRIPTION #	PRESENTER	DESCRIPTION #
Acosta, Lorca	7,16	Lowman, Daria	45
Adinolfi, Suzanne	21,42	Mallini, Aimee	74
Albrektson, Leslie	5	McCracken, Laurie	67
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Krosky, Cynthia	19,28,60	Wiggins, Patricia L.	77
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Latterell, Jennifer	31	Wilkinson, Monique	24
Layne, Chesnee	11,53	Williams, Nicole	46
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		Woik, Julie	9





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ZipData

Where care, data, and mission come together

WELS and ZipData support the people, programs, and partnerships that help children and families thrive by fostering stronger connections, collaboration, and shared purpose across early learning.



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welsfoundation.org



zipdata.net





Change children's lives, one interaction at a time.

At the core of every educational experience are interactions. **Teachstone®**, the creators of **CLASS®**, is proud to partner with the **Florida Division of Early Learning** to improve effective educator-child interactions. CLASS is the only continuous quality system designed to focus, measure, and improve the interactions that matter the most for children's development and learning.



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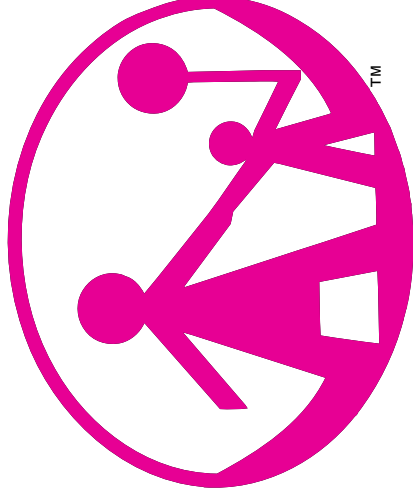


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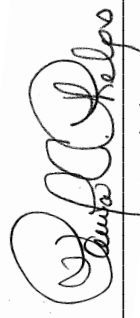
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ONE GOAL: BUILDING THE FUTURE TOGETHER
“PUTTING FAMILIES AND CHILDREN FIRST”™



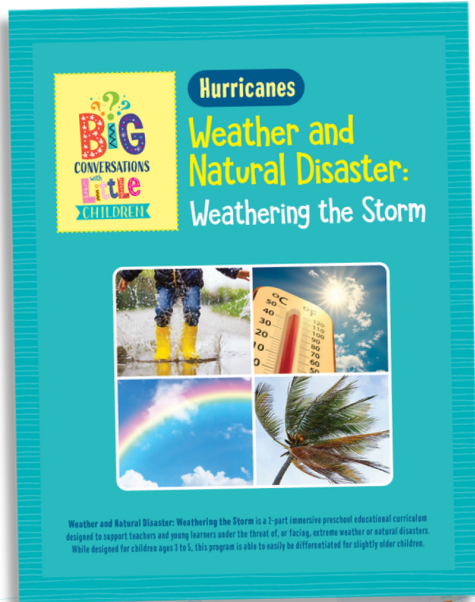
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Pamela C. Phelps

Weathering the Storm



A 2-PART IMMERSIVE PRESCHOOL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
SUPPORTING TEACHERS AND YOUNG LEARNERS UNDER THE
THREAT OF OR FACING EXTREME WEATHER AND HURRICANES
DESIGNED FOR CHILDREN AGES 3 TO 5

includes five curriculum aligned books

PART 1: WHOLE GROUP!
Wondering About Weather

Learning Domains: AL, SED, LL, C
Materials Needed: Weather chart, Weather Words and What They Mean by Gail Gibbons
Target Vocabulary: weather, rain, wind, snow, sun, meteorologist

1 Ask the children:
"Who knows what weather is?"
Record some of their responses on a whiteboard at child eye-level reading out the words as you write them.

2 Ask the children:
"What are some different types of weather we have here in ___ (your city and state) ___?"
Record some of their responses on a whiteboard at child eye-level reading out the words as you write them.
Select two children to be "weather watchers" or introduce the word meteorologist. Ask them to go to the window of the classroom look outside, and report back to the group what they see.
If children struggle with the task, ask questions such as "What do you see?" "Do you see the sun out today?" "How does it feel outside-hot, warm, cool, or very cold?"
"Did you feel any rain or snow when you arrived this morning?" "Is the wind blowing? How do you know?"



- For older children, consider introducing a weather chart as a way to try community. See the Weather Chart template as a sample model if you have a child shade in the appropriate box on the weather chart if you
- Read the book Weather Words and What They Mean by Gail Gibbons inside the children already volunteered within the book. Point out to these help us better understand the new weather words learned.

Learning Center Experiences
Wondering about Weather

Dramatic Play Center
Materials Needed: seasonal dress-up clothing, seasonal props
Provide access to a variety of seasonal dress-up clothing and weather-related props, such as rain coats, rain boots, umbrellas, winter coats, mittens, scarves, sunglasses, sun hats, visors, etc.

Ask the children:
"How should they dress for the weather?"
Encourage them to set out different types of weather and adjust how they dress accordingly.
What will happen if we don't dress for the weather?
Let's pretend it is raining and we do not have an umbrella. What will happen?
Let's pretend it is snowing and we do not have a coat. What will happen?
Let's pretend it is sunny and we do not have a hat or sunglasses. What will happen?

Construction Center
Materials Needed: construction materials, play figurines, stuffed animals, fabrics
Let's pretend it is hot and sunny in our classroom. Use the various construction materials to build a shelter for the play figurines or for a stuffed animal to stay cool and comfortable.
If space allows, this activity can be extended. Can you use fabrics, chairs, blocks, and other materials to build a shelter to give you shade?

Art Center
Materials Needed: paper, paint, paintbrush
Raindrop painting can be a fun and new experience. Provide children paper on a flat surface like a table or the floor. Show them how they can dip a paintbrush into water paints and hold the brush over their paper. See how the paint can drip the rain drops onto the paper. What color raindrops will you make? What color raindrops can you make? Will your raindrops make puddles on your paper?

Reading Center
Materials Needed: books
Provide children access to different books about different types of weather and climates around the world. Encourage them to look at the different pictures and illustrations in the books. What do you notice?



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