



South Carolina Association for  
the Education of Young Children

November 14 - 15, 2025  
Midlands Technical College - Airport Campus  
1260 Lexington Dr.  
West Columbia, SC 29170

## Friday

7:30

AC 116

Title: Countdown to Launch

Presenter: Anthony Broughton

Description: A part of our profession is attending conferences to learn the latest information about working with young children and their families. Get ready for launching into the 2025 SCAEYC Conference. Make the most of your intergalactic experience by choosing the sessions that best meet your needs. Learn tricks for making sure you get credit for each session you attend. Learn how conference sessions fit into your professional development plans.

Hours: 1      Area: Professional Development

8:45

AC113

Title: Take PITS Outdoors

Presenter: Tainaka Seabrook

Description: In this session we will

1. Describe the importance of outdoor play for infants, toddlers and preschoolers
2. Identify ways to adapt curriculum activities into the outdoor environment and
3. Give examples of developmental skills (motor, cognitive, social, and emotional skills ) infants, toddlers and preschoolers can achieve in the outdoor environment.

Hours: 1      Area: Curriculum

8:45

AC116

Title: The Impacts of Technology on Early Brain Development

Presenter: Kimberly Long

Description: This session will inform participants about the way early exposure to technology impacts the brains of young learners. We will briefly discuss the way the brain works and grows through ages 0-5, as well as ways in which teachers, parents, law-makers, and community organizations can work together to address these challenges.

Hours: 1      Area: Growth and Development

8:45

AC 213

Title: Beyond the Basics: Coaching Teachers to Cultivate Resilient Young Learners

Presenter: Adrienne Davenport

Description: In today's early childhood classrooms, our littlest learners show up with more than just a bright smile- they bring big emotions, unspoken needs, and the weight of the world around them. And every day, teachers are doing their best to show up too. But supporting young learners takes more than good intentions—it takes intentional coaching that builds confidence, clarity, and community.

This session is designed for center directors and instructional leads who want to go beyond checklists and really support their teachers through the everyday challenges—like helping children regulate emotions, navigate transitions, and build healthy peer relationships.

Grounded in the presenter's S.T.A.N.D. Framework—especially the pillars Nurture Relationships and Acquire Knowledge—session attendees will leave with practical tools, coaching prompts, and leadership strategies you can use right away to cultivate a coaching culture rooted in wellness, growth, and connection. Because when we coach with care, both teachers and children thrive.

Hours: 1      Area: Program Administration

8:45

AC 143

Title: Amazing Tools for Successful Guidance

Presenter: Sherrie Dueno

Description: Get ready to fill your toolbox with the tools you need to guide children to reach their full potential! We'll focus on prevention, practice guidance strategies, brainstorm with each other on what works or doesn't work and review resources available to support you as an educator to be successful in using positive guidance techniques. Go above and beyond by going back to your program test your tools and provide feedback with presenter and peers!

Hours: 1      Area: Child Guidance

8:45

AC 215

Title: Resilience & Thriving: The Secret Power of Stress

Presenter: Faith Davis

Description: The Resilience & Thriving: The Secret Power of Stress training will help you go from coping to thriving by providing easy-to-use and practical skills for identifying and reducing stress at home and work.

Hours: 1      Area: Professional Development

8:45

AC 218

Title: Raising the Bar: Professional Standards for Early Educators

Presenter: Shaquitta Ray, Beatrice Geiger and Kathryn Barnett

Description: This training is designed to help early childhood educators understand and apply high professional standards in their everyday practices. This session will focus on key elements

of professionalism, including ethical conduct, effective communication, and ongoing personal growth.

Hours: 1      Area: Professional Development

8:45

AC350

Title: Emergency Preparedness

Presenter: Monica Stukes

Description: This emergency preparedness training will give you the skills to appropriately react to emergencies to protect yourself and your children better until first responders arrive. Life-threatening emergencies can happen fast, and you may be able to save a life by taking simple actions immediately.

Hours: 1      Area: Health and Safety

8:45

AC139

Title: Hydration, Nutrition and Health

Presenter: Jalesa McKelvey

Description: Most of us know that we need to stay hydrated, but did you know hydration affects the immune system, brain development, body temperature, digestion, mood, memory, attention, and many other body functions? What beverages (and foods) we choose to hydrate children are very important. During this session we will discuss why hydration is important, which beverages to choose and to avoid and why, how to spot and avoid added sugars, signs of dehydration, and ways to promote increased water consumption in childcare.

Hours: 1      Area: Nutrition

### **10:00 – 11:15 Keynote**

AC116

Title: The Power of Play for All

Presenter: Jed Dearybury

Description: In this dynamic and memorable keynote, we delve into the transformative power of play for learners of all ages. This presentation explores how play can bridge divides, foster empathy, and encourage risk-taking in learners poised to tackle society's most significant challenges.

Prepare to experience a keynote like no other. This session isn't just about discussing the importance of play—it embodies it! Participants will engage in games, art-making, and interactive experiences that inspire laughter, provoke thought, and evoke genuine emotions. It's an immersive experience that brings to life the joy and educational value of play.

We'll explore the recognized role of play as a vital human right and a powerful educational tool. This speech will not only reflect on the historical role of play in education but also provide

practical insights into incorporating play into teaching strategies to unify and empower communities. Participants will leave with a deeper understanding of how play fosters community and collaboration, strategies to incorporate play into educational settings, making learning more engaging and effective, and inspiration to harness the power of play to drive change and bring about unity in increasingly divided times. Join me for a keynote that celebrates and leverages the power of play for an unforgettable, fun-filled learning experience that resonates with educators and students.

Hours: 1.25    Area: Professional Development

12:15

AC 113

Title: Updated NAEYC Accreditation 101 Process, Standards and Resources

Presenter: Sherry Ly Ching Chen King

Description: This session introduces participants to the updated NAEYC Early Learning Program Accreditation system. Attendees will explore the three new accreditation tiers, gain insight into the revised standards, and discover valuable resources to support program quality and continuous improvement.

Hours: 1    Area: Program Administration

12:15

AC 116

Title: Strengthening Family Engagement

Presenter: Shayla Pettigrew

Description: This interactive workshop will explore how family engagement practices can create inclusive, developmentally appropriate, and equitable early learning environments. Participants will learn strategies to build strong, culturally responsive relationships with children and families while implementing social-emotional teaching practices that align with the Pyramid Model framework.

Using real-world examples and interactive discussions, attendees will engage in reflection and action planning to enhance their classroom practices and family engagement efforts.

Hours: 1    Area: Professional Development – ABC Social Emotional

12:15

AC 213

Title: Watch, Wonder, Support: Equipping ECE Providers to Promote Screening and Mental Health for Young Children

Presenter: Susan Callahan

Description: ECE providers are often the first to notice when a child's development or emotional well-being may need extra support—but many educators feel uncertain about how to respond beyond addressing behaviors in the moment. This session is not focused on classroom behavior management strategies. Instead, it emphasizes how early care and education programs can build the foundation for healthy development and emotional well-being through staff training,

developmental screening promotion, and Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC).

Participants will explore how developmental screening helps identify potential concerns early, and how IECMHC offers educators and programs the tools, reflective support, and confidence to foster emotionally responsive learning environments. Through real-world examples and practical strategies, attendees will learn how to access resources that support both children's development and the well-being of the adults who care for them.

Hours: 1      Area: Professional Development

12:15

AC215

Title: The power of play in the EC classroom

Presenters: Samantha Luskin and Deborah Rooks-Ellis

Description: Play is a fundamental way young children explore, experiment, and make sense of their world, contributing significantly to their cognitive, emotional, and physical growth. In this session, we explore the types of play, the teacher's role in facilitating play, and practical strategies for play-based learning.

Hours: 1      Area: Curriculum

12:15

AC 143

Title: "Ready for Liftoff: How Intentional Play Propels Early Childhood Development"

Presenter: Lauren Adams and Tamara Pack

Description: In this engaging session, participants will explore how intentional play serves as a powerful launchpad for young children's cognitive and emotional development. Using a space-themed lens, we'll examine how thoughtfully designed play experiences build executive function, language, problem-solving, and social-emotional skills. Educators will learn practical strategies to create playful learning environments, support self-regulation, and align play with developmental standards. Join us as we go above and beyond traditional instruction—fueling young learners' growth through the power of purposeful play.

Hours: 1      Area: Curriculum – ABC Social Emotional

12:15

AC 218

Title: The Three I's for Learning through Sensory Play: Investigation, Inquiry, & Imagination!

Presenter: Jaime Creasy

Description: This session will focus on the importance of learning through play using sensory stations for young children to build foundational skills through investigation, inquiry, and using their imaginations. Visual models and tips will be shared based on current research and experiences in early learning settings. Participants will take away practical, ready-to-use strategies to engage their early learners through the three I's in a fun and meaningful way!

Hours: 1      Area: Curriculum

12:15

AC 139

Title: NAEYC Public Policy Forum

Presenters: Meredith Burton, Jessica Sharp, Kit SaizdeLaMora, Teneshia Slempa, and Sally McClellan

Description: We can be advocates in many ways. Attending NAEYC's Public Policy Forum allows you to learn important information about how government works, how programs are funded, and how you can use your voice to advocate for young children, their families, and those who work with them. We get to visit with our representatives in Washington, D.C., but Public Policy Forum is so much more than that. We hope you will consider "launching" into this advocacy in 2026. During this session, we'll share some of what we have learned to allow us to "go above and beyond."

Hours: 1 Area: Professional Development

12:15

AC350

Title: Foundations First: Building Early Literacy Through Play, Storytelling and Engagement

Presenter: Angela Seay

Description: Early literacy starts with relationships, conversation, and curiosity. This session explores how to create joyful literacy-rich experiences that build strong foundational skills for young children

Hours: 1 Area: Curriculum

1:30

AC 113

Title: Developmentally Appropriate Practices

Presenter: Cheryl Scales

Description: This interactive session explores the foundational principles of Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP) as defined by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Participants will deepen their understanding of how to intentionally plan and implement experiences that align with what we know about child development, individual differences, and cultural context. Through real-world examples, reflective activities, and small-group discussions, educators will gain practical strategies to create responsive, inclusive, and nurturing environments where all children can thrive. Whether you're new to early childhood education or seeking to refresh your practice, this session will inspire a deeper commitment to teaching with purpose, respect, and responsiveness.

Hours: 1 Area: Curriculum

1:30

AC116

Title: Easy Ways to Facilitate Speech and Language Development in the Classroom

Presenter: Jill Eversmann

Description: This session will equip early childhood educators with practical, easy-to-implement strategies to support and enhance young children's speech and language development in the classroom. Participants will explore techniques to foster early receptive and expressive language skills, along with effective approaches to promote emergent literacy development.

Hours: 1      Area: Growth and Development

1:30

AC 213

Title: Taking the Scary Out of Going Back to School

Presenters: Kit SaizdeLaMora, Karen Lounsbury, Whitney White-Anderson and Lisa Corning

Description: Are you considering going back to school to further your education in the early childhood profession? Calm your fears! There are multiple options for you! Learn about a variety of potential programs that may be a good fit for you in South Carolina. A representative from TEACH will be present to guide you in accessing helpful resources.

Hours: 1      Area: Professional Development

1:30

AC 143

Title: Moving Through Stories: Integrating Physical Activity with Children's Literature.

Presenter: Kelli Boniecki

Description: Moving Through Stories: Integrating Physical Activity with Children's Literature, an interactive training designed for early childhood educators. In this session, you'll discover creative ways to blend movement with storytelling, enhancing children's literacy skills while promoting physical activity. Walk away with practical strategies and lesson plans to safely bring dynamic, movement-based learning into your classroom!

Hours: 1      Area: Curriculum

1:30

AC 215

Title: Showcase Your Strengths with ABC Quality – Structural Quality

Presenter: Cathy Kovacs

Description: Structural elements of quality are the administrative and policy aspects of your program. Join us during this session to discover how policies and procedures can showcase your program's strengths through program organization, staff education/professional development and the well-being of children and families.

Hours: 1      Area: Program Administration

1:30

AC 218

Title: Teaching Tiny Humans Big Words: Emotional Literacy in Early Learners

Presenters: Jill Shelnut and Jennifer Hall

Description: Young children often lack the words to adequately describe how they're feeling. But teachers can help learners master this skill by developing their emotional vocabulary. This interactive session will impact participants' understanding of how young children learn and use emotional vocabulary words and develop emotional literacy. Specific classroom-based practices will be modeled and shared using children's literature.

Hours: 1      Area: Curriculum – ABC Social Emotional

1:30

AC350

Title: Safe Starts: Enhancing Health & Safety Protocols in Early Childhood Settings

Presenter: Angela Seay

Description: Safety is the foundation of a high quality early learning environment. This workshop equips early childhood professionals with updated best practices in daily health checks, sanitation, emergency preparedness, and safe classroom design. Participants will learn how to implement consistent, practical strategies that go beyond compliance to ensure every child feels secure and protected.

Hours: 1      Area: Health and Safety

1:30

AC 139

Title: Dispelling Myths About Child Care

Presenter: Meredith Burton and Sally McClellan

Description: Based upon Dan Wuori's book, *The Day Care Myth*, we will explore the layers of issues related to child care. By understanding these issues, we can begin to design messaging for advocacy.

Hours: 1      Area: Professional Development

2:45

AC113

Title: The Power of Us: Creating a Community Where Classrooms Thrive

Presenter: Raleta Dawkins

Description: In early childhood education, the success of a classroom is deeply rooted in the strength of the community that surrounds it. When teachers, families, and staff feel connected, valued, and supported, children flourish—and so does the center as a whole.

This dynamic session will explore how a center's culture of belonging directly influences classroom operations, child development, and teacher retention. Participants will reflect on their own center culture and walk away with practical strategies for fostering respectful communication, building bonds among staff, engaging families meaningfully, and modeling kindness throughout the day.

Join us to uncover the true power of us—and how intentionally cultivating community can elevate every aspect of your learning environment.

Hours: 1      Area: Program Administration

2:45

AC 116

Title: Signing with Young Children in the Classroom

Presenter: Jill Eversmann

Description: This is a fun, interactive introduction to sign language workshop. It covers over 30+ single American Sign Language (ASL) signs and the manual alphabet. Participants will learn and practice the signs and learn how to introduce them to young children in the classroom.

Participants will also practice using signs to encourage emergent literacy skills.



Hours: 1      Area: Curriculum

2:45

AC 143

Title: The Sound of Safety: Building Secure Bonds Through Shared Music Making

Presenter: Melanie Kennedy

Description: This session explores the profound impact of shared music-making on early childhood development, focusing on how it strengthens the bond between children and caregivers while promoting cognitive, emotional, and social growth. Research has shown that the first few years of life are crucial for forming secure attachments, and that engaging in music-based activities offers numerous benefits to both children and their caregivers. Through these shared experiences, caregivers and children can build deeper relationships, foster emotional security, and create a supportive environment for learning. Participants will unpack a variety of interactive music activities that not only enhance brain development but also create a sense of safety and connection. Walk away with ready-to-use strategies and resources to enhance their early childhood experiences!

This interactive session blends current research with engaging group music and movement activities to help participants:

Identify key ways secure attachments influence early childhood development.

Describe how shared music-making experiences support brain growth and social development.

Practice music-based activities and rituals that strengthen connections between children and adults in both classroom and home environments.

Participants will leave with practical tools they can immediately apply to support connection and developmental growth through music and movement.

Hours: 1      Area: Curriculum – ABC Social Emotional

2:45

AC 213

Title: TEACH Scholarship Program + Credentials = Smart Money Bonus

Presenter: Rebecca Crenshaw

Description: Would you like to go to college part time for little to no cost while increasing your early childhood knowledge and skills? All while earning Credentials and putting money in your pocket with our Smart Money Bonus program? When you join the TEACH Scholarship Program, you can do all this while continuing your employment in child care. If this sounds like something you'd be interested in, please join us for this 1 hour overview so you can learn how to get started!

Hours: 1      Area: Professional Development

2:45

AC 215

Title: Showcase Your Strengths with ABC Quality-Introduction to Program Management

Presenter: Cathy Kovacs

Description: ABC Quality is South Carolina's Quality Rating and Improvement System. It provides the framework to assess, improve, promote, and communicate the quality of child care. Join us doing this session as we introduce different aspects of quality, eligibility, structural, and

process. Discover how you can showcase your program's strengths through ABC Quality participation.

Hours: 1      Area: Program Administration

2:45

AC 218

Title: Promoting Literacy Engagement Among Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Learners in Early Childhood Classrooms

Presenter: Morohunkeji Orija

Description: As the population of culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) students continues to grow, it is essential that educators are equipped to create inclusive learning environments and address the unique needs of these learners (Van, 2024). CLD students are children from racial, cultural, and linguistic backgrounds that differ from the dominant culture typically represented in schools. In educational research, these students may also be referred to as English Learners (ELs), Dual Language Learners (DLLs), Multilingual Learners (MLs), Emergent Bilinguals, or students with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) (Osipova & Lao, 2022).

Many CLD students enter schools with limited proficiency in English, which can result in both social and curricular exclusion. Current research suggests that these students often struggle across academic content areas not due to a lack of content knowledge, but because of insufficient literacy skills needed to access and demonstrate that knowledge. To foster equitable learning opportunities, educators can implement a variety of engaging, literacy-focused strategies that affirm students' cultural and linguistic assets. These include:

Peer Support – Encouraging collaboration and language development through structured peer interactions.

Storytelling – Incorporating students' cultural narratives to build oral language and literacy skills.

Turn and Talk – Promoting oral language development and comprehension through brief partner discussions.

Culturally Responsive Word Walls – Displaying key vocabulary in students' home languages alongside English.

Home-to-School Literacy Connections – Valuing literacy practices from students' homes to strengthen engagement.

Journals – Encouraging self-expression and writing fluency through personal and reflective writing activities.

These strategies not only enhance literacy engagement but also help validate and leverage the rich linguistic and cultural resources that CLD students bring into the classroom.

Hours: 1      Area: Curriculum

2:45

AC350

Title: Minding p's and q's and EF's

Presenters: John Strycker and Heidi Friedel

Description: This session has a focus on the vital importance of a child's Executive Functions and the vital years of brain development. It will be a fun presentation informing those in attendance about what Executive Function are and the importance of understanding them. The presentation will also give a basic understanding of Right-Brained/Left-Brained learning styles. Leaving the presentation everyone would identify their own learning style illustrated by an animal persona.

Hours: 1      Area: Growth and Development

2:45

AC 139

Title: Civic Engagement & Advocacy

Presenter: Hafeeza Yates

Description: The training will grow your confidence engaging with lawmakers and provide fundamentals that you can use in your advocacy for children in South Carolina, across the U.S and internationally.

Hours: 1      Area: Professional Development

4:00

AC 139

Title: How important it is to buy a building

Presenter: Kesha Williams and Richard Williams

Description: Owning a childcare building provides benefits that renting does not. We will discuss what to buy and how to do it.

Hours: 1      Area: Program Administration

4:00

AC116

Title: Resources to Help You Create Your Flight Plan for a Successful Program

Presenters: Lisa Corning

Description: The challenges of operating a child care program are many, complex, and daunting. Many resources are available to help from clarification on licensing, professional development opportunities to opportunities to work with others. Learn about the landscape of assistance for child care programs available in our state.

Hours: 1      Area: Program Administration

This session is sponsored by the Head Start Collaboration Office

4:00

AC143

Title: Story Stretching for Number Sense

Presenters: Kit SaizdeLaMora

Description: Learn how can we use children's literature to support children's understanding of early number concepts and number sense. Presenters will demonstrate how (and why) to use of a

variety of children's books to design extension activities that support the development of number sense. Participants will use materials provided to create a story stretcher activity to support the development of number sense in their own classrooms.

Hours: 1      Area: Curriculum

4:00

AC350

Title: Moving Through the Ages

Presenter: Allysa Willis

Description: From our youngest infants to our oldest school age students, physical activity plays a key role in helping support the growth and development of these children. In this session we will review the different types of physical activity, why they are important and what role they play in children's health and development. We will also look at the different age groups that are served in early care and education and what types of physical activities cater to their needs and interests as well as discuss ways to activate your outdoor space for all ages.

Hours: 1      Area: Curriculum – ABC Physical Activity

5:15 – Join us for a special advocacy event!

AC 143

Title: Advocating for Young Children: We Must Go Above and Beyond!

Presenters: Meredith Burton and Sally McClellan

Description: There are so many ways to advocate for young children from liking, sharing or commenting on a social media post to visiting your representatives. Join us for an opportunity to not only learn about the options, but to actually try some out to find the right fit for you.

Hours: 1      Area: Professional Development

## **Saturday**

7:30

AC 116

Title: Building Mathematical Thinkers

Presenter: Joanna Zaleski

Description: Children need experiences and materials that help shape and build mathematical thinking to help them make logical connections to the real world. During this session participants will discuss incorporating age-appropriate math materials and activities in their classroom.

Hours: 1      Area: Curriculum

7:30

AC 143

Title: Movement Matters

Presenter: Tim Bott and Rebecca Bott

Description: Dr. Tim Bott and Rebecca Bott will discuss the importance of Movement in the Classroom and share practical ways to make it happen! From the “launch” of the day, learning happens when intentional movement is planned as a part of the process. Explore with us ways to meaningfully include movement as a part of your daily curriculum.

Hours: 1      Area: Curriculum: ABC Physical Activity

7:30

AC 213

Title: Showcase Your Strengths with ABC Quality - Process Quality

Presenter: Cathy Kovacs

Description: Process elements of quality are the teacher-child interactions, classroom practices, and environment that teachers intentionally support to promote children's learning, exploration, and development. Join us during this session to discover how the Intentional Teaching Tool can showcase your program's strengths.

Hours: 1      Area: Professional Development

7:30

AC 215

Title: Routine Remix

Presenter: Tierany Rice

Description: Educators will participate in an interactive presentation that will inspire them to create effective routines necessary for the success of young learners in an early childhood environment.

Hours: 1      Area: Curriculum

7:30

AC218

Title: From Passion to Profession: Navigating the TEACH Early Childhood Scholarship

Presenters: Kim Curcio and Scott Busch

Description: This presentation is designed for early childhood educators who are currently working in the field and are ready to advance their careers by earning a credential, associates, or bachelor's degree. Attendees will learn about the benefits of the scholarship, including financial assistance, paid time off, bonuses opportunities, eligibility requirements, how to apply, and what to expect throughout the process. This session will equip you with the information and confidence you need to take the next step in your educational journey with TEACH.

Hours: 1      Area: Professional Development

8:45

AC 113

Title: Big Feelings, Little Bodies: Supporting Emotional Regulation

Presenter: Kelly Simmons

Description: This session will include:

Understanding the developmental stages of emotional regulation in young children.

Learning to create a classroom environment that supports emotional-social development.

Implementing age-appropriate strategies to help children self regulate.

Hours:      Area: Curriculum – ABC Social Emotional

8:45

AC 116

Title: What You Can do When Challenging Behaviors Arise

Presenter: Stephanie McIlvoy

Description: When support feels limited, what can you do? This session equips early childhood educators with evidence-based, inclusive strategies for addressing persistent challenging behaviors exhibited by young children. Through discussions and the exploration of resources, participants will build confidence in addressing challenging behaviors. The session also described how Pyramid PIECES and SCIC provide support and guidance throughout South Carolina, empowering early childhood education professionals.

Hours: 1      Area: Child Guidance

8:45

AC 143

Title: Launching Math Centers That Create Success in the Classroom and Beyond!

Presenter: Isis Spann

Description: In this interactive 1-hour session, early educators will explore how to transform classroom math centers into joyful, purposeful spaces where young learners thrive. We'll dive into the essentials of creating developmentally appropriate math experiences that are hands-on, culturally responsive, and aligned with key foundational skills. Educators will leave with practical strategies for designing centers that promote independence, critical thinking, and math talk.

But we won't stop at the classroom door—this session also highlights the power of family engagement in math learning. Participants will learn how to bridge home and school by equipping families with simple, meaningful ways to reinforce math skills in everyday routines. Together, we'll examine real-world tools, take-home activities, and communication tips that build trust and empower families as partners in learning.

Whether you're just getting started or looking to refresh your current practice, this session will leave you inspired and equipped to make math count—both in class and at home.

**Key Takeaways:**

Design engaging, standards-based math centers that are easy to manage and fun to use.

Learn how to differentiate for diverse learners while encouraging independence.

Discover family-friendly math strategies to extend learning beyond the classroom.

Gain ready-to-use ideas for math take-home kits, newsletters, and family math nights.

Hours: 1      Area: Professional Development

8:45

AC 213

Title: Finding your joy: Practical strategies to support early childhood educator wellbeing

Presenters: Becca Bishop, Sarah Long and Deborah Rooks-Ellis

Description: This session will explore the critical importance of wellbeing for early childhood educators through the PERMA model of wellbeing, examine the challenges they face and provide practical strategies for enhancing all components of wellbeing.

Hours: 1      Area: Professional Development

8:45

AC215

Title: . "Managing the Wiggles: Movement Based Learning in the Preschool Classroom"

Presenter: Tieraney Rice

Description: Educators will be inspired to incorporate physical activity with learning and regulation. Young children learn by interacting with the people and things in their environment. Planning can help you to engage children in movement as they learn – moving as the way that they learn. Join us for this exploration of movement as the basis for your preschool curriculum.

Hours: 1      Area: Curriculum – ABC Physical Activity

8:45

AC 218

Title: Accounting Practices That Launch Your Business Into Success

Presenter: Miga Batten

Description: Learn about simple ways you can streamline your accounts so that you can collect fees, pay bills, and create a realistic budget. Caution: This session cannot help you if you have no income; it can help you to see that you are spending more than you bring in; can help you to see the problem and offer possible solutions – but you will still have to figure out what to do.

Hours:1      Area: Program Administration

8:45

AC350

Title: SC CCR&R Program Updates Made Easy: Market Your Program Now!

Presenter: Darlene Faucette

Description: Locate support and technical assistance resources available to help maintain and enhance their SC Endeavors profile." Looking to connect with more families in your community? This session will show you how simple updates to your SC CCR&R tab in your SC Endeavors organization profile can help families find and choose your program. Whether you're a family child care provider, center-based, or faith-based program, you'll learn how to post current openings by age group, share fees, highlight your mission, and make your program shine—just by keeping your profile up to date. Join us to discover how a few small updates can make a big difference!

Hours: 1      Area: Program Administration

8:45

AC139

Title: Our Mission: Supporting Parents as Advocates

Presenters: Sally McClellan and Meredith Burton

Description: The presenters will share the story of a grant-funded project that challenged them to encourage parents to advocate for young children. Several strategies that were a part of this project included training, taking parents to Washington, D.C. to meet with representatives, writing articles and op ed pieces, engaging in social media, and just trying to keep up with everything that was going on. We want to share this experience in hopes that you will go above and beyond to launch an effort in your program to engage parents in advocating for child care.

Hours: 1      Area: Professional Development

### **10:00 Keynote: Kerrie Schnake**

"Well-Being at Every Level: Supporting the People Who Make Early Childhood Possible"

Join Kerrie Schnake, author of *Teacher Well-Being in Early Childhood* (Teachers College Press), for a powerful keynote that reimagines what it means to support the people at the heart of early care and education. Drawing from her book and years of experience in the field, Schnake highlights how the well-being of early childhood educators—including teachers, directors, and program support staff—is essential to creating high-quality, equitable, and nurturing environments for young children. Through personal stories, compelling research, and actionable strategies, she makes the case for a systemic shift that prioritizes the emotional, mental, and relational health of the workforce. This session invites the entire early childhood community to reflect, reconnect, and re-commit to building a culture of care—starting with ourselves and extending to every corner of the system.

Hours: 1      Area: Professional Development

11:00 – 11:45 Lunch

11:45

AC116

Title: Gliding with Guidance: Supporting Young Learners

Presenter: Anthony Broughton

Description: Gliding with Guidance: Supporting Young Learners is an empowering and insightful session designed to help early childhood educators and caregivers foster confident,



independent learners through intentional support strategies. This session explores developmentally appropriate guidance techniques that nurture self-regulation, promote positive behavior, and build strong educator-child relationships. Participants will glide through real-world examples, practical tools, and reflective practices that ensure young learners feel seen, supported, and ready to thrive.

Hours:           Area: Child Guidance – ABC Social Emotional

11:45

AC 113

Title: Read Like a Rock Star! Tips for Interactive Read-Alouds

Presenter: Tameka Phillips

Description: Reading to young children is such an awesome experience! With quality books and interactive elements, we can foster healthy development and a love of reading. In this session, we will explore five fun tips to help make read-alouds engaging and exciting experiences for your classroom!

Hours: 1           Area: Curriculum

11:45

AC 213

Title: How to Transform your ECE Outdoor Space

Presenter: Susan Kear

Description: Are you dreaming of a wonderful, exciting, outdoor play space for your ECE program? What do you want to have: winding pathways, sand, water, a sliding hill, loose parts, a garden? But you know that it will cost money or expertise to plan & implement. What if I could help you find some inexpensive and easy projects that can improve any play space? Join me as I help you see what can be done to improve your ECE play space.

Hours: 1           Area: Curriculum

AC 215

11:45

Title: Aren't You Glad You Teach DLLs? Don't You Wish Everyone Did? How your whole class benefits from Dual Language Learner supports.

Presenter: Joy Huyck-Oswald

Description: In this interactive training, early childhood educators will explore how to create inclusive, language-rich environments that support Dual Language Learners (DLLs) in developing confidence, communication skills, and a strong sense of self. Participants will examine brain development, the power of translanguaging, and the importance of culturally responsive relationships. This session will highlight practical strategies — such as classroom games, family engagement, and alternative assessment methods — that promote inclusion without requiring separate lesson plans. Educators will leave with tools to foster meaningful learning experiences that benefit DLLs and all children in their care.

Hours: 1           Area: Curriculum

11:45

AC 143

Title: Creating a culture of appreciation: Because you are enough!

Presenter: Heidi Friedel

Description: Do you feel appreciated in your role? Do you know how to show appreciation to others in a way that they will feel appreciated? Come join a discussion about appreciation, barriers to appreciation and ways to help everyone in your classroom or program feel appreciated because you are enough!

Hours: 1      Area: Professional Development

11:45

AC218

Title: Introduction to Creating Language-Rich Environments for Early Care and Education

Presenter: Sherry Ly Ching Chen King

Description: This session will introduce you to fostering strong language skills as a cornerstone of early childhood development. This session and the 2-hour build-upon session will equip educators with strategies to create dynamic, language-rich environments that support communication, literacy, and social interaction. Participants will explore the critical role of verbal and nonverbal interactions, environmental design, and intentional teaching practices in promoting language development. Through interactive discussions, practical examples, and hands-on activities, attendees will leave with actionable tools to enhance the linguistic experiences of young children in their care.

Hours: 1      Area: Curriculum

11:45

AC350

Title: Going Above and Beyond through Family Strength and Mental Wellness

Presenter: Stephanie Ganaway Pasley

Description: This session will introduce an initiative designed to support early learners by emphasizing two essential areas: empowering families and enhancing mental health. By meeting the core needs of both children and their caregivers, we aim to foster learning environments where young learners can grow and succeed academically, socially, and emotionally.

Hours: 1      Area: Professional Development

11:45

AC139

Title: Lightening the Load: Strategic Partnerships

Presenters: Latoya Quick and Jennifer Bishop

Description: No leader builds alone. In the landscape of early childhood education, strategic partnerships are not just helpful—they're transformational. This session empowers program administrators to transition from isolation to collaboration, exploring how intentional community alliances can amplify resources, deepen impact, and drive sustainable success. Following the conference's theme, "A Village of Voices for Children!", this session illustrates how leadership in partnership creates thriving ecosystems for children, families, and the communities that support them.

Hours: 1      Area: Program Administration

1:00

AC 113

Title: Authenticity is a Vibe! Sharpening Your Soft Skills for Professional Excellence

Presenter: Tameka Phillips

Description: Authenticity in the workplace is the practice of being genuine and true to yourself in your thoughts, actions, and feelings. It involves sharing who you are while also adapting to the expectations of professional conduct. Being your authentic self is a professional vibe because it allows you to share your true personality, build stronger relationships and truly flourish as an early care and education professional. In this learning experience, we explore what it means to be your authentic self at work, why it's important and the different ways you can start being yourself in a professional setting.

Hours: 1      Area: Professional Development

1:00

AC 116

Title: We Are Family: Early Childhood Learning Environment

Presenter: Beverly Hunter

Description: Come One, Come All! ABC Quality welcomes conference scholarship recipients and other educators to join this session to explore innovative projects that increases the quality of care in partnership with the Department of Social Services, Division of Early Care and Education, and the ABC Quality program. The goal is to band together as early childhood educators, share ideas and implement quality practices throughout South Carolina to build strong children, families and communities.

Hours: 1      Area: Professional Development

1:00

AC 213

Title: The Outdoor Classroom

Presenter: Dick Latham

Description: Taking the learning and teaching outdoors has many benefits for both the children and the teacher. This session will discuss the importance of the outdoor classroom, its benefits, and ways teachers can make the outdoors a more meaningful learning tool for the children.

Hours: 1      Area: Curriculum

1:00

AC215

Title: Mission POSSIBLE: Professional Growth with SC Endeavors

Presenter: Hannah Sane & Carrin Cross

Description: This session is designed to help you take charge of your professional development with confidence and clarity. Discover how to use our website to find trainings that matter to your work, align with your professional goals, and understand DSS requirements. We will guide you in building a plan to meet your annual training hours and stay on course for success. Whether you're just starting out or are looking to grow further, this session will equip you with practical tools to support your professional growth.

Hours: 1      Area: Professional Development

1:00

AC139

Title: Commitment to Constructing a Compassionate Community that C.A.R.E.S.

Presenter: LaDene Conroy

Description: As a retired educator of 44 years and school leader of four public turn-around schools in Charleston....my forte and strengths were enabling and guiding the adults schoolwide to 'Construct a Community that C.A.R.E.S.' ~ come and listen to my story. I believe that ALL children Belong to ALL Adults. How we prioritized compassion and care; acceptance and adjusted attitudes; how rules, routines, responsibilities and being ready have a profound effect on the deliverables when they are non-negotiable and schoolwide and we always accept, respect and love every child!

I will share tools/resources in teaching empathy through stories and share a Monthly Read Aloud Collection for Developing Community by Connecting to Authentic Literature  
Strengthening Resilience for Social and Emotional Stamina by Touching Empathy and Compassion through Story for our Hearts and Minds

Read Alouds: Why They are Intentional and Become Essential; What are the Titles and Where do we find them; and How do we Use them~ Why it Matters

How to best support and construct the academic, social and emotional stability in the class community~ a “Refuge of Respect” Supporting Safety and Security for the Right to Read and Learn

Hours: 1      Area: Professional Development

1:00

AC218

Title: Finding Your Teacher Voice: A Call to Critical Reflection and Self-Awareness

Presenter: Cori Gunn and Shajunia Snider-Brown

Description: An introduction to reflective practices and the art of taking a look into the "metaphorical mirror" to obtain better self-awareness and combat professional stagnation. Finding Your Teacher Voice: V- knowledge of your vision and values; O- embracing opportunities to engage in teachable moments for the teacher and students; I- taking the initiative to practice innovative changes including achievement with integrity; C- knowledge of the impacts of culture; and E- examining your expectations based on your experiences. The goal of this training is to provide knowledge and opportunities to practice self- reflection. Through self-reflective practices participants can transform as early educators by being enlightened and empowered.

Hours: 1      Area: Professional Development

1:00

AC 350

Title: Developing Emotional Intelligence for Educators: Tools to Enhance Classroom Management and Boost Student Success

Presenter: Gisela Rentas

Description: Emotional intelligence (EQ) is a powerful asset for educators—impacting not only your own well-being but also your classroom environment and students' success. This engaging and practical session is designed to help teachers harness the power of EQ to manage classrooms more effectively, build stronger student relationships, and create a positive, productive learning atmosphere.

Through meaningful discussions, real-world examples, and hands-on activities, you will learn how to:

- Identify and understand your own emotions to improve classroom decision-making
- Practice self-regulation techniques to reduce stress and maintain composure during challenging moments
- Build empathy and enhance communication skills to connect more deeply with students, colleagues, and families
- Integrate emotional intelligence strategies into your teaching practice to support student engagement, behavior, and academic outcomes

Whether you're a new teacher or a seasoned educator, this session offers actionable tools and insights to help you lead with confidence, create a more supportive classroom, and make a lasting impact on your students' lives.

Join us to explore how developing your emotional intelligence can transform your teaching—and your students' learning.

Hours: 1      Area: Professional Development

1:00

AC 143

Title: Bring Back Nursery Rhymes

Presenter: Heidi Friedel

Description: Nursery Rhymes used to be a staple in our classrooms, but they have faded away. Come join us and learn some fun ways to bring back nursery rhymes into many areas of your curriculum. Nursery Rhymes can help with not only literacy skills, but they can help to develop executive functioning skills - we will talk about how integrating nursery rhymes can help with these essential skills.

Hours: 1      Area: Curriculum

2:15

AC116

Title: Hearts First: Creating Emotionally Responsive Classrooms

Presenter: Maghan Churchill

Description: Every child deserves to feel seen, safe, and supported—and I believe that starts with us. In this session, we'll talk about real-life strategies for building strong relationships and guiding children through big emotions. I'll share what's worked in my classroom (and what hasn't), from co-regulation visuals to peace corners to daily check-ins.

Hours: 1      Area: Curriculum

2:15

AC 143

Title: Cooking in your Classroom: Bringing Math and Science into your Classroom

Presenter: Nicole Beattie

Description: Cooking in your classroom is not only fun, it is a great way to expand Math and Science skills. Join us and see how you can expand math and science outcomes in your classroom. We will also connect some of these activities to some different types of children's literature.

Hours: 1      Area:Curriculum

"Hours spent in this conference may count toward [SCIMHA's Infant and Early Childhood Endorsement](#) *Training* or *Education* requirements. Please contact SCIMHA's Endorsement Coordinator ([endorsement@scimha.org](mailto:endorsement@scimha.org)) with any questions."