

Action for Children's 2021 Early Learning Conference

B Breakout Session: Afternoon **R** Breakout Session: Morning **C** Clinic **L** Closing **K** Keynote **M** Meet the Author
S Social/Networking

MAY 15 • SATURDAY

8:00am – 8:30am	S Networking Session: Administrators From safety concerns to staffing challenges, running a facility during a pandemic can often feel like a superhuman task. The good news is, you're not alone! In this networking session, you're invited to meet other administrators, exchange ideas, tips, and techniques, and hear how others in the field are overcoming challenges and finding success.	Zoom Meeting
8:00am – 8:30am	S Networking Session: Child Care Professionals Are you a highly skilled professional or student with a passion for early learning and child care? If you're at this conference, we're guessing the answer is yes! Whether you're a veteran in the early education profession, just entering the field, or just want to learn more, join this networking session to connect with like-minded professionals!	Zoom Meeting
8:00am – 8:30am	S Networking Session: Family Child Care (FCC) Professionals We know that operating home-based child care program comes with unique opportunities, needs, and challenges – so we've designed a networking session just for you! Join this networking session to connect with other FCC providers, learn about FCC-specific resources, and hear exciting new ideas from your colleagues!	Zoom Meeting
8:45am – 10:00am	K Welcoming New Beginnings: Essentials for Our Journey Ahead <i>Session Presenters: Dr. Valora Washington, Ph.D</i> Join us as we open this amazing day with our keynote speaker, Valora Washington! This past year has been unprecedented. We know it will take all of us working together to welcome the new beginnings that are possible post-pandemic. Our current role is to take the essential journey that will make life better for all children and families, as well as for our profession. We begin the journey with the essentials we need to move forward: respect and honor for our colleagues who have shown so much strength under stress; information about who are children and families are, so that we can serve them well; and huge doses of courage, commitment and compassion! Let's talk together about moving from survival toward sustainability. Let's leverage this moment into a movement. Grounded in research underlying child development, frameworks for our profession, and the Alpha Generation (children born since 2010), this session offers participants opportunities to explore new ideas and engage in reflective practice.	Zoom Meeting
10:15am – 11:45am	R Advancing Quality Early Learning in Ohio: Communications and Advocacy Training <i>Session Presenters: Julia Jackels, BA, Lynanne Gutierrez, Esq.</i> Want to elevate your voice for young children in Ohio? The families you serve? The early education workforce? The team at Groundwork Ohio works to educate key decision makers in our state about the importance of quality, early learning and healthy development as the most transformative strategy to increase the life-long success of Ohio's children and lay a strong foundation for economic prosperity in our state. Join us for this interactive virtual session to learn how you can advocate for improvements in Ohio's quality early learning system.	Zoom Meeting
10:15am – 11:45am	R Create the Ask, Get the Results: Funding Opportunities <i>Session Presenters: Patrick Frueh, MOD</i> Programs are continually seeking ways to add value to their programs without breaking the budget. This training will provide an overview of funding opportunities through local, corporate and foundation funding streams. Also, providers will learn how to identify their needs in a way that funding streams are likely to provide support and explore how to request funds and services. Additionally, this training will highlight other community resources to enhance child care program operations.	Zoom Meeting

10:15am – 11:45am	<p>R Make Way for Play</p> <p><i>Session Presenters: Cat Lynch, BA</i></p> <p>As early childhood educators, we know play is essential for every aspect of children's health and wellbeing. Open-ended creative explorations offer a perfect outlet for play, however not every parent feels comfortable or confident in engaging in such activities. With the current COVID 19 crisis, supporting the adults who support our youngest learners has never been more important. Taking an empathetic and compassionate approach, this session will share strategies and resources to help address for common barriers that keep parents and caregivers from supporting creative play at home and in the classroom.</p>	Zoom Meeting
10:15am – 11:45am	<p>R Outdoor Learning to Increase Resiliency</p> <p><i>Session Presenters: Meredith Florkey, MA</i></p> <p>Participants will learn the benefits of including nature in working with young children, analyze where they lie on the nature-based education continuum and create a goal for moving forward on that continuum.</p>	Zoom Meeting
10:15am – 11:45am	<p>R Resilience: Recalibrating and Re-Orienting During Times of Uncertainty</p> <p><i>Session Presenters: Kelly Pack, MSW, LISW-S, OIMHP-III</i></p> <p>During a time of uncertainty, we have the opportunity to practice and strengthen our resiliency muscles. This session is a 90 minute session which provides a brief overview of what resiliency is and participants will gain a better understanding of its connection to stress. Participants will explore the concepts of compassion fatigue, secondary trauma and burnout and learn a few strategies to mitigate risk associated with these experiences.</p>	Zoom Meeting
12:00pm – 12:45pm	<p>C Child Development Associates Certificate (CDA) Clinic</p> <p><i>Clinic Support Professionals: Natalie Cook, MS, Tammy Freeman, M.Ed</i></p> <p>Interested in getting your CDA? Need help putting together your CDA portfolio? Nervous about taking the CDA exam or being observed by a PD Specialist? Then this clinic is for you! Drop in to have all your CDA questions answered by our team of experts in this informal clinic.</p>	Zoom Meeting
12:00pm – 12:45pm	<p>C OCCRRA and TEACH Clinic</p> <p><i>Clinic Support Professionals: Tiffany Blumhorst, BS, Jessica Wuerstl, BA</i></p> <p>In this informal clinic, experts from OCCRRA will be available to offer technical assistance and information about the Ohio Professional Registry and TEACH Scholarships. Register for this clinic and get ready to have your questions answered!</p>	Zoom Meeting
12:00pm – 12:45pm	<p>C ODJFS Licensing Clinic</p> <p><i>Clinic Support Professionals: Michelle Vent, BA, Stephanie Walters, BS</i></p> <p>You have the questions, we have the experts! Stop into this clinic to get your licensing questions answered directly from Licensing Specialists from ODJFS.</p>	Zoom Meeting
12:00pm – 12:45pm	<p>M Guided Chat with Dr. Valora Washington</p> <p><i>Session Presenters: Dr. Valora Washington, Ph.D, Dr. Eric Karolak, Ph.D</i></p> <p>You are invited to share in an interactive conversation with National Speaker and Author Dr. Valora Washington, moderated by Action for Children's CEO Dr. Eric Karolak. Submit your questions by emailing conference@actionforchildren.org, or tweet us your question using #AskValora, and tag @Act4kidz.</p>	Zoom Meeting
1:00pm – 2:30pm	<p>B Building Calm Out of Chaos</p> <p><i>Session Presenters: Geania Dickey, MPA</i></p> <p>In the rush to return to normal, use this time to consider which parts of normal are worth rushing back to. In a time when we often have more questions than answers, we hope you can join us to reflect on thoughts that may be helpful in guiding your future work both personally and professionally. In this session we will review ways to sharpen our tools for managing change, increase our circle of influence and direct our energy by focusing our thoughts and deeds.</p>	Zoom Meeting
1:00pm – 2:30pm	<p>B Courageous Conversations: Engaging Children by Supporting Their Curiosity</p> <p><i>Session Presenters: Simone Ellerson, BS, Karen Crockett, MS</i></p> <p>As an early childhood professional how many times have you been approached by a child with a question, gesture or word that catches you off guard, brings on feelings of confusion and worry or simply leaves you speechless? Courageous Conversations: Engaging Children by Supporting Their Curiosity is a professional development training NOT designed to equip you with a menu of "correct" responses. It was developed to help early childhood professionals embrace these teachable moments with comfort and a level of confidence. Courageous Conversations will provide respectful listening strategies for educators and tips for successful conversations with children on complex topics. During the professional development training, attendees will participate in various activities to put these skills into practice. Courageous Conversations provides supports for valuing children's unique perspective of our complex world and a toolkit to build a culture of inquiry at your early learning programs and in your homes.</p>	Zoom Meeting

1:00pm – 2:30pm

B High Quality Early Care & Education: Steps to Success with SUTQ

Zoom Meeting

Session Presenters: Melinda Moreno, BA

Moving your program to a higher level of quality can be a daunting process. Whether you are an FCC provider or a program administrator/director/lead teacher who will be helping your program prepare for this challenge, this session is designed for you! This session provides a framework to work on achieving and/or maintaining high quality programming, using Step Up to Quality criteria. This overview will help you to understand the process to prepare your staff and program for implementing a curriculum, using screening and assessment tools for enrolled children, and setting program goals using standardized tools.

1:00pm – 2:30pm

B Inclusion is Easier Than You Think

Zoom Meeting

Session Presenters: Troy Hunter, MSW, LISW-S, DS

This session will discuss early childhood inclusion. The DEC and NAEYC's joint position statement will be discussed. In addition, attendees will gain tools and resources needed to retain, as well as ensure best outcomes for children with delays and disabilities.

1:00pm – 2:30pm

B Resilience is Within Reach: Helping Children Bounce Back from the Trauma of COVID

Zoom Meeting

Session Presenters: Jesse Schroeder, MSW, LISW-S

The early childcare setting has been significantly impacted by COVID-19. Trauma-Informed Care teaches us that whenever we experience Adversity, there is an opportunity for Resilience. During this session, participants will learn the 5 Skills of Resilience and will identify specific strategies that can be used in the classroom, school and workplace settings. Together, we can build Resilience in our students and families, and in ourselves! This engaging session will utilize active learning tools and multiple participation modes from attendees. Come ready to contribute!

2:30pm – 3:00pm

L Closing and Sponsor Prizes

Zoom Meeting

You've all been waiting – it's prize time! Stay with us for door prize drawings, special thank you offers from our sponsors, and ways you can continue to connect with Action for Children.

Be sure to choose this session for updated information on the fabulous prizes from our sponsors so you know what you could win just by attending the conference and to join us live for the prize drawings!