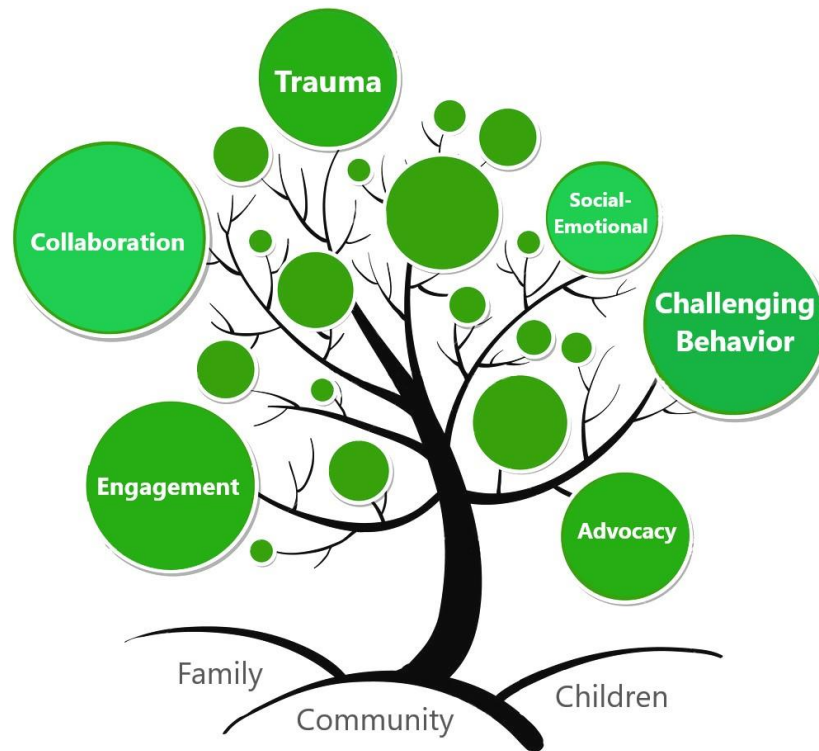




Childhood Conversations presents Together We Will...

Learn to Support and Develop Children's Social Emotional Skills to Reduce Challenging Behaviors, Strengthen Families and Communities



**FREE
ROCKETBOOKS**

"While Supplies Last"

Keynotes:

Lise Fox, Ph.D., Prof. & Dir. of National Center for Pyramid Model Innovation, University of South Florida
Nick Yoder, Ph.D., Dir. of Policy and Practice, Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning

Friday, March 29, 2019 & Saturday, March 30, 2019

8:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Hartford-Windsor Marriott

28 Day Hill Road, Windsor, CT 06095

Sponsored by:

Office of Early Childhood, CT Head Start Collaborative, State Department of Education, The Village for Families and Children, CT Parents as Teachers, CT After School Network, The Alliance for Bloomfield's Children, CT Children's Alliance, CT Council of Family Service Agencies, CT Division for Early Childhood, CT Early Childhood Alliance, CT Family Resource Center Alliance, CT Parent Advocacy Center, CT Parent Information and Resource Center, CT Parent Power, Real Dads Forever, State Education Resource Center, The SEEDS Network, LLC, Town of Windsor, University of Hartford, Windsor Family Resource Center

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

Friday, March 29th

8:00 - 8:30 a.m. - Registration/Breakfast/Exhibitors

8:30 - 9:45 a.m. - Welcome & Keynote

Lise Fox, Ph.D., Professor & Director of National Center for Pyramid Model Innovation, University of South Florida

10:00 - 11:30 a.m. – “A” Workshops

A1. Social Emotional Strategies that Every Early Educator Should Know and Use

A2. How to Handle Children with No “Off” Button

A3. Addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) through the Strengthening Families Framework

A4. Community Building through a Garbage Band

A5. Mindful Yoga Breaks: Tools for Calm Kids

A6. Reframing Mistakes in Learning: Strategies to Build Resilience and Intellectual Risk-Taking at Home and School

A7. Making Room at the Table

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. – Lunch/ Networking/Vendors Presentation of Community Vision Award

12:45 - 2:15 p.m. – “B” Workshops

B1. PANEL – From Cradle to Career: Guiding Social Emotional Learning

B2. Social Stories Set to Song

B3. Showing What You Mean: Communication and Putting Visual Ideas to Paper

B4. Increasing the Workforce’s Capacity to Effectively Engage and Enhance Families’ Ability to Support their Children’s Cognitive, Social and Emotional Development

B5. Mindfulness as Behavior Management

2:30 - 4:00 p.m. – “C” Workshops

C1. Supporting Young Children Who Have Experienced Trauma

C2. Connecting Literacy and Social-Emotional Development to Increase Kindergarten Readiness

C3. The Effects of Domestic Violence on Children

C4. Parent and Child Attunement through Mindful Connections

C5. Jesse Lewis Choose Love Enrichment Program

C6. Trauma-Informed Practice within Home-Visiting: The Power of a Relationship-Based Approach

C7. Diverse Learning in Early Childhood Classrooms

Saturday, March 30th

8:00 - 8:30 a.m. - Registration/Breakfast/Exhibitors

8:30 - 9:45 a.m. - Welcome & Keynote

Nick Yoder, Ph.D., Director of Policy & Practice, Collaborative for Academic, Social, & Emotional Learning

10:00 - 11:30 a.m. – “D” Workshops

D1. Embedding SEL into Classroom Instruction

D2. How to Strengthen the SEL You are Already Doing

D3. Using Technology in the Early Childhood Classroom

D4. The Role of Community-School Partnerships in Social Emotional Learning: Building a Culture for Success

D5. Recognizing and Healing the Trauma of Father Absence

D6. Interactive Music, Movement, and Literacy for Early Education Pre-Literacy Skills

D7. Developing Trauma-Sensitive School Practice

D8. Children’s Social and Emotional Skills and the IEP

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. – Lunch/ Networking/Vendors Presentation of Community Vision Award

12:30 - 2:00 p.m. – “E” Workshops

E1. How About You? Self-Care for the Caretaker

E2. Understanding, Preventing and Dealing with Challenging Behaviors

E3. An Overview of Positive Solutions for Families

E4. Boost Yourself

E5. Jugando con las Emociones

E6. Montessori and Early Childhood Education- What Can we Learn Together

E7. Early Childhood Issues in 2019

2:15 - 3:45 p.m. – “F” Workshops

F1. Mind Games: Think, Learn & Have Fun!!!

F2. Family Engagement in Early Childhood

F3. Trauma is Lifelong, But Can Be Made Easier

F4. Social Emotional Learning through the Arts

F5. Building Social and Emotional Competence for All Children: How Standards Can Be Used to Prevent Challenging Behavior

F6. The Core of Our Own Competence: Creating Professional Development Plans for Head Start teachers and others

F7. Discovering the Untold Story of Childhood Trauma

4:30 p.m. Video Premiere, FRIDAY ONLY - Foundations of Coaching in Early Childhood (details on page 10)

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

FRIDAY MORNING

Lise Fox, Ph.D., Professor and Director, National Center for Pyramid Model Innovation, University of South Florida



Lise Fox, Ph.D. is a Professor in the Department of Child and Family Studies and the Co-Director of the Florida Center for Inclusive Communities, the University of South Florida Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. She is the principal investigator of the OSEP-funded National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations (NCPMI) and a faculty member with the OSEP-funded Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA). She is currently engaged in research and technical assistance projects related to the implementation of evidence-based practices within early care, education, and early intervention systems; state and program implementation technical assistance; and the implementation of the Pyramid Model.

Social Emotional Learning Begins Day 1: Promoting Social Emotional Competence in the Early Years

Research has offered strong support for the importance of social and emotional skills by documenting their link to academic, mental health, and life outcomes. In this presentation, Dr. Lise Fox will discuss the critical need to begin thinking about the promotion of social-emotional competence in very young children before they enter school. Dr. Fox will describe what we know about children's trajectory of social and emotional development and describe how programs and professionals can guide skill development.

SATURDAY MORNING

Nick Yoder, Ph.D., Dir. of Policy and Practice, Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)



Nick Yoder oversees multiple policy- and practice-related initiatives at CASEL to support state education agencies (SEAs) as they plan, develop, and implement statewide Social Emotional Learning (SEL) policies and practices. Through this work, he leads the technical assistance that CASEL offers to SEAs and co-designs a research agenda to better understand and guide the state-level work. Prior to CASEL, Nick was a senior technical assistant consultant at the American Institutes for Research, a pre-service instructor and field coach at the University of Michigan, and first grade teacher in Chicago Public Schools.

Creating System to Support SEL

Oftentimes, we think of SEL as a curriculum or a prepackaged curriculum. However, schools, districts, and afterschool providers can create systems to support the whole child. Dr. Yoder will explore ways in which educators and leaders can ensure that all youth are supported, and the adults have the tools and resources they need to engage effectively with their students to support SEL across the school, district, or afterschool program.

FRIDAY - A WORKSHOPS

1. Social-Emotional Strategies that Every Early Educator Should Know and Use

Social-emotional learning for young children occurs within everyday interactions and activities. Join this session to learn pivotal evidence-based practices to teach young children (toddler through preschool) how to identify and cope with emotions, use self-regulation skills, engage in social problem solving, and interact with peers.

Target Audience: Parents, Parent Educators, Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, Elementary Teachers, Mental Health Providers, After School Professionals, Early Intervention Provider

Presenter: Lise Fox, Ph.D., National Center for Pyramid Model Innovation, University of South Florida

2. How to Handle Children with No "Off" Button

Do you have a particularly challenging child in your class this year? One moment he is playing in the block area with his friends, and the next moment he is tearing down everyone's structure. During circle time he is all right for two minutes and then he is hitting and kicking his peers, trying anything to annoy them. What is a teacher to do?? In this workshop you will learn and share some new strategies and learn about the stages of the Escalation Cycle.

Target Audience: Early Childhood Teachers/ Caregivers, After School Professionals

Presenter: Tracy Cheney, Education Consultant

3. Addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) through the Strengthening Families Framework

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are potentially traumatic events that can have negative, lasting effects on health and well-being. These experiences range from physical, emotional, or sexual abuse to parental divorce or the incarceration of a parent or guardian. The Center for the Study of Social Policy developed the Strengthening Families Framework to help combat the effects of these adverse family experiences through everyday interactions. The framework is a research-informed approach which enhances protective factors in families by increasing their strengths, combating the effects of toxic stress, and reducing the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. The framework focuses on engaging all families, programs and communities in five areas: boosting parental resilience, building parents' social connections, enhancing knowledge of parenting and child development, providing families with concrete support in times of need, and increasing the social and emotional competence of children.

Target Audience: Parent Educators, Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, After School Professionals, Early Intervention Provider

Presenter: Allison Matthews-Wilson, LCSW & Katherine Ramirez, MS, Center for Care Coordination, Connecticut Children's Medical Center

4. Community Building through a Garbage Band

Let's face it - our budgets are getting slashed but we STILL have kids to care for and teach. You don't need fancy equipment to make music! This workshop will address building leadership, listening skills, and teamwork through music. We will explore body percussion, and repurpose household items and garbage to create music in a community format. Come ready to make some noise! (No music experience necessary)

Target Audience: Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, Elementary Teachers, Mental Health Providers, After School Professionals, Preschool Special Education Provider **Presenter:** Jona Jeffcoat, MT-BC, Infinity Music Therapy Services

5. Mindful Yoga Breaks: Tools for Calm Kids

This workshop help teachers, librarians, social workers, therapists, parents, and anyone working with children to bring focus, self-regulation and fun to the classroom, home, or office, while fostering social-emotional learning. You will learn "life saver" tools such as breathing exercises, mindfulness activities, yoga poses, yoga & mindfulness games, and relaxation techniques. Participants will leave with dozens of ideas to add to the teaching toolbox that can be used in little breaks (one, five, 10 or 15 minutes) throughout the day. Participants will learn strategy transitions, calming the escalation of tantrums and letting kids find what works for them to self-regulate. A manual is provided with descriptions of everything you will learn, as well as sample lesson plans.

Target Audience: Parents, Parent Educators, Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, Elementary Teachers, Mental Health Providers, After School Professionals, Preschool Special Education Provider

Presenter: Lani Rosen-Gallagher, Full of Joy Yoga/Mindful Yoga Breaks

6. Reframing Mistakes in Learning: Strategies to Build Resilience and Intellectual Risk-Taking at Home and School

Making mistakes is an inevitable part of learning that, with corrective feedback, can help improve retention, skill, and understanding. That said, many children respond negatively to corrections and sometimes teachers and/or caregivers shy away from difficult or emotionally-charged interactions. Children's attitudes about mistakes and feedback are influenced by the responses of their teachers, family members, and peers. This session will help attendees learn how to reframe mistakes – for themselves and for children – in order to foster intellectual risk-taking and positive mindsets about the learning process. Session participants will consider their own orientations toward mistakes and how that influences their interactions with children, and then learn specific strategies to shape a positive mistake culture at home and/or school.

Target Audience: Parents, Parent Educators, Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, Elementary Teachers, Preschool Special Education Provider

Presenter: Dr. Maleka Donaldson, University of Hartford

7. Making Room at the Table

This workshop will explore rebuilding and fostering healthy practices during feeding times. It will also address attachment-based theory and body-based approaches, while making the most of mealtimes from infancy through the early childhood years. Topics range from picky eaters, food aversions, fears related to introducing solids, body positivity approaches, therapeutic approaches such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, (CBT) and Family-Based Therapy (FBT) approaches. Additionally, we will touch upon the Diagnostic Screening Manual fifth edition, (DSM-5) diagnostic criteria for eating disorders, and early childhood eating disorder treatment available.

Target Audience: Parents, Parent Educators, Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, Elementary Teachers, Mental Health Providers, After School Professionals

Presenter: Haley M. Scott, M.Ed., Ed.D (c), Connecticut Office of Early Childhood & Christine O'Grady, LCSW, Middlesex Hospital

FRIDAY - B WORKSHOPS

1. PANEL: From Cradle to Career: Guiding Social-Emotional Learning

Hear from national and state experts on perspectives and research related to the current state of social-emotional learning. This 90 minute interactive discussion will include information on trends and directions with vital information to help community leaders and practitioners bring research to practice. Participants will also learn about innovative Connecticut initiatives including the Office of Early Childhood Pyramid Model implementation and the recently launched statewide coalition SEL4CT.

Target Audience: Parents, Parent Educators, Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, Elementary Teachers, Mental Health Providers, After School Professionals

Panel: Lise Fox, Ph.D., University of South Florida; Nick Yoder, Ph.D., CASEL; Michelle Doucette Cunningham, Connecticut After School Network; Commissioner Beth Bye, Office of Early Childhood Caroline Austin; Parent Leader Advocate and Community Health Worker; & David Desroches, NPR – moderator

2. Social Stories Set to Song

Social stories can help prepare children for upcoming events by demystifying what is coming. By including song, the brain can more easily store and recall the information. Specifically, for children with Autism, music-based social stories can be an effective way to teach social skills and also assist with safety. During this workshop, we will break down how to write an effective social stories and proper music-based applications.

Target Audience: Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, Elementary Teachers, Mental Health Providers, After School Professionals, Early Intervention Provider, Preschool Special Education Provider

Presenter: Jona Jeffcoat, MT-BC, Infinity Music Therapy Services

3. Showing What You Mean: Communication and Putting Visual Ideas to Paper

Most information is given to us in a spoken or written format, but people learn best when information is presented in many modalities. Thus, it is important to develop a strategy for delivering messages in multiple modalities appropriate to the learner's cognitive and emotional development level. Find out how drawing quick pictures can make your ideas stick immediately! This workshop gives you the tools to simplify the process so you can find success in any situation in or outside the classroom. Participate in exercises, games, and dialogue for an experience that is both fun and instructive.

Target Audience: Parents, Parent Educators, Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, Elementary Teachers, Mental Health Providers, After School Professionals, Preschool Special Education Provider

Presenter: Kendra W. Houston, Studio Vivenda

4. Increasing the Workforce's Capacity to Effectively Engage and Enhance Families' Ability to Support Their Children's Cognitive, Social and Emotional Development

This presentation will highlight the Olive Branch Clinical and Consulting Services' Ten Dimensions of Family, Youth and Community Engagement Framework and Model. This tool can be used to support CT's workforce's efforts on building family members' and educators' capacities to support children's social, emotional and cognitive development. The workshop will cover the ten dimensions and demonstrate the power of weaving them together to create physically, psychologically and emotionally safe and supportive homes, schools and community environments that can support the development of children's social and emotional skills. It will also highlight several positive outcomes of focusing on the use of best practices in engagement including the following: family, school and community connections, students' social, emotional and academic successes, positive school culture and climate, increase in self-care practices and high staff morale.

Target Audience: Parents, Parent Educators, Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, Elementary Teachers, Mental Health Providers, After School Professionals, Early Intervention Provider

Presenter: Alice Farrell, Olive Branch Clinical and Consulting Services, LLC



5. Mindfulness as Behavior Management

The age appropriate development of self-regulation skills is key to preventing and soothing an outburst in early childhood. But many children struggle with building these essential abilities, due to experiences of trauma and other factors, impacting brain development. When children exhibit behaviors that inhibit learning, it can be stressful for all involved. In this workshop, we will learn about the brain's experience of challenging behaviors and how mindfulness practices can help teachers and children alike build essential executive function skills and prevent and deal with challenging behaviors. Participants will learn some basic mindfulness practices they can use for themselves and with their children. No prior experience needed.

Target Audience: Parents, Parent Educators, Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, Elementary Teachers, Mental Health Providers, After School Professionals, Early Intervention Provider, Preschool Special Education Provider

Presenter: Peg Oliveira and Marissa Bivona, 108 Monkeys

FRIDAY - C WORKSHOPS

1. Supporting Young Children Who Have Experienced Trauma

Young children are disproportionately more likely to be victims of abuse and neglect than their older counterparts, with 26.8% of victims under three and 19.9% are 3-5 years old. Approximately 26% of children in the U.S. witness or experience a trauma by the age of four. This presentation will provide information on the signs and symptoms of trauma in young children, including how to conduct trauma screening, and how trauma is influenced by stage of development. Recommendations and concrete strategies for educators to address the needs of children who have experienced trauma will be provided. Further, information and resources about how to access trauma-focused interventions will be provided. This presentation will highlight the elements of trauma treatments for young children and provide information on their availability. Small group activities will provide opportunities for participants to identify trauma reminders and reactions in vignettes and identify strategies to promote felt safety and security.

Target Audience: Parents, Parent Educators, Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, Elementary Teachers, Mental Health Providers, After School Professionals, Early Intervention Provider, Preschool Special Education Provider

Presenter: Kellie G. Randall, Ph.D. and Jason M. Lang, Ph.D., Child Health and Development Institute

2. Connecting Literacy and Social-Emotional Development to Increase Kindergarten Readiness

This presentation will look at the deep connection between social-emotional development and literacy. Participants will explore the critical component of parent participation and will highlight how the Words Count program uses a research-based technology that counts interactive talk between parents and children, to improve families' literacy and social emotional development.

Target Audience: Parents, Parent Educators, Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, Elementary Teachers, Mental Health

Providers, After School Professionals, Early Intervention Provider, Preschool Special Education Provider

Presenter: Nicole Castro and Minnie Garcia, The Village

3. The Effects of Domestic Violence on Children

This presentation will discuss and explore the effects of trauma from Domestic Violence on children. This will include exposure to pregnant women to adolescents. Attendees will learn about resiliency and strength-based recommendations.

Target Audience: Parents, Parent Educators, Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, Elementary Teachers, Mental Health Providers, After School Professionals, Early Intervention Provider, Preschool Special Education Provider

Presenter: Kelly Anelli, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

4. Parent and Child Attunement Through Mindful Connections

This presentation highlights the topic of mindfulness and how it is practiced in parenting. Through practice and discussion, we will explore how caretakers can show up for their children with presence, compassionate boundaries, and connection. We will discover how to skillfully handle emotional outbursts, how to meet the need behind the child's behavior and how to contain our own reactions when triggered by our children. This talk will include a few mindfulness exercises, specific parenting examples, group discussion and practices that can be implemented now to begin your mindfulness journey. We will also provide some mindfulness techniques to practice with children.

Target Audience: Parents, Parent Educators, Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, Elementary Teachers, Mental Health Providers, After School Professionals, Early Intervention Provider, Preschool Special Education Provider

Presenter: Amanda Votto and Elizabeth Williams, The Divine Within, LLC

5. Jesse Lewis Choose Love Enrichment Program

The Choose Love Formula teaches the foundational concepts and skills of social and emotional learning (SEL), and is informed by current brain research and neuroscience. The goal of the Choose Love Enrichment Program™ is to provide children with the tools and skills to manage emotions, to be confident and resilient in the face of adversity, to make positive and pro-social choices, and to have healthy relationships and deep, meaningful connections. This workshop will focus on how to begin to teach these skills to very young children.

Target Audience: Parents, Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, Elementary Teachers, After School Professionals

Presenter: Lisa Swain, Jesse Lewis Choose Love Foundation

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US

ONLINE AT

WWW.CHILDHOODCONVERSATIONS.COM

OR TO REGISTER ONLINE CLICK [HERE](#)

6. Trauma-Informed Practice Within Home-Visiting: The Power of a Relationship-Based Approach

This presentation will explore elements of assessment and intervention with home visiting for very at-risk populations. Relationship-based practices that identifies and explores trauma and its impact on caregivers and their young children will be discussed. We will also look at reflective care coordination that supports relationship-based while helping families improve their child's language skills and helping them get the most out of everyday routines.

Target Audience: Parent Educators, Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, Early Intervention Provider, Preschool Special Education Provider

Presenter: Salam Soliman and Rebecca Parilla, Child First, Inc.

7. Diverse Learning in Early Childhood Classrooms

This workshop will focus on supporting participants to learn about meeting the diverse learning needs of children with disabilities participating in early childhood classrooms. Through discussion and hands on activities participants will learn about supportive whole class strategies that can be put in place for all children and about strategies that can increase children with disabilities access and participation in learning experiences so that all children are included. Participants will also learn about and practice how to embed these strategies into lesson planning.

Target Audience: Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, Elementary Teachers, Preschool Special Education Provider

Presenter: Anne Marie Davidson and Sheri Lambert, EASTCONN

for students. You will learn SEL activities that support students in expressing their feelings constructively, help students increase their impulse control, and reduce bullying behaviors.

Target Audience: Parents, Parent Educators, Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, Elementary Teachers, Mental Health Providers, After School Professionals, Early Intervention Provider, Preschool Special Education Provider

Presenter: Tiana Brown, Norwalk Housing Authority

3. Using Technology in the Early Childhood Classroom

Even as technology tools such as smartphones and iPads are more commonplace in workplaces and homes, they are slow to be integrated into early childhood classrooms. This interactive workshop will help bridge this digital divide, discussing ways to use technology to enhance curriculum, develop lesson plans and record assessments. Teachers and administrators will explore ways to use technology to streamline some of the necessary tasks involved in their jobs. Bring your phones, tablets, and devices and be ready to share and learn from each other!

Target Audience: Parents, Parent Educators, Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, Elementary Teachers, Mental Health Providers, After School Professionals, Early Intervention Provider, Preschool Special Education Provider

Presenter: Tressa Giordano and Laura Eldredge, The SEEDS Network, LLC

4. The Role of Community-School Partnerships in Social-Emotional Learning: Building a Culture for Success

Community and school partnerships are an integral part of a pro-social approach to positive youth development. This workshop will offer practical strategies on how to bridge theoretical constructs of social emotional learning (SEL) and practical strategies of implementation to support effective systems of support. This workshop will highlight key aspects of successful partnerships including how to use Student Voice data to make decisions, create a shared language of support, and build authentic Developmental Relationships between school communities, families, and community organizations to support healthy youth development. Leave with a School-Community Partnership Roadmap and a vision for implementation for your community!

Target Audience: Parents, Parent Educators, Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, Elementary Teachers, Mental Health Providers, After School Professionals

Presenter: Molly A. Gosline, Ed.M., M.A., Adlai E. Stevenson High School and Patricia L. Charlemagne, J.D., M.P.S., Adlai E. Stevenson High School

5. Recognizing and Healing the Trauma of Father Absence

Children have very real experiences of traumatic loss when their Dad is absent from their life. We will examine the prevalence of this issue and its impact on a child's development. And we will explore ways to begin a process of healing along with the soft skills necessary to make it happen.

SATURDAY - D WORKSHOPS

1. Embedding SEL into Classroom Instruction

Teachers recognize the importance of student social and emotional, skill development; however, they often feel as though they do not have time to support social and emotional learning (SEL). One approach teachers can use to support student social, emotional and academic skills is through general teaching practices. In this workshop, educators will learn about and engage with 10 teaching practices that promote SEL.

Target Audience: Parents, Parent Educators, Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, Elementary Teachers, Mental Health Providers, After School Professionals, Early Intervention Provider, Preschool Special Education Provider

Presenter: Nick Yoder, Ph.D., Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning

2. How to Strengthen the SEL You Are Already Doing

This workshop will explore the levels of Social and Emotional Intelligence and how to recognize them in yourself and your program. Participants will build their awareness of the SEL happening in their programs as well learn simple and easy-to-do strategies and activities for developing students' SEL skills daily. We will self-reflect on our emotions and behaviors as educators and mindfully model social and emotional learning

Target Audience: Parents, Parent Educators, Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, Elementary Teachers, After School Professionals

Presenter: Doug Edwards, Real Dads Forever

6. Interactive Music, Movement, and Literacy for Early Education Pre-Literacy Skills

Al deCant's interactive workshop is fast paced and filled with tons of music, stories, and strategies that teachers, librarians, and parents can immediately use with their children. No musical expertise necessary! Teachers will learn how to use music, movement, and props to aid in early literacy, teaching, and classroom management. The workshop will explore the elements that have made books like *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and *Pete the Cat* so popular with teachers and children. Participants will leave with access to songs and activities designed to teach across the curriculum.

Target Audience: Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, Preschool Special Education Provider

Presenter: Al deCant "The Singing Principal," Half Moon Music/Music for Little Superstars

7. Developing Trauma-Sensitive School Practice

This workshop will provide an overview of trauma-sensitive practice for programs serving children of all ages. Through discussion on research as well as model programs, participants will be encouraged to reflect on their own current school's policies and procedures, and how they can be developed to support families challenged by adversity, crisis and trauma.

Target Audience: Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, Elementary Teachers, After School Professionals

Presenter: Mary Watson Avery, Connected Beginnings Training Institute

8. Children's Social and Emotional Skills and the IEP

An effective IEP should address each student's social and emotional skills, as needed, to receive an appropriate education. This program will review the sections of an IEP designed to meet these needs, and what families should do to make sure the services are appropriate, and consider the rights and protections of students with disabilities in school discipline. **Target Audience:** Parents, Parent Educators, Elementary Teachers, Mental Health Providers, After School Professionals

Presenter: John Flanders, Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center

SATURDAY - E WORKSHOPS

1. How About You? Self-Care For The Caretaker

As out-of-school time practitioners and the caretakers for youth - parents, teachers, childcare professionals, etc. - we have devoted our personal and professional selves to the caring for, education of, development and success of, ALL children. However, no one let us in on the secret of how rewarding, yet difficult, of an endeavor it would be! When and how do we find the time to care for ourselves and to replenish our own energies to continue the necessary work we do? Take some "ME" time and join us in this workshop to learn techniques for self-care and self-preservation in your daily life.

Target Audience: Parents, Parent Educators, Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, Elementary Teachers, Mental Health Providers, After School Professionals

Presenter: Ebony Grace, NJSACC: The Statewide Network for New Jersey's Afterschool Communities

2. Understanding, Preventing and Dealing with Challenging Behaviors

Helping children develop relationships and self-regulation skills starts with you knowing your children, having realistic expectations, and creating positive learning and growing environments at school and home. Specific strategies that work well with each age correlate with developmental growth, as well as consideration for temperament, specific behaviors and personality. When challenging behaviors occur, your understanding of growth patterns and the developmental stage of the child enables you to redirect, refocus, or minimally de-escalate situations. Having this knowledge enables all those who care for young children to be proactive, and plan effectively for the best learning environment.

Target Audience: Parents, Parent Educators, Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, Elementary Teachers, After School Professionals, Preschool Special Education Provider

Presenter: Helena Ellis-Sweet, Gesell Institute of Child Development

3. An Overview of Positive Solutions for Families

This session will provide an overview of the evidence-based, user-friendly parent training series developed by The Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL). The facilitators will engage participants in activities from each of the six sessions. The Positive Solutions for Families training helps professionals working with parents promote positive and effective parenting behaviors, which in turn promote children's social and emotional development and address the challenging behavior and mental health needs of children in child care and Head Start programs.

The Positive Solutions for Families training materials provide information for families on how to promote children's social and emotional skills, understand their problem behavior, and use positive approaches to help children learn appropriate behavior. The trainings are designed to give parents general information on key strategies that may be used with all children. Sessions are not designed to offer parents specific advice for their child's individual issues.

Target Audience: Parents, Parent Educators, Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers

Presenter: Andrea Urbano & Missy Repko UMASS Donahue Institute Region I Head Start TTA Network

4. Boost Yourself

Are You Stuck in a RUT? Wake up, shower, dress, go to work all day, watch TV, repeat? You are in a rut without realizing it. As humans, we are creatures of habit; we crave the stability of a routine. But if your routine is not allowing you to grow and improve and increase your happiness, when will you start living the life you so crave? This workshop will encourage you to stop participating in the same patterns that prevent you from living a healthy, productive and influential life. Boost your self-care!

Target Audience: Parents, Parent Educators, Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, Elementary Teachers, Mental Health Providers, After School Professionals, Early Intervention Provider, Preschool Special Education Provider

Presenter: Tiana Brown, Norwalk Housing Authority

5. Jugando con las Emociones

This workshop will be presented in Spanish.

Los niños son más capaces de trabajar a través de las emociones cuando pueden nombrarlas. Cuando ellos aprenden a identificar los sentimientos, esta habilidad, fortalece su capacidad de estar atentos a las emociones de otras personas, ser más serviciales y pueden desarrollar relaciones sanas. Los participantes del taller crearán seis caras con piezas de fieltro que mostrarán diferentes emociones. Las caras podrían ser utilizadas para involucrar a los niños pequeños en actividades que generarán conversaciones sobre las emociones y desarrollar vocabulario sobre estas.

Target Audience: Parents, Parent Educators, Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers

Presenter: Maria Sierra, Family and Childcare Matters and Yessy Frias, Little Builder's Child Care Home

6. Montessori and Early Childhood Education- What Can We Learn Together

Early childhood education is child-centered. In Montessori, the classroom environment is one way the focus is on the child. This session brings early childhood educators together - Montessori and non-Montessori - to show ways we can work with children each day to improve their learning and our job satisfaction. Come learn about ways to support academic learning, social emotional growth and be ready to work directly with families. You will see how to use public information to support families and communities by knowing specifics about the social resources and inequities. You will also engage in a global community learning activity to further our own cultural competency and commit to culturally relevant practices. Finally, you will leave with a menu of options for daily interactions to be used with families in Montessori and all early childhood environments.

Target Audience: Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, Early Intervention Provider, Preschool Special Education Provider

Presenter: Dr. Paige M. Bray, Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education and Director of Montessori Studies with regional Montessori, Courtney Rein, and Rachel Elkey

7. Early Childhood Issues in 2019

Are you curious as to what the big early childhood issues are in the 2019 CT Legislative Session? This workshop will discuss where things currently stand, what has a chance at passing into law, and how you can make a difference in advocating on issues that are important to you.

Target Audience: Parents, Parent Educators, Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers

Presenter: Merrill Gay, Early Childhood Alliance

SATURDAY - F WORKSHOPS

1. Mind Games: Think, Learn & Have Fun!!!

Understanding human cognition is critical in order to effectively implement a social and emotional learning structure, improve safety, learning and communication among learning professionals, parents and students. Our session begins by presenting a basic model of human cognition followed by audience participation in 35 activities to illustrate human strengths and limitations. The activities have been described as amazing, awesome, cool, educational, endearing, insightful, fabulous, fascinating, fun, hilarious, insightful, interesting and mind-blowing. Concepts illustrated in this program may help you to be a better teacher, learner and communicator. You may also chose to bring these learning activities to your classroom, home or organization.

Target Audience: Parents, Parent Educators, Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, Elementary Teachers, Mental Health Providers, After School Professionals,

Presenter: Ronald G. Shapiro, PhD, Ronald G. Shapiro, PhD, LLC and Maria Gaskell, Rhode Island College

2. Family Engagement in Early Childhood

Social and emotional learning starts at home. Parents and families are critical partners in helping their children develop social and emotional know-how. Family engagement means building relationships with families that support family well-being, strong parent-child relationships and ongoing learning and development of parents and children alike.

In this workshop, participants will identify the components of family engagement, specifically how to build relationships with families that support family well-being, strong parent-child-teacher relationships and ongoing learning and development of parents and children alike. Family engagement, when done right, means that everyone has an understanding of beliefs, attitudes, behaviors and activities of families that support their children's positive development from early childhood through young adulthood.

Target Audience: Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, Elementary Teachers, Early Intervention Provider

Presenter: Bethanne Vergean, UCONN UCEDD

3. Trauma is Lifelong But Can Be Made Easier

We all live by our own experiences. Identity formation is an important part of normal development, and it takes place across the lifespan. Early trauma shifts the trajectory of brain development, because in an environment characterized by fear and neglect feelings of safety, security, and love become scarce. The earlier a child experiences distress, on average, the more profound the effect. This training will highlight the lifelong effects of trauma on to adulthood relationships, coping and navigating an ever changing world. It will also present simplified treatments and solutions to create a more positive outlook on an already disrupted brain formulation.

Target Audience: Parents, Parent Educators, Mental Health Providers, After School Professionals, Early Intervention Provider

Presenter: Kelly Porter, Town of Windsor Police Department

4. Social-Emotional Learning Through the Arts

Music, movement, literature, and art & crafts are not only great ways of expressing who we are, but also how we are feeling. This workshop will offer concrete songs, breathing and movement techniques, art projects, and books that can easily be an added component to a trauma-informed and social-emotional pre-school classroom. This will be hands-on, fun learning for ECE teachers, home visitors, or parents.

Target Audience: Parents, Parent Educators, Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers

Presenter: Barbara Vita, The Village for Families and Children & Ann Marie William, K La Rue Arts in Motion

5. Building Social and Emotional Competence for All Children: How Standards Can Be Used to Prevent Challenging Behavior

All young children are building their social and emotional competence. Supporting them to learn appropriate and successful strategies for relating to others and expressing emotions helps prevent challenging behaviors. Hear about learning standards that can be used as a basis for building these skills and setting a strong social and emotional foundation. Explore resources that connect teaching strategies to social and emotional skills and consider how assessment information can inform this process. Reflect on common classroom challenges that stem from mismatched skills and expectations and brainstorm support strategies. Plan approaches to incorporate shared resources into your practice.

Target Audience: Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, Elementary Teachers, Preschool Special Education Provider

Presenter: Michelle Levy, CT Office of Early Childhood

6. The Core of Our Own Competence: Creating Professional Development Plans for Head Start Teachers and Others.

Take a step back and think about what you know now and what you would like to know more about. Self-reflection as a confident and competent person takes intention and the willingness to ask some tough questions. Explore a self-assessment tool connected to the CT Core Knowledge and Competency (CKC) Framework for Professionals Working with Young Children and Their Families to create your own path for continued professional growth.

Target Audience: Parents, Parent Educators, Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, Elementary Teachers, Mental Health Providers, Early Intervention Provider, Preschool Special Education Providers

Presenter: Deborah Adams, CT Office of Early Childhood

7. Discovering the Untold Story of Childhood Trauma

The emotional backpack that our children carry with them across the span of their lifetimes can greatly impact their trajectory. When children experience trauma, their load becomes heavier. Social Emotional Learning is a conceptual framework for creating spaces for all people to be seen, heard, and valued. Within these spaces, and with stress-management tools, adults can be helpful in unpacking, rearranging, and lessening the burden of the emotional backpack. Hear from a team of people who have navigated childhood trauma themselves. Through this dynamic workshop, audience members will learn strategies for engaging in conversation related to trauma to discover the untold story. Mindfulness-based practices will also be introduced, and resources will be shared for those who are interested in continuing to strengthen their skills.

Target Audience: Parents, Parent Educators, Early Childhood Teachers/Caregivers, Elementary Teachers, Mental Health Providers, After School Professionals

Presenter: Michael Thompson, LaTosha Taylor, and Michaela Fissel, Advocacy Unlimited, Inc.

Foundations of Coaching in Early Childhood

This video is a collaborative effort between the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, the Office of Early Childhood, Head Start, All Our Kin, UCEDD, and EASTCONN and features local early childhood professionals.

The video contains material for trainers to use with coaches as examples, thinking prompts, and to promote opportunities for discussion about practice. It is based on the 5 Key Characteristics of coaching adopted from the work of Dathan Rush and M'Lisa Shelden

The video will premiere following the *Childhood Conversations/Together We Will* Conference on **March 29, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.**

****Pre-registration for this event is required, click [here](#) to register.****

2018 Conference



2019 CCTWW CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Participant Information

Name: _____
 Organization: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: home (____) _____ cell (____) _____
 E-mail: _____

Gender:

- Female
- Male
- Other

Race:

- White
- Hispanic
- Black/African American
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Asian
- Native American/Other Pacific Islander

Age group served:

- 0 - 3
- 3 - 5
- 5 - 12
- 12 - 18

Participant type:

If parent, select status below

- Parent
- Adoptive parent
- Grandparent
- Foster parent
- Other/Relative

If professional, select status below

- Home Visitor
- Birth to 3
- Preschool
- Preschool 619
- Homeschool
- Family Childcare
- After School

Conference Information

Location: Hartford-Windsor Marriott, Windsor. Discounted hotel rate for participants: \$101 plus tax (*Contact the Hartford-Windsor Marriott directly at (860) 688-7500 to reserve a room.*)

Registration Fee: Last day to Register, March 22nd

Early Bird Fees - Register by March 8, 2019

- \$85 – Single day / \$150 two-day

Registrations received after March 8, 2019

- \$105 – Single day / \$190 two-day

Conference registration fee includes: Attendance at 3 workshops of your choice per day (based on availability), morning keynote session, continental breakfast, lunch, snacks, conference materials and certificate of attendance per day.

Groups of five or more from an organization receive 10% off the registration fee.

To register by mail: Please mail completed form and check or money order to:

- CT After School Network, c/o Childhood Conversations, 12 Melrose Avenue, Branford, CT 06405.
- Check, Credit Cards (MC/Visa/AMEX/Discover), and invoice options are available. Please make checks payable to “CT After School Network.”
- Please note our [Refund/Cancellation policy](#) online.

Click [here](#) to register online.

Questions:

Visit our [FAQ](#) page online. You can also communicate with us through our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages, or via [e-mail](#).

Pre-Conference Survey (We ask that all participants answer the questions below)

I know how trauma affects children’s learning	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree
I am confident in my understanding of Social Emotional Learning	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree
I am confident in my understanding of resiliency	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree
I am confident in my understanding of emotional intelligence	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree
My community struggles with implementing SEL strategies	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree
Children and families within my community have access to a network of support in SEL strategies	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree

Workshop Selections: A first and second choice must be indicated for each of the session.

Friday - A Workshops

- ___ A1. Social-Emotional Strategies that Every Early Educator Should Know and Use
- ___ A2. How to Handle Children with No “Off” Button
- ___ A3. Addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) through the Strengthening Families Framework
- ___ A4. Community Building Through a Garbage Band
- ___ A5. Mindful Yoga Breaks: Tools for Calm Kids
- ___ A6. Reframing Mistakes in Learning: Strategies to Build Resilience and Intellectual Risk-Taking at Home and School
- ___ A7. Making Room at the Table

Friday – B Workshops

- ___ B1. PANEL - From Cradle to Career: Guiding Social-Emotional Learning
- ___ B2. Social Stories Set to Song
- ___ B3. Showing What You Mean: Communication and Putting Visual Ideas to Paper
- ___ B4. Increasing the Workforce’s Capacity to Effectively Engage and Enhance Families’ Ability to Support Their Children’s Cognitive, Social and Emotional Development
- ___ B5. Mindfulness as Behavior Management

Friday – C Workshops

- ___ C1. Supporting Young Children Who Have Experienced Trauma
- ___ C2. Connecting Literacy and Social Emotional Development to Increase Kindergarten Readiness
- ___ C3. The Effects of Domestic Violence on Children
- ___ C4. Parent and Child Attunement Through Mindful Connections
- ___ C5. Jesse Lewis Choose Love Enrichment Program
- ___ C6. Trauma-Informed Practice within Home-Visiting: The Power of a Relationship-Based Approach
- ___ C7. Diverse Learning in Early Childhood Classrooms

Saturday - D Workshops

- ___ D1. Embedding SEL into Classroom Instruction
- ___ D2. How to Strengthen the SEL You Are Already Doing
- ___ D3. Using Technology in the Early Childhood Classroom
- ___ D4. The Role of Community-School Partnerships in Social-Emotional Learning: Building a Culture for Success
- ___ D5. Recognizing and Healing the Trauma of Father Absence
- ___ D6. Interactive Music, Movement, and Literacy for Early Education Pre-Literacy Skills
- ___ D7. Developing Trauma-Sensitive School Practice
- ___ D8. Children’s Social and Emotional Skills and the IEP

Saturday - E Workshops

- ___ E1. How About You? Self-Care for the Care Taker
- ___ E2. Understanding, Preventing and Dealing with Challenging Behaviors
- ___ E3. An Overview of Positive Solutions for Families
- ___ E4. Boost Yourself
- ___ E5. Jugando con las Emociones (Playing with Emotions)
- ___ E6. Montessori and Early Childhood Education - What Can we Learn Together
- ___ E7. Early Childhood Issues in 2019

Saturday - F Workshops

- ___ F1. Mind Games: Think, Learn & Have Fun!!!
- ___ F2. Family Engagement in Early Childhood
- ___ F3. Trauma is Lifelong But Can Be Made Easier
- ___ F4. Social Emotional Learning Through the Arts
- ___ F5. Building Social and Emotional Competence for All Children: How Standards Can Be Used to Prevent Challenging Behavior
- ___ F6. The Core of Our Own Competence: Creating Professional Development Plans for Head Start teachers and others
- ___ F7. Discovering the Untold Story of Childhood Trauma

SPONSORS

