



# ANCHORED

## ACSI Early Education 2024-2025

### Lancaster Breakouts 2024

| Track/Room                         | Session 2: 10:15 – 11:15   | Session 3: 11:30 – 12:30  | Session 4: 1:30 – 2:30   |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| <b>Breakout A</b><br>Ballroom A    | Cultivating Good Character<br><br>Hybia McCain   | Different Strokes for Different Folks:<br>Walking a Mile in the Shoes of a Learning<br>Disabled Child<br><br>Dr. Suzie Mohler | Creating Spiritual Giants is Not a Spector<br>Sport<br><br>Dr. Suzie Mohler                            |
| <b>Breakout B</b><br>Ballroom B    | Connecting for Success: Strategies for<br>Productive Parent Teacher Conferences<br><br>Diana Schmell       | Early Educators' Most Impactful Role<br><br>Elisabeth Jochum  | Teaching for Maximum Developmental<br>Gains<br><br>Elisabeth Jochum                                    |
| <b>Breakout C</b><br>Ballroom C    | Nurturing Hearts and Minds:<br>Understanding Trauma and Adverse<br>Childhood Experiences<br><br>Susie Delo | Protecting Yourself and Your Students<br>through Situational Awareness and<br>Defensive Techniques<br><br>Susie Delo          | Support Self-Regulation with Social<br>Emotional Learning in Early Education<br><br>Jeannie Forrest    |
| <b>Breakout D</b><br>Ben Franklin  | Preserving Awe and Feeding the<br>Imagination: STEM in Early Education<br><br>Amy Ransom                   | Cultivating a Culture that Sees God's<br>Story and Lives for His Glory<br><br>Claire Vesper                                   | Picture Perfect Learning: Using Picture<br>Books to Teach STEM in Early Childhood<br><br>Diana Schmell |
| <b>Breakout E</b><br>Robert Fulton | Leading Early Childhood Outdoor<br>Learning<br><br>Kevin McIntyre  | The Decline of Outdoor Play – And the<br>Rise in Sensory Issues<br><br>Angela Hanscom   | Unveiling the Therapeutic Potential of<br>Outdoor Play<br><br>Angela Hanscom                           |

## **Choose One from Session 2: 10:15 – 11:15**

### **2A Cultivating Good Character** - Hybia McCain

Description: What traits come to mind when you think about Good Character? Honesty? Humility? Respect? Kindness? As we continue to navigate through a constantly changing world, how do we aim to teach Good Character? We as educators must acknowledge and preserve the ideas and principles of good Character Education and the moral qualities we root our students in. Together, we will discuss, unpack, and explore best practices of how to continue fostering positive mental and moral qualities in our students and direct our emotional responses toward what is right and true in our faith. Attendees will also receive scripturally based tools to use with their students to foster and cultivate positive Character Development.

### **2B Connecting for Success: Strategies for Productive Parent Teacher Conferences** - Diana Schmill

Frustrated with communication with parents? Are you looking for new ideas to bolster your parent-teacher conferences? As a teacher, parents entrust us with a great treasure, their child. We know communication with the parent is vital to a good experience for both teacher and student. During the session, we will explore the biblical role of the teacher and parent, the importance of communication, and its impact on conferences. Gain new strategies and helpful hints to help you make the most of parent interactions.

### **2C Nurturing Hearts and Minds: Understanding Trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences** - Susie Delo

This session focuses on empowering leaders and educators to understand trauma and address Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Participants will learn to recognize and support children who may have experienced trauma while prioritizing personal growth and self-care. Practical strategies will be provided to create a nurturing environment that fosters healing and resilience.

### **2D Preserving Awe and Feeding the Imagination: STEM in Early Education** - Amy Ransom

STEM is a huge buzzword in education right now, and rightly so. It's a growing field that we want our students to be prepared to enter. We need Christians in every field both to give glory to God in their excellent work, and also to influence our culture with the truth of God's design. But how can we, as Christian educators, teach STEM differently? How can young children be exposed to STEM concepts while being rooted in the truth and learning to see God's World as an extension of his Word? In this breakout session, Amy Ransom from Delaware County Christian School will share a philosophical basis for STEM in early education. Then participants will get to take part in various activities that will inspire awe for our great Creator and that they will be able to take right back to their classrooms

### **2E Leading Early Childhood Outdoor Learning** - Kevin McIntyre

Embracing outdoor learning is crucial for young children's healthy growth and development. Utilizing the outdoor environment with your students can offer more than just recreational activities; it can significantly enhance their learning experience and foster a deep connection with our Creator and each other, encouraging a sense of wonder and discovery. Use the outdoor space to fuel your students' curiosity and equip them with tools to pursue further knowledge. Be prepared to go outside (weather permitting) to look, listen, and hear the nature around us.

## **Choose One from Session 3: 11:30 – 12:30**

### **3A Different Strokes for Different Folks: Walking a Mile in the Shoes of a Learning-Disabled Child** - Dr. Suzie Mohler

Walk a mile in the shoes of the children who invariably cause challenges in your PS classroom. Discover what it's like to sit on the other side of the teacher's/your desk. Discuss the demotivators that go through our minds: "How hard can this be?" "Just try harder!" "Pay attention!" Formulate how to move children along in their development in a way that minimizes frustration, anxiety, and tension for them AND us!

### **3B Early Educators' Most Impactful Role** - Elisabeth Jochum

In this session we will drill down to the core of early childhood priorities. Guided by fact-based truth about young children's needs, we can understand how WE must behave as key influencers of child well-being. How do we cooperate with God's design for brain growth? What changes must we make to our weekly, daily, and minute-by-minute classroom activities?

### **3C Protecting Yourself and Your Students through Situational Awareness and Defensive Techniques** - Susie Delo

Join Certified Defense Instructor, Susie Delo, who earned her black belt in Krav Maga and began the ministry of You Matter to share her passion for motivating others in mental and physical self-defense. Participate in this team building experience to build trust and support, while learning to conquer past, current, and future trauma. This self-defense class introduces techniques, moves, and weapons (everyday items) you can use to protect yourself and others. Learn how to handle the body's natural reactions to stress and build confidence through Mental Defense. Learn steps to avoid becoming a target and discover simple but effective techniques for defending yourself and teaching your students to do the same.

### **3D Cultivating a Culture that Sees God's Story and Lives for His Glory** - Claire Vesper

Sometimes the demands of our Early Education programs can feel overwhelming in our current culture. The enemy wants us to become discouraged, diluted and dim but the Lord provides, and His plans prevail! Through the Holy Spirit we can be renewed daily to invite, nurture and empower our EE communities to see God's story and live for His glory. Come and discover how cohesive program planning of biblical integration and the intentional implementation of Christ centered holistic rhythms and practices can help you cultivate a culture that delights in the Lord and is rooted in His Word. We can have confidence that as we delight in our awesome God, he will bring forth our righteousness and make us shine bright as beacons of light to the world!

### **3E The Decline of Outdoor Play – And the Rise in Sensory Issues** - Angela Hanscom

As we continue to decrease children's time and space to move and play outdoors, we are seeing a simultaneous rise in the number of children that are presenting with sensory and motor deficits. At the same time, classroom teachers are observing more and more children having trouble with attention, falling out of their seats in school, increased clumsiness, and even aggressiveness with games like tag on the playground. So, how can we reverse this alarming trend of sensory and motor issues in children? How can we ensure that children are fully engaging their body, mind, and all of their senses? Using the same philosophy that lies at the heart of her popular TimberNook program—that nature is the ultimate sensory experience, and that psychological and physical health improves for children when they spend time outside on a regular basis—Angela Hanscom offers several strategies to help children thrive in outdoor environments using a therapeutic approach to nature play.

## **Choose One from Session 4: 1:30 – 2:30**

### **4A Creating Spiritual Giants is Not a Spector Sport** - Dr. Suzie Mohler

Nurturing the spiritual growth of our children doesn't just happen because their parents choose a Christian preschool/school environment. It requires intentionality, purpose, and expertise on the part of every staff member to help develop a hunger and thirst for God and His Word. Making faith engaging, attractive, and yes, even fun, is everyone's responsibility. Come learn about what works, what helps, and what doesn't when developing spiritual giants in your school.

### **4B Teaching for Maximum Developmental Gains** - Elisabeth Jochum

Join us for this opportunity to explore which activities will yield excellent developmental gains for our children. Research is calling for more – more nature, more movement, more social interaction, and more problem solving challenges. And there's only so much time in a day – how will these activities fit into our schedules?

### **4C Support Self-Regulation with Social Emotional Learning in Early Education** – Jeannie Forrest

Self-regulation is an important ability for children as they are learning how to make a friend and how to be a friend. Children from infancy through elementary school can learn how to regulate thoughts, feelings, and emotions within the context of positive and nurturing relationships with their teachers. Let's examine self-regulation and explore tools to support social and emotional learning with the children you lead by utilizing the idea of "Maslow before Bloom".

### **4D Picture Perfect Learning: Using Picture Books to Teach STEM in Early Childhood** - Diana Schmell

Early childhood learners are captivated by the different elements of STEM. However, they are not always as enthusiastic when engaging with a book. What happens when we join STEM and literature together? The outcome is fantastic! Young learners are absorbed in learning and all learning styles are engaged with the content. Come to this workshop and enjoy discovering components of STEM in early childhood learning, how to use literature as a starting point, and take away new ideas and lessons that can be used immediately in your classroom.

### **4E Unveiling the Therapeutic Potential of Outdoor Play** - Angela Hanscom

Participants will participate in a TimberNook experience and then analyze this event for its rich therapeutic properties. We will also take a deeper look into outdoor play in general and how it impacts all aspects of development.