



2025 Virtual Conference Schedule

7:15 AM – 12:30 PM PT | 8:15 AM – 1:30 PM MT | 9:15 AM – 2:30 PM CT | 10:15 AM – 3:30 PM ET

Session	Speaker	Session Title	Session Description
Opening	Dr. Althea Penn Dr. David Balik	Welcome Opening Prayer	Praise and worship and instructions for the day.
7:30 – 8:30 PT 8:30 – 9:30 MT 9:30 – 10:30 CT 10:30 – 11:30 ET			
General/ Session 1	Dr. Jenny Sue Flannagan	Designing Impactful Learning Encounters	<p>What happens in your classroom has the power to transform lives! In this opening session, you'll discover simple yet impactful strategies to bridge theory into practice, creating a learning environment full of meaningful and powerful encounters. You'll explore how to design activities that spark a child's natural curiosity, fostering deeper engagement and growth. We will examine how setting high expectations and stretching students' thinking can ignite transformative learning experiences. You'll learn to embed God's truths richly and deeply into everyday activities, ensuring faith and learning are intertwined. Gain practical tools and a renewed vision to turn your classroom into a space where curiosity, growth, and faith thrive together!</p> <p>Core Competency: Learning Environment and Curriculum</p>
8:40 – 9:40 PT 9:40 – 10:40 MT 10:40 – 11:40 CT 11:40 – 12:40 ET			
Session 2A	Dana Brady	Enhancing Biblical Social-Emotional Growth in Early Childhood	<p>In this session, early childhood educators will explore the integration of Biblical Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) through a story-based approach, equipping them with practical strategies to foster emotional awareness and values-based learning opportunities in young children. Participants will learn to create a supportive environment that nurtures healthy relationships, encouraging children to express love, to share, and to support one another effectively. This approach will help address the trauma students may be experiencing and manage behavioral challenges in the classroom.</p> <p>Core Competency: Growth and Development: Social Emotional</p>
Session 2B	Diana Schmell	Strengthening Connections: Building Positive Parent-Teacher Relationships	<p>Communication is vital to effective collaboration with parents. These connections can be daunting and sometimes frustrating. During the session, we will discuss why building relationships with parents is important, how to create meaningful ways to connect, and best practices for communicating with them. We will also</p>

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			<p>explore the biblical role of the teacher and parent and give strategies to help the teacher feel confident and equipped to create connections between home and school.</p> <p>Core Competency: Family and Community Relationships</p>
Session 2C	Dr. Christi Baird	Play, Talk, Sing, Read and Write: Building Early Literacy Skills	<p>Our young children are eager learners and rapidly developing early literacy skills. In this session, we will examine the elements of early literacy and explore strategies to build language-rich early learning environments.</p> <p>Core Competency: Learning Environment and Curriculum</p>
Session 2D	Kate Haddock	Decoding Sensory & Behavior Challenges: Strategies for the Classroom	<p>Why do some children seem to be in constant motion while others sit still with ease? Why do some crash into furniture while others carefully navigate the space? Understanding sensory processing differences is key to managing classroom behaviors effectively. In this session, we'll explore how sensory needs influence behavior, how to differentiate between sensory-driven actions and behavioral concerns, and practical strategies to create a more inclusive learning environment for all students.</p> <p>Core Competency: Special Needs and Inclusion</p>
Session 2E	Claire Vesper	Cultivating a Culture that Sees God's Story and Lives for His Glory	<p>Sometimes the demands of our Early Education programs can feel overwhelming in our current culture. The enemy wants us to become distracted, discouraged, and diluted by the stories of the world, but the Lord provides, and His plans prevail! Through the Holy Spirit, we can be renewed daily to purposefully invite, nurture, and empower our EE communities to seek first the Kingdom of God. 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 sees God's story and lives for His glory! Together, we can inspire the next generation to embrace their identity in Christ and to shine His light in the world around them. Let's build a foundation that delights in the Lord and equips our early education programs to flourish in His grace.</p> <p>Core Competency: Leadership</p>
Session 2F	Rebeca Rosa	<p>Bringing the Bible into Your Classroom</p> <p>(Session in Spanish)</p> <p><i>Llevando la Biblia al Salón de Clase</i></p>	<p>What would happen to our students if educators immersed themselves in a biblical worldview? Teaching through a biblical worldview immersion is more than adding Bible activities to your lesson plan or the program calendar. During this session, we'll learn the importance of shaping a child's beliefs in the formative years of life, how to instill biblical worldview principles, and how to intentionally nurture their hearts in practical ways that will impact their spiritual formation. There is simply no time to waste!</p> <p>Core Competency: Child Development & Learning: Spiritual</p> <p><i>¿Qué pasaría con nuestros estudiantes si los educadores se sumergen en una cosmovisión bíblica? Enseñar a través de la inmersión en la cosmovisión bíblica es más que agregar actividades bíblicas a la planificación de lecciones o al calendario del programa. Durante esta sesión, aprenderemos la importancia de moldear las creencias del niño en los años formativos de la vida, cómo inculcar los principios de la cosmovisión bíblica y cómo nutrir intencionalmente sus corazones de maneras prácticas que impacten su formación espiritual. ¡Simplemente no hay tiempo que perder!</i></p>
BREAK (35 minutes)			

Session	Speaker	Session Title	Session Description
10:15 – 11:15 PT 11:15 – 12:15 MT 12:15 – 1:15 CT 1:15 – 2:15 ET			
Session 3A	Jocelyn Navarro	Understanding Trauma Responsive Pedagogy in Early Childhood	You've most assuredly seen the effects of trauma in your classroom! Understanding trauma and its effects is crucial for educators at all levels, especially in early childhood education, where the impact can be profound and long-lasting. Trauma can affect both neurological and physiological development in children, influencing their behavior, emotions, and ability to learn. To address these challenges and support children impacted by trauma, responsive teaching strategies are essential. You'll leave with new strategies to use on Monday. Core Competency: Growth and Development: Social/Emotional
Session 3B	Jenn Kliever	Navigate Conflict with Connection, Resolution, and Peace	Participants will complete their individual pain/peace cycle, which is a model used to identify our core feelings that get triggered in conflict and allow us to regulate the feelings and respond out of the truth of who we are in Christ (always loved and safe), so we can respond to others from a place of connection, truth, and peace. Without doing this work, we'll naturally respond with some form of blame, shame, control, or escape. Core Competency: Relationships
Session 3C	Amber Carlson	Identifying and Addressing Challenging Behavior	Let's take a practical and personal look at challenging behaviors in the classroom setting. Teaching professionals not only need practical strategies to understand different behaviors but also a deeper understanding of how their faith can enrich their approach to education and classroom management. Come be empowered with new perspectives and individual and whole-group class management approaches that honor the whole child while building autonomy and positive self-esteem in the classroom, all with a Christian worldview. Core Competency: Relationships, Interactions & Child Guidance
Session 3D	Dr. Debbie Wolf	Starting on the Right Note: Teaching so EVERYONE learns	Every child deserves a positive beginning in school. Help this happen by addressing students' needs through personalizing instruction for every student. Starting with principles as easy as do, re, mi, participants will differentiate learning for all students by considering their learning profiles, readiness, and interests. Core Competency: Special Needs and Inclusion
Session 3E	Althea Penn	Anchored: Biblical Principles for Leading Well	Effective leadership is a driver of quality improvement in Christian early education programs serving students birth–2nd grade and in elementary-age extended care programs. We will identify biblical leadership principles and practices that promote flourishing during rapid change. Leaders will also identify core values, change management strategies, and aspects of the relational-entrepreneurial leadership approach that are common competencies and demonstrated in Nehemiah's life. Core Competency: Leadership
Session 3F	Rebeca Rosa	Safe Places, Happy Faces (Session in Spanish)	What impact does your classroom environment have on the learning that takes place there? It is either a positive, affirming space, or it can have a negative effect on a child's comfort and ability to learn. The classroom environment impacts a student's academic performance as well as a teacher's ability to provide quality instruction and teacher longevity. Join us as we explore Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) strategies and practical ways to implement them with a biblical worldview to promote healthy social, emotional, and spiritual development in a safe, secure learning environment. Core Competency: Learning Environment and Curriculum

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		Espacios Seguros, Caras Felices	<i>Espacios Seguros, Caras Felices- ¿Qué impacto tiene el ambiente de su aula en el aprendizaje que tiene lugar allí? Es un espacio positivo y afirmativo, o puede tener un efecto negativo en la comodidad y la capacidad de aprendizaje de un niño. El ambiente del aula afecta el rendimiento académico de un estudiante, así como la capacidad de un maestro para brindar una instrucción de calidad y la longevidad del maestro. Únase a nosotros mientras exploramos las estrategias de Intervenciones y Apoyos Conductuales Positivos (PBIS) y formas prácticas de implementarlas con una cosmovisión bíblica para promover un desarrollo social, emocional y espiritual saludable en un entorno de aprendizaje seguro.</i>
11:20 – 12:30 PT 12:20 – 1:30 MT 1:20 – 2:30 CT 2:20 – 3:30 ET			
General/ Session 4	Dr. Jenny Sue Flannagan	Be Bold and Different!	This transformative final session invites you to reimagine the classroom as a space where children are deeply engaged in learning while being equipped to anchor their lives in Christ. Through practical activities and meaningful reflection, you'll connect the day's insights to actionable strategies you can implement on Monday morning. We will explore what it means to teach boldly and differently, allowing today's learning to inspire lasting change in how you approach education. Walk away with renewed purpose, practical tools, and the confidence to create a Christ-centered environment for growth and engagement! <small>Core Competency: Learning Environment</small>
Closing	Dr. Althea Penn	Wrap Up	Prayer and giveaways.

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