



# ANCHORED

Early Education Professional Development 2024-2025

## EARLY EDUCATION WORKSHOP

Living Rock Christian Academy

Bulverde, TX

January 25, 2025



# Welcome to ACSI Early Education's Anchored Event! It's so good to be together!

We're so glad you're here. We're all engaged in a process of anchoring and grounding ourselves in biblical truth and providing our students and families with transformational teaching. As Christian educators, your calling is to be Christ-centered and child-focused while anchoring your teaching on competency-aligned, biblically infused instruction. That's a tall order, but that's what today is all about. Equipping you to meet the needs of the children you serve as well as refilling your own tank and tool kit.

We've got content that will encourage you, inspire you, and equip you for the work God has called you to. Today has been planned and prayed over with you in mind. Our speakers will share from their hearts and experience as professionals committed to furthering faith-based early education.

Today is also about thriving from shared experiences! It's all about being **STRONGER TOGETHER** to serve our school populations, to serve each other, and ultimately, to serve the Lord! Enjoy your day together. Meet someone new today.

If we can be of assistance to you or your early education program in any way, please don't hesitate to let us know. We're here to serve **YOU!**


The ACSI Early Education Team



# EE Recorded Sessions Library

Access training sessions to meet your training requirements through on-demand sessions with topics you need as an early educator. Grow in your profession and earn CEUs.

View the [ACSI EE Library here.](#)



### Early Education Sessions Listed by Title

Select the session title for direct access to the session in EE Community. (log in required)

**A Guide to Language Fundamentals: Reframe What You Know About Language Development**  
We use language on a daily basis to get survival and to improve our overall quality of life. What happens when language acquisition doesn't go as planned? How does reaching milestones change in the face of a pandemic? This lecture will explore a discussion of the 2020 update on developmental milestones, how Covid has impacted the development of children (specifically those under the age of 5), and what activities can be included in the classroom to help Covid kiddos to catch up.  
**Presenter:** Gilda Paredes **EE Competency:** Child development and Learning Cognitive


**Anxiety in Young Children**  
Anxiety is rising in our societies as the world becomes more complex. Many early educators are seeing an increase in extreme behaviors in young children while at the same time seeing a decrease in professionals willing to assess and treat children under the age of six. The result is that many early educators feel unable to maintain classroom control with children with extreme behavioral expressions. Join Dr. Kristi Martin-Smith for this biblically integrated session that will challenge typical views of extreme behaviors in young children and open eyes to the effects of anxiety, a topic that is under-researched in early education.  
**Presenter:** Kristi Martin-Smith **EE Competency:** Relationships, Interactions, and Child Guidance

**Assessing Spiritual Development of Young Children**  
Faith development and matters of the heart (dispositions) are areas where assessment is either viewed as too difficult or not possible to assess. However, like matters critical to one's mission not only is assessment of the expected outcomes an important exercise, but it is possible. After a brief introduction of some early childhood assessment principles, Dr. Mit Uecker will share information on how to set up a spiritual assessment plan and the means whereby the assessment data can be collected during early childhood. Participants consider the answer to these critical questions: What are some examples of measurable faith related outcomes? Can worldview be measured in young children? How can valid and reliable data be collected? What are the benefits of the deity?  
**Presenter:** Mit Uecker **EE Competency:** Child Development and Learning Spiritual

**Avoiding Burnout**  
As the school year begins, we want to run the race with endurance and finish each year strong. Join Angela Coenick, a seasoned early educator and director of early childhood programs in CA, HI and internationally, as she shares helpful tips to avoid burnout and finish your year just as strong as you began it.  
**Presenter:** Angela Coenick **EE Competency:** Professionalism

**Become a 5 STAR Environment**  
The health and safety of our children should be a top priority! Let's discuss some of the most common deficiencies cited in child care centers and learn some practical ideas we can incorporate to minimize accidents, germs, and oaches to become a 5 STAR environment.  
**Presenter:** Cindy Meier **EE Competency:** Health, Safety and Nutrition


**Biblical Integration Throughout Your Curriculum**  
Biblical integration is a distinctive of Christian early education. Join Joannie Forrest to learn practical tips and ideas to biblically integrate throughout the curriculum and within the classroom.  
**Presenter:** Joannie Forrest **EE Competency:** Learning Environment and Curriculum



# EE Biblical Studies Sessions Library

ACSI emphasizes the necessity for Christian school teachers and administrators to have a solid grasp of God's Word so that they may be equipped to integrate it into their lives and teaching. Earn biblical studies CEUs from sessions curated for you as an early educator.


View the [ACSI EE Biblical Studies Sessions here.](#)



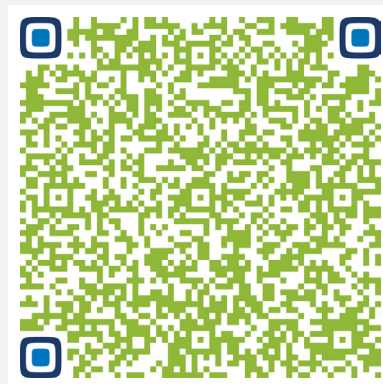
### Biblical Studies Sessions

Use the link for direct access to the session within ACSI EE Community. (log in required)

**Clear Focus: Following the Eyes of Jesus in the Classroom**  
Join Dr. Stephen Beal for this four-part biblical studies series designed to give your passion to follow Jesus and to share the Gospel with the children and families He has entrusted in your care. Follow along as Dr. Beal shares Jesus' journey through the book of Mark.  
**Part 1** Focus on one incredible day when Jesus focused on four people who were rescued, restored, redeemed, and revived.  
**Part 2** Focus on Jesus' examples of feeding the sheep.  
**Part 3** Focus on one incredible walk with Jesus and His disciples.  
**Part 4** Focus on Jesus' great commission.  
**Leadership Lessons from the Leading Ladies of the Bible**  
Learn alongside with Dr. Susie Morher about leading ladies from scripture through their challenges and victories. Discover valuable life and leadership lessons from their lives that apply to your life as a leader. You can be a leading lady in your own life like these Bible heroines.  
**Part 1** Ruth, Esther, and Abigail  
**Part 2** Rahab, Sarah, and Priscilla  
**Part 3** Deborah, Hannah, and Mary  
**Part 4** Lydia, Miriam, and Other Women  
**The Gospel of Education**  
Bring your Bible and join along as Dr. Vermona Gant takes you on a journey through the Gospel of Education with a four-part series as He Unpacks Kingdom Education.  
**Part 1** Why gospel education?  
**Part 2** Aspects of gospel education  
**Part 3** Educators of gospel education  
**Part 4** Leaders of gospel education



<https://www.acsi.org/earlyeducation>



## NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

### LEADER.CONNECT

With Dr. Cindy Barnum, Beth Lantz,  
and Dr. Suzie Mohler

2nd Thursday of each month at  
10:00 AM PT | 11:00 AM MT | 12:00 PM CT | 1:00 PM ET

Connect with Early Education leaders for a time of topical discussion and collaboration for solutions to the challenges you face as a leader. Gain a sense of community with other leaders and be inspired with ideas, encouragement, and especially prayer. Register to attend EE Leader Connect for an impactful one-hour gathering where leaders spur one another on in their calling to Kingdom Education.



Scan the QR code  
to sign up and  
participate in  
Leader Connect



Scan the QR code to  
sign up and participate  
in the Early Education  
Leadership Networks

**Dr. Althea Penn**  
**Early Education Director**

4th Wednesday of each month at  
11:00 AM PT | 12:00 PM MT | 1:00 PM CT | 2:00 PM ET

These meetings provide early education leaders an opportunity to share ideas and challenges and engage in building biblical community. This professional learning community (PLC) analyzes evidence-based leadership and instructional practices that are informed by current data. We use shared knowledge to cultivate expertise, guide our decisions, and enable early educators to make changes quickly based upon the needs of young learners and their families. We will also review best practices in implementing each of the Flourishing School Culture domains with industry experts. Attendance at the live meeting is eligible for CEUs. Recordings are available in the ACSI Leadership Network - Early Education Community.



There are many ways to connect, be encouraged, network, stay informed, and obtain professional development from a Christian worldview. Here are some of those opportunities planned in 24-25.



Scan the QR code to register for an ANCHORED event near you

Join us in the 2024-2025 school year for our Early Education Anchored Conferences, Workshops, and Leaders' Summit. Anchored by the wisdom of Hebrews 6:19, we invite you to embark on a biblically integrated professional development journey focused competency aligned teaching and leadership principles. [acsi.org/anchored](https://acsi.org/anchored)

<b>8/1/2024</b>	Workshop	The Hope Center, Plano, TX
<b>8/3/2024</b>	Workshop	Calvary Albuquerque Albuquerque, NM
<b>9/21/2024</b>	Workshop	Lodi Christian School, Lodi, CA
<b>9/27/2024</b>	Workshop	Northwood Temple Academy, Fayetteville, NC
<b>9/28/2024</b>	Workshop	Arizona Christian University, Glendale AZ
<b>10/3/2024</b>	Leaders' Summit	Double Tree Resort by Hilton, Lancaster, PA
<b>10/4/2024</b>	Conference	Double Tree Resort by Hilton, Lancaster, PA
<b>10/26/2024</b>	Workshop	Wesleyan Christian School, Bartlesville, OK
<b>11/1/2024</b>	Workshop	Trinity Christian Academy, Jackson, TN
<b>11/1/2024</b>	Leaders' Summit	Biola University, La Mirada, CA
<b>11/2/2024</b>	Conference	Biola University, La Mirada, CA
<b>11/2/2024</b>	Workshop	Silverdale Baptist Academy, Chattanooga, TN
<b>11/5/2024</b>	Workshop	Mount Juliet Christian Academy, Nashville, TN
<b>11/9/2024</b>	Workshop	Atlantic Shores Christian Acad., Chesapeake, VA
<b>1/11/2025</b>	Workshop	Hawaii Baptist Academy, Honolulu, HI
<b>1/25/2025</b>	Workshop	Living Rock Christian Academy, Bulverde, TX
<b>1/25/2025</b>	Workshop	Kiddie Kampus, Los Gatos, CA
<b>2/1/2025</b>	Workshop	Portland Christian Schools, Portland, OR
<b>2/8/2025</b>	Workshop	Northshore Christian Academy, Everett, WA
<b>2/22/2025</b>	Conference	Virtual Conference
<b>3/1/2025</b>	Workshop	Resurrection Christian School, Loveland, CO
<b>3/7/2025</b>	Leaders' Summit	The First Academy, Orlando, FL
<b>3/8/2025</b>	Workshop	The First Academy, Orlando, FL
<b>3/14/2025</b>	Workshop	Young Americans Christian School, Conyers, GA
<b>4/11/2025</b>	Workshop	Holden Christian Academy, Holden, MA
<b>4/26/2025</b>	Workshop	Grove City Christian School, Grove City, OH

## EARLY EDUCATION WEBINARS

<b>9/18/2024</b>	Biblical Social and Emotional Learning, Pt1
<b>10/16/2024</b>	Biblical Social and Emotional Learning, Pt2
<b>11/20/2024</b>	Using Music to Teach Social and Emotional Learning
<b>1/15/2025</b>	Designing Inclusive Early Ed Classrooms
<b>2/19/2025</b>	Learning Differences for Preschool
<b>3/19/2025</b>	Learning with Movement



Scan the QR code for more information about Early Education Webinars

## Sign Up for the Monthly Early Education E-Newsletter

Early Educators serving students ages birth to 8 will benefit from rich, valuable learning material, content, helpful insights, and thought leadership tailored specifically for them. Sign up at [acsi.org/subscribe](https://acsi.org/subscribe)



Scan the QR code to sign up for the monthly Early Education E-Newsletter



# Workshop Description

## Nurturing Creativity and Joyful Learning Through Play and Art

To unleash transformative teaching, we must anchor our early childhood experiences in God's Word, and understand that children have been wired to inquire and to explore. Our job in teaching is to inspire creativity within our classrooms by providing engaging, playful, hands-on experiences. Learning is enriched when we intentionally make meaningful connections with the instructional content throughout our day while using play as a vehicle to engage children in the learning process. This scaffolds learning in all domains of learning to provide a rich Christ-centered, child-focused experience.



### Language Arts Series



[www.purposefuldesign.com](http://www.purposefuldesign.com)

# Schedule

8:00 AM Registration Opens

8:30 AM Welcome, Introductions

## 9:00 AM **SESSION 1: Exploring The Power of Play**

Play serves an essential role in the lives of both children and adults. God designed us to explore His world with awe, wonder, and joy. Play provides a wonderful opportunity to do just that! This hands-on interactive session is designed to help educators and leaders experience the power of self-active play firsthand. We will consider the role of play in our own lives and in our programs as a means for promoting healing, resilience, learning, and joy.

10:30 AM Refreshment Break

## 10:45 AM **SESSION 2: Cultivating Joyful Learning**

Play is a powerful tool for supporting young children's learning, growth, and development. During this session we will explore ways to integrate playful learning opportunities in our classrooms. We will identify some of the barriers we face in integrating play, and practical ways to overcome those barriers. We will consider materials and experiences that will help make the most of playful learning opportunities.

12:15 PM Lunch

## 12:45 PM **SESSION 3: Expanding Creativity Through Process Art**

Creativity is an essential trait of 21st Century Learning. Come explore ways that we, as teachers, can inspire creativity within our classrooms by providing engaging, playful open-ended art experiences. We will examine the benefits of process-oriented art, lay the foundation for integrating creative art in the classroom, and get to explore playful process art experiences firsthand.

2:15 PM Refreshment Break

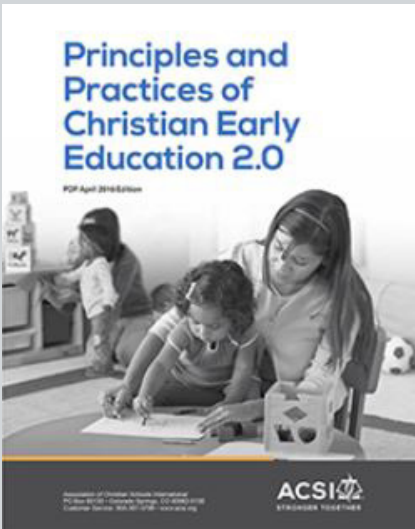
## 2:30 PM **SESSION 4: Supporting Language & Literacy with Songs and Rhymes**

Songs and rhymes provide a variety of benefits to young children and help support joyful learning. During this session we will explore how songs and rhymes support language and literacy skills development, as we sing and move together.

3:30 PM Closing Comments



# Principles and Practices of Christian Early Education



Examine the essential foundations of a biblical philosophy for Christian early educators in this digitally downloadable eight-part series presented by Dr. Kristi Martin and Dr. Althea Penn. Upon purchase of this item, you will receive a downloadable PDF of notes that correspond to the eight video sessions (links to the videos are provided on the second page of the notes). Also included on the final page of the notes are fillable forms for creating CEU certificates.

Scan the QR code to learn more:



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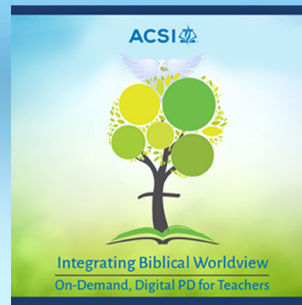
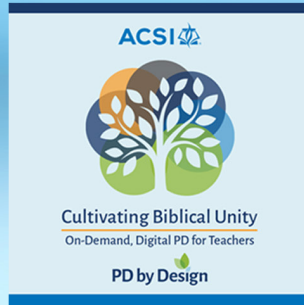
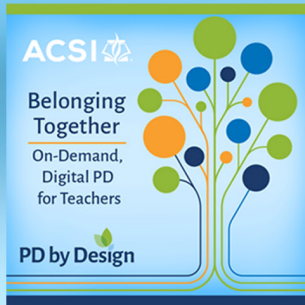
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## **Individual Membership**

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Work God Has Called You To Do**



# ACSI Early Education

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E-Newsletters for You!**

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to sign up for the Early Education E-Newsletter*



**“We have this hope as an anchor for  
the soul, firm and secure.” - Hebrews 6:19**



# ACSI Early Education

