

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 aid 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 2022 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 Panales

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. Milt 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 data?

Presenter: Milt 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 Czerniak, 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 Czerniak

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 ouches 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 Jeannie Forrest to learn practical tips and ideas to Biblically integrate throughout the curriculum and within the classroom.

Presenter: Jeannie Forrest

EE Competency: Learning Environment and Curriculum



Biblical Worldview Instruction and Young Children

Teaching from and for a biblical worldview is an often discussed topic within Christian Schools, but one is less likely to hear it addressed from the perspective of inclusion within the early childhood classroom. This session will present the means of laying a foundation for a Christ-centered worldview through developmentally appropriate means. Dr. Milt Uecker will walk through the what and how regarding each of the basic worldview questions: What is reality? What is truth and can it be known? What is the nature of humankind? (with focus on children), and What is of Value? (what is right and wrong). Immersion, modeling, and scripture memory are examples of strategies that will be presented.

Presenter: Milt Uecker

EE Competency: Child Development and Learning; Spiritual

Bilingual Learners in Early Education: Part 1 - Welcoming Environments & Language Development

Join Cindy Lewis, Program Coordinator for the preschool department of Fremont Christian School in California, as she introduces strategies for setting up the environment to create an inclusive classroom for ELL students. She will also present an overview of how a second language develops, including topics such as the Silent Period and how to measure for receptive understanding.

Presenter: Cindy Lewis

EE Competency: Cultural and Linguistic Diversity

Bilingual Learners in Early Education: Part 2 - Parent Communication & Teaching Strategies

Join Cindy Lewis for Part 2 of her Bilingual Learners in Early Education series where she'll cover applications and techniques for enhancing parent partnership and communication for families of ELL students. She'll also look at strategies for promoting expressive language practice, as well as modifications in teacher language for effective student comprehension.

Presenter: Cindy Lewis

EE Competency: EE Competency: Cultural and Linguistic Diversity

Bold & Fearless Early Education Leadership

There is much to fear when you're an early education director - upset parents, staff shortages, biting toddlers, unannounced licensing visits, financial constraints, and low enrollment, among others. Early educators are some of the bravest leaders in education. They have added responsibilities not required of K-12 administrators/educators, churches, and most businesses because they care and educate one of the most vulnerable people groups in society. In this training, Dr. Kristi Smith will walk us through how to be bold and fearless in our pursuits of providing quality care and education to God's youngest children. For this session, she will apply research from her Doctorate of Education in Leadership to guide you through key points in Kouzes & Posner's Leadership Challenge. She'll also incorporate a modified concept of "Run, Improve, Grow" from Ray Attiyah's book "The Fearless Front Line" to fit an early education business model. Join us to learn how to be a bold and fearless leader who will bravely take on quality initiatives for God's Kingdom. "Be strong and brave, and don't tremble in fear of them, because the Eternal your God is going with you. He'll never fail you or abandon you!" Deuteronomy 31:6 (The Voice).

Presenter: Kristi Martin-Smith

EE Competency: Leadership

Boys Will Be Boys!

Boys were created to be leaders in our households, communities, and the world. How can we cultivate their leadership, channel their energy, and teach them at the same time? Join Erika White as she combines experiences as a mom to five lively boys with her practical early education experience to offer you necessary tools for teaching young boys in your early education classroom. You will be equipped with ideas to alter your classroom, teaching style, and techniques to teach young boys.

Presenter: Erica White

EE Competency: Relationships, Interactions, and Child Guidance

Budding Scientists!

Learn how to use simple objects and experiences to get your budding scientists to ask questions and foster a sense of curiosity! During this session, Dr. Jenny Sue Flannigan and ACSI's Early Education team will explore how to use the 5 E model of Lesson Design to make teaching science fun and engaging for you and your preschool students. We will also explore how to build vocabulary off of experiences while engaging students in the process of doing science. You are encouraged to have access to sugar cubes and one cup of water for a hands-on activity during the session.

Presenter: Jenny Sue Flannigan **EE Competency:** Learning Environment and Curriculum



[Building a Team Equipped with Practical Resilience](#)

Staff and students have returned to schools having experienced high levels of ongoing stress. Chronic, unmanaged stress creates havoc in our lives. This workshop is tailored to early childhood professionals who are vulnerable to chronic stress and its unhealthy impact as a result of the demands of their service and work. Learn to recognize stressors, symptoms, and simple ways to promote resilience both in their own lives and in the classroom setting.

Presenter: Tammy Kennington **EE Competency:** Leadership

[Building Belonging](#)

Let's design an emotionally healthy classroom culture! During this session we will understand the role that healthy relationships play in healing trauma and will identify God's Word as the source for all of the above and more.

Presenter: Friendly **EE Competency:** Relationships, Interactions, and Child Guidance

[Building Better Behavior](#)

Holly Cromer will help you take a proactive approach to classroom management, where the child is not controlled but managed and is given tools to choose their own behavioral outcomes. Examine how to establish effective classroom rules, behavior analysis, skills strengthening and planning for success within the parameters of developmental appropriateness.

Presenter: Holly Cromer **EE Competency:** Relationships, Interactions, and Child Guidance

[Building Meaningful Relationships with Parents](#)

Adjusting our perspective will help us to develop trusting, meaningful relationships with parents which ultimately strengthens our ability to effectively reach our students. Learn how to identify different parental styles and determine how best to communicate with each style.

Presenter: Lindsay Tolman **EE Competency:** Family Relationships

[Challenging Behavior](#)

Join Cyndi Bailey as she shares about addressing challenging behavior in the early childhood classroom but, first we need to first look at ourselves, the teacher. If we build positive relationships, create supportive environments, and teach social problem-solving skills, most challenging behaviors can be improved. Teachers will need additional help with those few students who require more intensive interventions.

Presenter: Cyndi Bailey **EE Competency:** Relationships, Interactions, and Child Guidance

[Changing our Mindset: Inclusion is Key in Early Learning](#)

It has been easy for our early education programs to maintain a belief that "we aren't equipped or trained and we don't have the staff and resources to offer classrooms that include children with disabilities" for far too long. ALL children, regardless of ability, belong with you in an environment of intentionality, excellence, and filled with the love of Christ. Join Melinda Glen as we discuss attitudes and beliefs, appropriate (and proven) policies and procedures, and resources to draw from. Don't be afraid to be s-t-r-e-t-c-h-e-d for the benefit of Kingdom Kids!

Presenter: Melinda Glen **EE Competency:** Early Intervention, Special Needs, and Inclusion

[Classroom Implications of Spiritual Formation in Young Children - Part 1](#)

Many lasting impressions about God's nature and his work are established by the time a child is between 3 and 7 years old. This condition means that teachers of preschoolers, as well as teachers of kindergarten through second grade students are correcting or undoing faulty worldview thinking of the little ones in their classrooms. Dr. Annie Gallagher will describe stages of spiritual formation that take place in the preschool and elementary school years, along with attributes of the classroom that foster an accurate image of who God is and what he does. Participants will be provided with a timeline that describes the stages and key elements of spiritual formation in young children.

Presenter: Annie Gallagher **EE Competency:** Child Development and Learning; Spiritual

[Classroom Implications of Spiritual Formation in Young Children - Part 2](#)

There are various characteristics of the preschool and primary elementary classroom environments and instruction that serve to foster an accurate image of who God is and what he does. Dr. Annie Gallagher will share how routines, instructional activities, and learning environment elements can influence a child's accurate understanding of God's nature and work. Participants will be provided with a list of possible activities to try in their setting.

Presenter: Annie Gallagher **EE Competency:** Child Development and Learning; Spiritual



Classroom Management That Works

A classroom environment that functions in a smooth manner does not occur without a great deal of effort and intentionality on the part of the teacher. Join us as we discuss practical applications of classroom management methods that will help you effectively manage your classroom as well as students' behavior.

Presenter: Julia Chandler **EE Competency:** Relationships, Interactions, and Child Guidance

Context Matters: Should We Wear Long Sleeves or Short Sleeves in the Summer?

Context makes a big difference in how we teach children to dress for the weather. But does context make a difference in the way we teach every subject in the early education classroom? In this session, Dr. Christian Overman and Jeannie Forrest will focus on how to put children's learning activities into the context of a biblical frame of reference. This is what makes Christian education authentically Christian.

Presenter: Christian Overman **EE Competency:** Child Development and Learning; Spiritual

Creating Emotional Support for Our Children

The children we interact with are learning life skills about becoming self-regulated and how to cooperate with others. Sometimes it is challenging for them and they fall apart. How can we support them and help them become successful when faced with all the emotions brought on by life's circumstances?

Presenter: Cindy Meier **EE Competency:** Child Development and Learning; Social & Emotional

Cultivating a Positive Culture

Leadership guru Michael Hyatt says "The culture of a company is the behavior of its leaders. If you change their attitudes, their values, their beliefs, their behaviors, you will change your culture. If you do not, you will fail." In this session, we will talk through the 3 critical elements of creating a positive culture in your organization. You will leave with a reflection sheet to help you honestly assess your organizational culture and specific action steps to make some changes.

Presenter: Monica Healer **EE Competency:** Leadership

Cultivating the Soil of a Child's Heart: Sowing Seeds for Spiritual Growth

You have an important job! You are planting seeds in the hearts and mind of children every day. You may not always see the fruit, but you are creating a space for spiritual growth to take place. Join us as we discuss intentional ways you can foster a passion for knowledge and growing devotion to Jesus, which will cultivate the soil for growth and obedience to the Word of God.

Presenter: Lainie Montgomery **EE Competency:** Child development and Learning; Spiritual

Cultivating Faith Development in Early Education

Join Althea Penn and discover five biblical classroom management principles that will enable early educators to purposefully cultivate faith development and potential in students (birth-age eight). Participants will gain skills and knowledge that will enhance their classroom management styles.

Presenter: Althea Penn **EE Competency:** Relationships, Interactions, and Child Guidance

Developing a Curriculum that Works for Everyone in the Program - Part 1

This training will give guidance to create a written curriculum map unique to the program's mission and philosophy. During part 1 Jeannie Forrest will cover the base pieces needed to develop the curriculum map. Part 2 will delve deeper into building each of the necessary curriculum components.

Presenter: Jeannie Forrest **EE Competency:** Learning Environment and Curriculum

Developing a Curriculum that Works for Everyone in the Program - Part 2

Learn how a curriculum map can improve your program through guidance in creating a written curriculum map unique to your program's mission and philosophy. Jeannie Forrest will help you take a look at building each of the necessary curriculum components for your program's curriculum map in this second part of the two-part series.

Presenter: Jeannie Forrest **EE Competency:** Learning Environment and Curriculum



[Developing Curiosity and Creativity in the Early Education Classroom](#)

Young minds flourish in classrooms where children are able to inquire and explore. We will examine God's design for children's natural tendency toward curiosity and creativity. Research tells us that if curiosity is not nurtured, it begins to wane by age four. Join Jeannie Forrest as she examines how the early education classroom can provide opportunities to build upon how young children learn through creative and curious moments.

Presenter: Jeannie Forrest **EE Competency:** Learning Environment and Curriculum

[Dramatic Play in Early Education](#)

Young children make sense of their world through imitation of the activities of adults around them. This session will give insight into the rich world of dramatic play and inspire you with ideas to enrich this important area in your classroom.

Presenter: Rachel Scroggins **EE Competency:** Learning Environment and Curriculum

[Early Ed Moves Outdoors](#)

Outdoor time is NOT "recess". Cyndi Bailey will help us to consider the importance of outdoor /nature activities and the opportunities they provide for social, language, cognitive, physical and spiritual development.

Presenter: Cyndi Bailey **EE Competency:** Learning Environment and Curriculum

[Enriching the Classroom Learning Environment](#)

Join Cyndi Bailey as she explores answers to the questions: How does your classroom environment affect the children who "live" there every day? What is involved in creating an early childhood learning environment? How can you evaluate your current environment and begin to make improvements?

Presenter: Cyndi Bailey **EE Competency:** Learning Environment and Curriculum

[Ethics in Early Childhood Education](#)

This training focuses on developing an understanding of ethics and how to resolve ethical dilemmas in a biblical manner. The NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct will be examined, while focusing on God's Word and God-honoring collaboration between staff members, parents, and those in leadership. Join Jane Fort as she shares practical scenarios she has experienced and leave with ideas to be well-grounded in how to handle those sometimes difficult situations that often come up.

Presenter: Jane Fort **EE Competency:** Professionalism

[Exceptional Child Toolkit: Working with Children with Special Needs - Part 1](#)

Join Holly Cromer and learn to increase your comfort level of working with children who have special needs and improve your ability to work with all children. Included in the session: practical skills/tools and methodology. Attention will be given to the "accidentally included" child, who may not be identified as disabled, and to the most significantly disabled child. We will take the approach of being the best possible teachers to all children, coming from a place of love, inclusion, and confidence. Attention will also be given to current trends in today's culture that have serious impact for early childhood, addressing how we can step up to the plate and minister in tangible ways.

Presenter: Holly Cromer **EE Competency:** Early Intervention, Special Needs, and Inclusion

[Exceptional Child Toolkit: Working with Children with Special Needs - Part 2](#)

As a follow-up to Part 1, Holly Cromer will continue to increase your comfort level of working with children who have special needs and improve your ability to work with all children. Included in the session: practical skills/tools and methodology. Attention will be given to the "accidentally included" child, who may not be identified as disabled, and to the most significantly disabled child. We will take the approach of being the best possible teachers to all children, coming from a place of love, inclusion, and confidence. Attention will also be given to current trends in today's culture that have serious impact for early childhood, addressing how we can step up to the plate and minister in tangible ways.

Presenter: Holly Cromer **EE Competency:** Early Intervention, Special Needs, and Inclusion

[Extend Your Read Alouds Through STEM and STEAM Explorations!](#)

Encourage creativity, innovation, and collaboration through science, technology, engineering, math, and the arts! Explore engaging ideas for STEM/STEAM activities you can do with your students that are based on literature and informational text.

Presenter: Judy Ross **EE Competency:** Learning Environment and Curriculum



[Fearfully and Wonderfully Made - Part 1](#)

God fashioned each child to develop in a unique and special way. The role of the early educator is to accept, embrace and support children by meeting their needs right where they are developmentally. During part 1 of this training Jeannie Forrest and Kristi Speaks will explore some of the needs of young children and how to best equip yourself and your classroom with loving and teaching the least of these.

Presenter: Jeannie Forrest **EE Competency:** Early Intervention, Special Needs, and Inclusion

[Fearfully and Wonderfully Made - Part 2](#)

God fashioned each child to develop in a unique and special way. As a follow up to part 1, Jeannie Forrest and Kristi Speaks we will explore specific ways to equip your program, classroom and teaching to support the varying needs of young children with sensory processing and other developmental needs.

Presenter: Jeannie Forrest **EE Competency:** Early Intervention, Special Needs, and Inclusion

[Fearfully and Wonderfully Made: Understanding How God's Perfect Design Relates to Teaching and Learning](#)

In this interactive, highly engaging session, participants will learn what brain research says about how young children learn. New technology and extensive research on learning and the brain have provided insight into God's perfect design. Using this research as a guide, teachers can better understand how to inspire motivation, gain attention, enhance memory, and strengthen cognition in young children. Dr. Linnea Lyding will offer concrete, easy-to-use strategies based on this science. Participants will apply this new learning while creating activities for their own classrooms.

Presenter: Linnea Lyding **EE Competency:** Child Development and Learning; Cognitive

[Feeling Safe to Learn: Social and Emotional Learning in Early Ed](#)

One of the many goals of an early education teacher is to foster a sense of safety for their young learners. Children need to feel safe in order for learning to be more meaningful. But how do we do this well? Creating safe spaces to learn can include examining the physical safety, emotional safety, and safety for how children grow socially. Join us as Dr. Lori Cooper with Wilkes University shares insight from her research where she examined how social-emotional learning impacts how a teacher leads the classroom.

Presenter: Lori Cooper **EE Competency:** Child Development and Learning; Social & Emotional

[God's Design of a Child's Brain](#)

Children learn through play. How often have we heard this? But what is play? Are playing the piano, playing Candy Land®, playing tag, and playing house all the same? Dr. Marcy Guddemi will help us to explore the true meaning of play, the value found in many types of play, and how the highest form of play-sociodramatic play-helps develop important parts of the brain. Also featured is understanding the beauty of how God designed brain development.

Presenter: Marcy Guddemi **EE Competency:** Learning Environment and Curriculum

[Health and Nutrition God's Way](#)

Teaching young children about health and nutrition can be challenging. The key is to break it down into bite sized pieces and get them involved in their learning. This session will encourage early educators to remember that God made us in His image and that He made us fearfully and wonderfully. As a result, we have a responsibility to steward our bodies. We'll discuss teaching stewardship to young children including sleep, exercise, fresh air, sunshine, learning about healthy food and making wise food choices.

Presenter: Kim Brucker **EE Competency:** Health, Safety and Nutrition

[How to Grow a Child's Love for God](#)

We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power and the wonders he has done. . . then they will put their trust in God." Psalm 78:4. How do we put this call from God into action in our classrooms? Join Cyndi Bailey and learn how to go beyond Bible Stories and Chapel Time to draw little hearts to God.

Presenter: Cyndi Bailey **EE Competency:** Child Development and Learning; Spiritual

[Imbedding Early Intervention into the Early Childhood Classroom for the Child with Dyslexic Characteristics](#)

Did you know that one in five children struggle to develop foundational reading skills before third grade due to a neurological difference in learning known as dyslexia? Join us for a session with Certified Academic Language Therapist, Tammy Kennington, in which we'll define dyslexia, develop an awareness of typical characteristics in early childhood, and develop hands-on instructional strategies to support children with or without phonological deficits.

Presenter: Tammy Kennington **EE Competency:** Early Intervention, Special Needs, and Inclusion



[Inspire Your Students to Become Makers, Tinkerers, and Innovators through STEM and STEAM](#)

Explore innovative ideas, resources, and materials for creating “makerspaces” where students can “tinker” and invent! Judy Ross will help you to discover how familiar foods, toys, and household items were invented—and how many successful inventions came about because an inventor made a “mistake” and persevered to solve the problem or discovered a new direction. Develop skills in science, technology, engineering, math, and the arts (STEM/STEAM) through innovation and invention!

Presenter: Judy Ross

EE Competency: Learning Environment and Curriculum

[Inquiry Learning Experiences in Early Childhood](#)

Join Jennifer Kleiber of Corban University for a session that will provide ideas and opportunities to begin to think and plan for inquiry learning in EE classrooms. We will talk about how to engage in small and large group discussions around questions that help students build wonderment and curiosity about our world, even at the earliest stages of their educational development. We will also discuss how to increase the power of inquiry-based learning and play through developing specific goals for language and literacy development.

Presenter: Jennifer Kleiber

EE Competency: Learning Environment and Curriculum

[Inspire S.T.E.M. Learning through Children’s Books](#)

Come and learn along with Dr. Jenny Sue as she shares with you some of her favorite children’s books and connects them to science and engineering topics. Dr. Jenny Sue will also share some of her favorite learning activities that go along with the stories.

Presenter: Jenny Sue Flannigan **EE Competency:** Learning Environment and Curriculum

[Made in God’s Image: Teaching Cultural Diversity in Early Education](#)

Panel discussion with Ky’ra Myers, Yvonne Jones, Jerry Nelson and Jeannie Forrest. Each of us is created in the image of God and created for His purpose. Our identity is rooted in who we are in Christ and not solely on our race or cultural differences. Teaching children these truths and having conversations related to how we are all the same yet uniquely different can begin during the early years. Engage with us as a panel discusses approaches to teaching children about differences related to diversity and cultures in God’s world.

Presenter: Panel

EE Competency: Cultural and Linguistic Diversity

[Make Some Music, Add Some Movement, and Have Some Fun!](#)

When you lead a classroom or lead a large group “music time”, there are tons of songs to let your kiddos have fun while they learn, sing, dance, and play. And guess what – kids love to move! Melissa McKenzie will share how music and movement activities promote physical well-being, fine and gross motor development, and support early literacy skills. When we put music and movement together, we get the WHOLE child involved in the learning process!

Presenter: Melissa McKenzie

EE Competency: Learning Environment and Curriculum

[Make the Connection: Parental Involvement in Early Education](#)

Quality early education programs support families through meaningful ministries. This workshop will give directors and teachers practical tools and resource ideas on how to be intentional in creating a faith based ministry to children and their families.

Presenter: Sara Jo Dillard

EE Competency: Family Relationships

[Nurturing Healthy Attachment](#)

Understanding attachment will help parents create meaningful and secure relationships that last a lifetime. In this session, Dr. Barbara Sorrels, author of the award-winning book, “Reaching and Teaching Children Exposed to Trauma”, will discuss the process by which attachment unfolds, how to nurture connections at various stages of development and how child development aligns with Biblical truth.

Presenter: Barbara Sorrels

EE Competency: Relationships, Interactions and Child Guidance

[Positive Behavior Support in Preschool Classrooms - part 1](#)

Carly Bedard will help us discover the basics of implementing Positive Behavior Support into early childhood classrooms to help create successful classroom experiences which help to promote positive behaviors. We will focus on building relationships with children and families, establishing classroom rules, and fostering social and emotional skills development. We will also explore practical ways that you can foster a caring classroom community characterized by positive behaviors, love, and respect.

Presenter: Carly Bedard

EE Competency: Relationships, Interactions, and Child Guidance



[Positive Behavior Support in Preschool Classrooms - part 2](#)

Continue with part 2 as Carly Bedard explores how to discover the basics of implementing Positive Behavior Support into early childhood classrooms to help create successful classroom experiences which help to promote positive behaviors. We will focus on building relationships with children and families, establishing classroom rules, and fostering social and emotional skills development. We will also explore practical ways that you can foster a caring classroom community characterized by positive behaviors, love, and respect.

Presenter: Carly Bedard

EE Competency: Relationships, Interactions, and Child Guidance

[Preparing Kids to Think Critically in a Secular World](#)

It's no secret that today's world is becoming increasingly secular and is strongly challenging the faith of young Christians. Research has repeatedly shown that at least 60 percent of young adults are walking away from Christianity, in large part due to intellectual challenges to their beliefs. Apologetics--the case for and defense of the truth of Christianity--is a necessary foundation for kids to have in order to think critically about faith in the midst of these secular challenges. Many assume, however, that such training is only appropriate and relevant for high school age youth. To the contrary, we can and should begin helping kids form a more robust Christian worldview as early as preschool. In this session national speaker, author and blogger, Natasha Crain, will share eight key pieces of understanding that Christian educators can help young kids develop that will prepare them to more thoughtfully engage with questions of faith in today's secular world.

Presenter: Natasha Crain

EE Competency: Child Development and Learning; Spiritual

[Parent and Family Engagement](#)

Developing meaningful relationships with parents will enable early educators to individually support children and collaborate towards providing the best care for the child. Learn more about practical ways to build a bridge of trust between home and school.

Presenter: Rebeca Rosa

EE Competency: Family, Relationships, Interactions, and Child Guidance

[Proactively Preventing Behavior Problems](#)

Learn from Elisabeth Jochum how to be intentional with your schedule, your space, and your methods in order to prevent many common behavior problems and interruptions. This webinar is designed to be very practical, including music recommendations and many other tools and tricks that make the preschool day more fun for everyone! We also discuss how to manage minor behaviors and interruptions with the least fuss, and how to keep preschoolers attentive and engaged!

Presenter: Elisabeth Jochum

EE Competency: Relationships, Interactions, and Child Guidance

[Red Flags in the Development of Young Children](#)

Green means Go; Yellow means Caution; Red means Attention!! What are the developmental "Red Flags" that appear to affect the young child in their learning? Join NILD specialist Miriam Jordan and discover how these red flags hinder the learning process through "real life scenarios". Age appropriate activities and strategies for young children ages 2-4 addressing these challenges are incorporated throughout this session.

Presenter: Miriam Jordan

EE Competency: Early Intervention, Special Needs and Inclusion

[Re-engage Play for Healthy Learning](#)

Why is play so important in the lives of young learners? What is the role of play after seasons of online learning? Why should play be a priority for Early Childhood teachers in the midst of and after challenging or stressful times? Teachers can utilize play to encourage young children to re-engage with one another and with learning after challenging experiences. Play provides the structure for beneficial growth and development for young children. Play should be an integral part of the lives of young children. In 1 Corinthians 13:11, Paul reminds us that being a child is distinctly different from being an adult. Christian educators must preserve and promote the methods and environments that are best for the young children in our care.

Presenter: Michelle Clevenger

EE Competency: Child Development and Learning; Social & Emotional



[Reimagine Fundraising - A Fresh and Innovative Approach to Generating Funds for Your School](#)

Explore a new approach to raising funds for your school program. We'll take a fresh look at understanding your true needs, setting a simple but strategic plan, and building partnerships to engage the community in your mission. Implementing simple principles discussed in this session can help you improve desired results, decrease staff time invested and change the landscape of support for your program. You will leave this session with real examples of how a twist on the traditional approach to fundraising can work for you and the tools to formulate and execute a solid, more efficient, effort.

Presenter: Rebecca Harsila **EE Competency:** Leadership

[Relationships with Parents](#)

We say early educators see parents as partners. Cyndi Bailey will explain that to make this a reality we need to build bridges with parents via communication strategies, family involvement ideas and creating home-school connections.

Presenter: Cyndi Bailey **EE Competency:** Family Relationships

[Resilience in Young Children-Teaching with Hope](#)

Are our young children exhibiting hope or fear? Are they developing resilient spirits? An absence of hope and fear of failure is all too prevalent in a contemporary culture which often emphasizes performance over process. Romans 5:3-5 emphasize the value of suffering as it eventually develops perseverance, resulting in hope. Resilience requires perseverance in adversity, resulting in hope gained through difficult experiences, supported by our faithful, never-failing Father God. During this training, we will be prepared to: explain why children should be allowed to fail, identify specific practices in the early childhood classroom for reducing stress and anxiety, and communicate with families and caregivers key ideas for promoting resilience in young children. God is continually at work within each believer. Philippians 1:6 reminds us the work of spiritual completeness is a gradual process. This principle is key for learning to deal with failure and persevering in all areas of development.

Presenter: Lynn Hoekstra **EE Competency:** Child Development and Learning; Social & Emotional

[Sensory, Behavior or Both?](#)

Each child processes sensory stimulation differently. Some may crave touch while others avoid it. Some may not register auditory stimulation until it is as loud as can be while others cover their ears at the slightest whisper. Managing these behaviors in the classroom can be difficult. It is often hard to determine if behaviors are sensory processing difficulties or outright behavior difficulties. This session will take a look at some of these behaviors, examine what sensory processing issues may be contributing to them, and generate possible solutions to address them.

Presenter: Kate Haddock **EE Competency:** Child Development and Learning

[S.T.E.M./S.T.E.A.M Activities for Your Classroom](#)

Have you been wanting to do more S.T.E.M./S.T.E.A.M activities in your early childhood classroom but just don't know where to start? Come and join Dr. Jenny Sue Flannagan of Regent University as she shows you some simple activities, experiments, and engineering ideas you can do with your budding scientists and engineers! Learn how to connect fun with science and biblical concepts.

Presenter: Jenny Sue Flannigan **EE Competency:** Learning Environment and Curriculum

[Simple Sign Language to Enhance Learning](#)

Add sign language to enhance your classroom learning experience. During this interactive session, you will learn the benefits of utilizing sign language and how to introduce simple signs into daily routines. Learn also how to communicate the important truth we want all children to know - that Jesus loves me and Jesus loves you!

Presenter: Jennifer Freese **EE Competency:** Early Intervention, Special Needs, and Inclusion

[Speak to Me](#)

Join Julia Hendry of the Child Development Education Alliance (CDEA) as she looks at the importance of speaking to young children and connecting with them through meaningful and purposeful conversations that foster love. In this session, Julia will share age-appropriate language activities that will foster language development. Learn how to assess language activities for optimal learning opportunities and practice ways to play language games with young children. We'll also discuss ways to foster spiritual development through purposeful and meaningful conversations with young children. We will also learn how to use music and finger-plays as a tool for strengthening a child's vocabulary.

Presenter: Julia Hendry **EE Competency:** Child Development and Learning; Cognitive



[Staff Retention from Inception | Effective Interviewing + Onboarding](#)

Learn the key components of an effective onboarding strategy that will help you avoid the overwhelming feeling of building a team and leave you with a sense of peace and confidence in selecting the best team players. Join this inspiring session presented by experienced business owner and coach, Beth Cannon to nail down what you value in an employee and create a process to communicate the values and mission of your organization from the interview through the onboarding process. Learn an exact framework for breaking apart the components of your unique onboarding system and laying it into a systematic and consistent process. Understand the importance of training instructional design, which means moving away from paper manuals and creating a more engaging and interactive onboarding experience.

Presenter: Beth Cannon

EE Competency: Leadership

[Strategies for Addressing the Effects of COVID19 on Early Childhood Education and Care](#)

The pandemic is contributing to adverse outcomes for many parents and subsequently, children. The impacts of COVID-19 are directly related to delays in development and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) for many young learners. Birth to age five is a critical period for brain development. During this time, the brain develops more than at any other time in a person's life. The quality of a child's early experiences and early learning shape the child's ability to learn and contribute to lifelong success. It is important for Christian early educators to understand the impacts of COVID-19 in relation to the changes in child development thus, the need to implement multisensory Bible integrated instructional strategies and trauma-informed practices that provide each child with opportunities to learn through play, movement, and their own approaches to learning, cultures, and abilities. This training equips participants with the tools needed to promote holistic child development through caring interactions and standards-aligned instruction.

Presenter: Althea Penn

EE Competency: Child Development and Learning; Cognitive

[Stress Management for Christian Educators](#)

If you ever struggle with stress management, this session is for you. Join Dr. June Hetzel of Biola University to learn from 936 global teachers' perspectives as we explore three questions: What is stress and how do teachers experience stress across the globe? How well am I managing my energy? What spiritual disciplines are protective factors for stress? While stress will always be with us, it is never too late to gain insights regarding life balance, workload management, and patterns of action that help us spiritually, physically, psychologically, and emotionally navigate the complex landscape of Christian school ministry.

Presenter: June Hetzel

EE Competency: Professionalism

[Teaching Generation Alpha](#)

Young children are growing up with unprecedented access to screens, media, entertainment, and a relatively new digital world. Make no mistake, this affects how we teach this generation in today's classroom. Join Royce Nelsestuen of Faith Community Academy as she shares about the effects of excessive screen time on the development of our youngest learners, and how we can provide balance in our schools so that our students grow up healthy. We will talk about current research regarding child development, key elements every teacher should include in the classroom, and coaching parents along the way.

Presenter: Royce Nelsestuen

EE Competency: Learning Environment and Curriculum

[Teaching the Gospel to Children](#)

We all fight a spiritual enemy who delights in taking the gospel and twisting it into a subtle deception called "Moralism". Biblical morals are good. But unless we are careful children can believe that following rules is the way to earn favor with God. Gospel centered teaching says our behavior can never be "good" enough to make us right with God. In this session, Barbara Reaach, author of "A Jesus Christmas," will help you discover how to teach in a gospel centered way.

Presenter: Barbara Reaach

EE Competency: Child Development and Learning; Spiritual

[Teaching the Whole Child: The Importance of Social Development](#)

Because every area of development impacts the readiness of the child, programs must be careful to not neglect educating the whole child. The over-emphasis in today's culture on early academics (the cognitive dimension) often has a negative impact on a child's social wellbeing. Dr. Milt Uecker will overview seven basic social development needs as a means of evaluating a program's overall effectiveness. The means to address these needs within the classroom setting will be examined along with the consequences of neglecting the social/emotional growth of the child. Some of the topics include safety, self-esteem, relationships, trust, discipline, play, and stress.

Presenter: Milt Uecker

EE Competency: Child Development and Learning; Social & Emotional



[The Impact of Trauma on Healthy Growth and Development](#)

Increasing numbers of children today experience and live among life circumstances that are toxic to healthy growth and development. Trauma in the first five years of life can result in a multi-system failure of brain development, the attachment, regulatory, sensory processing, social and learning systems. In this session, Dr. Barbara Sorrels, author of the award-winning book, "Reaching and Teaching Children Exposed to Trauma", will give an overview of the impact of trauma on healthy growth and development of young children.

Presenter: Barbara Sorrels **EE Competency:** Child Development and Learning; Social & Emotional

[The Lies our Children Believe](#)

"Has God really said that?" Every day kids talk to kids who disagree with what they know from home. On the playground, at school, in the neighborhood, and even at church our children will hear, "God isn't really going to do that!" How can we minimize the confusion caused by opinions and biases of the culture? In this session, Barbara Reaach, author of "A Jesus Christmas," will explore how to prepare our children to recognize lies and know what is true. (There is no handout available for this training.)

Presenter: Barbara Reaach **EE Competency:** Child Development and Learning; Social & Emotional

[Time 4 Discovery Math - Developing the Young Child's Love of Numbers](#)

God created the young child's brain with the ability to recognize quantity. Early educators' build on this ability by helping children learn to love numbers. Do you want ideas on how to immerse young children in dynamic activities that foster the understanding of what numbers mean? NILD's Kristin Barbour will share how Time 4 Discovery Math is designed to develop young children's ability to recognize patterns, shapes, and increase awareness of everyday usage of numbers. Suggestions and ideas for number sense learning centers are discussed during this webinar.

Presenter: Kristin Barbour **EE Competency:** Learning Environment and Curriculum

[Turn Your Day Inside Out - An Outdoor Classroom Project](#)

According to Eric Nelson, founder of the Outdoor Classroom Project, "Everything you can do indoors, you can do outdoors and even more!" In this session, Allison Jessee, will discuss the developmental benefits of extended time outdoors, as well as give practical ways to move more of our activities and centers outside. We will also look at how outdoor play aligns with developmental and learning domains.

Presenter: Alison Jessee **EE Competency:** Learning Environment and Curriculum

[Understanding and Building Supportive Relationships with Children Who Have Experienced Trauma](#)

Every 10 seconds a child is abused in the United States and, sadly, those at highest risk are children ages 1-3. Join Tammy Kennington, a Certified Academic Language Therapist and ACE Master Trainer at ALLIEs (Alliance for Literacy and Excellence), as she examines the impact of early trauma on young children and provides practical ways in which early childhood educators and schools can implement practical tools that foster resilience in the lives of those who have experienced early trauma.

Presenter: Tammy Kennington **EE Competency:** Relationships, Interactions and Child Guidance

[Understanding Individual Differences: Motivational Gifts](#)

Discover your God-given motivational gifts and understand the style of others for improved relationships with coworkers, parents, and students of all ages from infants through adult. Learn how to create an environment in your school that makes everyone feel accepted and eager to become involved. Are you drained or energized? Are you walking in your God-given gifts?

Presenter: Cindy Barnum **EE Competency:** Relationships, Interactions and Child Guidance

[Using Children's Literature for Instruction with Very Young Children](#)

Children love books, and there are many available for us today. During this webinar, Penny Clawson will examine the many ways to use these wonderful resources for more than read aloud story time. Children of all ages can learn from the story and the characters, the written word created by the authors, and the information prepared for us. Participate with us and be stimulated in new directions with books.

Presenter: Penny Clawson **EE Competency:** Learning Environment and Curriculum

[What Does the Bible Say About Social Emotional Development?](#)

"Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in Him". Watch and explore the connection between love, God, and an emotionally healthy school.

Presenter: Dave Hill **EE Competency:** Child Development and Learning; Social & Emotional

