



ACSI Early Education Anchored Workshop: *Designing Learning Experiences that Unleash Student Thinking through Inquiry and God's Word*

August 1, 2024 - Plano, TX

To unleash student thinking, we must first anchor our lessons in God's Word, and understand our children have been wired to inquire. When we begin designing lessons that start with sparking wonder and curiosity, children want to learn and know the mysteries of God. Learning is enriched when we intentionally make meaningful connections between the content, we throughout our day while using play as a vehicle to engage children in the learning process. Lastly, when we build in the right scaffolds and strategies, all children can learn.

8:00 a.m. Registration Opens

8:30 a.m. **Welcome, Introductions, Instructions**

Session 1: Beginning with Wonder and Curiosity

God used a burning bush that was not consumed to draw Moses to him. It was curiosity that inspired the research into understanding how God designed our world. In this session, we will explore how to make a simple change in instruction that taps into a child's natural sense of wonder and curiosity to make learning engaging. At the end of this session, you will be able answer how your classroom can be a place for fostering wonder and curiosity while pointing children to God.

10:00 a.m. Break

10:15 a.m. **Session 2: Creating Meaningful Connections between what You Teach!**

In this next session, we will look at how you can use natural connections between content areas you teach to show your students that God has a reason and purpose for all that we learn each day. These ideas will also help you to work smarter not harder throughout the day! At this end of this session, you will be able to envision how your classroom can be a place for building connections between subject areas!

12:00 p.m. Lunch (provided)

12:45 p.m. **Session 3: Meaningful Play and Student Choice**

Play is serious research! In this session we will explore how you can carefully design learning experiences that feel like play but engage your children in serious learning! At the end of this session, you will walk away with ideas and suggestions to help your classroom be a place for engaging kids in meaningful and playful learning that give students a voice!

2:15 p.m. Break

2:30 p.m. **Session 4: Using Strategies and Scaffolds to Support Students**

We will end our time together getting real about the fact that we do not have a cookie cutter classroom! God has designed our students to be different! At the end of this session, you will walk away with real ideas strategies and scaffolds to help you reach the students who enter your classroom by responding to their learning needs.

3:30 p.m. **Closing Comments**