

We're going virtual!

Changing  
Tomorrow

One Child at  
a Time

Celebrating  
Connections 2021

April 21-23

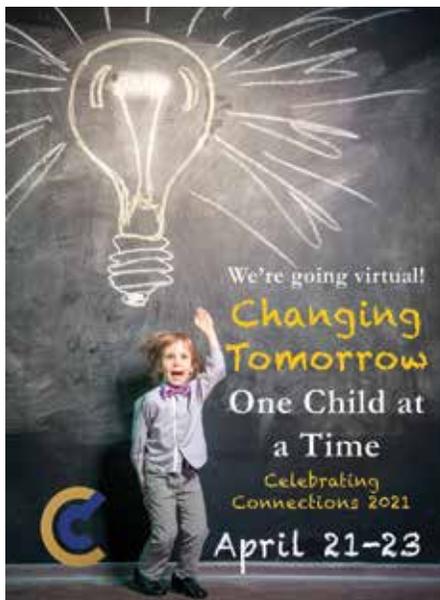


**LISTEN...**  
 To dynamic national, state and local speakers who will motivate and entertain you.

**LEARN...**  
 Knowledge that will bring you up-to-date on current early care and education practices.

**ENJOY...**  
 Stimulating conversation while exchanging ideas with other professionals.

**Celebrating  
 Connections  
 2021**



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# Welcome to Celebrating Connections 2021

## “Changing Tomorrow: One Child at a Time”

The early childhood programs of West Virginia welcome you to the annual Celebrating Connections Conference. The success of the early childhood community begins with you as educators. Your enthusiasm is the reason for Celebrating Connections’ success. This year’s conference has been designed to provide relevant information about practices, policies, planning, and research that enhances community partnerships and quality in early care and education. You will also have the opportunity to network with other professionals and participate in a diverse array of early childhood education discussions. All those involved in the conference would like to thank you for your continued dedication to young children.

### Your Conference Program

Contained within this program is all the information you will need to be an active participant in this conference. Regardless of whether you are seeking information about the conference sessions, program presenters, or other events, you should take the time to familiarize yourself with its contents. Please note registration instructions and forms are located on pages 5-7.

For more information, call West Virginia Early Childhood Training Connections and Resources at 1-888-983-2827.

### West Virginia’s Annual Early Childhood Conference is sponsored by:

WV Department of Education:

- Office of Early and Elementary Learning

WV Dept. of Health & Human Resources:

- Bureau for Public Health/Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health/ WV Birth to Three & West Virginia Home Visitation Program
- Bureau for Children and Families/Division of Early Care and Education
- WV Head Start State Collaboration Office

### Conference Planning Committee

Ginger Huffman, Chair  
Sara Miller, Coordinator

Michele Baranaskas  
Suzi Brodof  
Melanie Clark  
Michelle Comer  
Trella Coppola  
Alyson Edwards  
Rhonda Fisher  
Alisha Gary  
Olivia Gregorich

Brooke Hunter  
Teresa Lawlor  
Aaron Morris  
Jackie Newson  
Pam Roush  
Elizabeth Teel  
Debbie Withrow  
Mel Woodcock  
Sheila Zickefoose

Special thanks to the staff of WVECTCR for all their assistance.

### Conference Objectives

- Promote effective and positive practices when working with children and families.
- Highlight state and local programs which demonstrate effective practices with young children and families.
- Share information regarding community collaboration.
- Provide networking opportunities for the early childhood community.
- Learn practical solutions for community involvement and supporting families.
- Create an opportunity for early childhood programs to better understand each other through common experiences.
- Create opportunities to learn about program specifics such as policies, standards, and transition procedures for Head Start, public/private/special education preschool, Early Head Start, child care, WV Birth to Three, Home Visitation, and the Universal Pre-K system.
- Develop strategies to advocate for young children and families in the state within early care and education.
- Create an environment that fosters collaboration within the early care and education community.

## Celebrating Connections–Agenda at a Glance

	Wednesday, April 21	Thursday, April 22	Friday, April 23
9:00 am	<p style="text-align: center;">Keynote Address</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Building Your Bounce: 23 Questions That Can Change the Way You Look at Life!”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Nefertiti Poyner</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Keynote Address</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Don’t Get So Upset!” Help Young Children Manage Their Feelings by Understanding Your Own</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Tamar Jacobson</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Keynote Address</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“What If Today Was Their Only Day?”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lisa Murphy</p>
11:00 am	<p style="text-align: center;">Session A Concurrent Sessions</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:00 am - 12 noon</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Session D Concurrent Sessions</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:00 am - 12 noon</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Session G Concurrent Sessions</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:00 am - 12 noon</p>
1:00 pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Session B Concurrent Sessions</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:00 - 3 :00 pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Session E Concurrent Sessions</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:00 - 3:00 pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Session H Concurrent Sessions</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:00 - 3:00 pm</p>
4:00 pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Session C Concurrent Sessions</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4:00 - 5:00 pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Session F Concurrent Sessions</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4:00 - 6:00 pm</p>	
	<p><b>Thank you for attending the 2021 Celebrating Connections Conference!</b></p>		

# General Information & Conference Registration

## Where is the Conference Located?

For the first time, Celebrating Connections 2021 will be a virtual conference. Upon online registration, you will be provided session links to access these live presentations April 21-23.

## Accessibility

While every effort is made to ensure this virtual conference is as barrier-free as possible, some challenges may still exist. Your expertise and feedback in barrier identification will allow us to remedy these areas of concern for future events.

## Electronic Handouts

Handouts will be available on the Eventsquid platform for participants prior and during the conference. As we move forward with this effort to “go green”, please note that no handouts will be mailed out.

## What is the Exhibit Hall and When is it Open?

Celebrating Connections 2021 plans to host a virtual “Exhibit Hall”. This will be a clickable area where exhibitors can supply a logo, link or profile page to share area businesses related to the early childhood field. Most exhibitors have something unique to share, so drop in and see what you can learn! The Exhibit Hall will be accessible throughout April 21-23 on the Eventsquid platform.

## What Are the Benefits of Registering Early and How Do I Register?

For the first time, Celebrating Connections conference registration is going electronic. Please visit <https://www.eventsquid.com/event/11363> to complete your registration. If you MUST complete your registration by mail, please contact Sara Miller at 304-528-3459 or by email at [smiller@rvcds.org](mailto:smiller@rvcds.org). We encourage all participants to register via our new online system to avoid any delays in registration. **Online Registration deadline is April 10, 2021.** Registering early will help ensure workshop selections, as there are capacity limitations on some sessions. Payment forms accepted include credit card, purchase order, money order, or check. If paying by check or money order, the check number must be included in online registration and payment must be received within three business days. Registration will not be processed until payment is

received in full. When sending payment, please indicate the names of the participants that are included in the payment. Purchase orders must be paid upon receipt of invoice.

## Online registration process:

- Visit [http://www.wvearlychildhood.org/Celebrating\\_Connections.html](http://www.wvearlychildhood.org/Celebrating_Connections.html)
- Click on the Registration Link (will redirect you to our Eventsquid registration platform)
- Complete registration and log in information as instructed
- Identify your payment method and include check or PO number, if appropriate
- Submit registration

Please make payment to River Valley Child Development Services (RVCDs) attention: Celebrating Connections, 611 Seventh Avenue, Ste. 322, Huntington, WV 25701

## After Registration, Then What?

Once registration is submitted, all correspondence will be through your submitted email address, including CC2021 session links, handouts, and evaluations. Each session will have an individual link that you must access through a Virtual Event Organizing software. This software will track your sign in and out for CEU purposes. Prior to the conference, please familiarize yourself with the Eventsquid Platform for ease of navigation.

## Session Tracking

Within your Eventsquid Platform account, your session selections will be available for review and access during the conference. If you have any technical difficulties accessing your platform, please contact Sara Miller at [smiller@rvcds.org](mailto:smiller@rvcds.org).

## Are There Stipends Available?

Stipends are available for PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS BIRTH THROUGH 8 and CHILD CARE PROVIDERS who are unable to receive financial support from their affiliated agency. Stipends will be available beginning February 15, 2021. Celebrating Connections will also be offering additional stipends this year for those specifically living in the greater

# General Information & Conference Registration

Huntington area. This is a result of the generosity of the former Huntington Area Early Childhood Conference (HA ECC). Please contact conference coordinator Sara Miller for more details.

If you are interested in applying for a stipend, on **February 15**, please contact Sara Miller at West Virginia Early Childhood Training Connections and Resources (WV ECTCR) at 304-528-3459 or 888-983-2827 for eligibility and award amounts. Stipends are available on a first-come, first-serve basis and funds are LIMITED. Stipends will be awarded based upon number of days of attendance. Child care centers will be limited to 3 stipends. WV ECTCR reserves the right to decline an application for a stipend at any time. If you receive a stipend and are unable to attend the conference, please let WV ECTCR know immediately so the funds can be allocated to someone else.

## Reading the Workshop Descriptions

Workshop descriptions explain the presentation content and identify who benefits most from each workshop. Participants are encouraged to read each description thoroughly before making final selections.

In an effort to help you make informed decisions, each presenter has indicated the training content targeted area for each session. Please use the following legend to help you choose your sessions:

### Training Content Targeted Area:

- I - Infants
- T - Toddlers
- P - Preschoolers
- S - School Age
- M - Mixed Age Groups
- SN - Children with Special Needs
- A - Adults (content not applicable to a child's age)
- HV - Home Visitation

## WV Core Knowledge and Competencies

West Virginia's Core Knowledge and Competencies for Early Childhood Professionals are a core body of knowledge relating to the developmentally appropriate, family-centered, and child-nurturing practices needed by all those who care for and educate young

children. The core competencies are necessary to promote the optimal development of all children, including those with special needs, and to address the needs of families. The workshops presented at the 2021 Celebrating Connections Conference meet contact hours for Early Care and Education Competencies and Infant/Toddler Mental Health Competencies.

## Continuing Education Units (CEUs)

The conference committee is working to receive approval for graduate credit (must attend 3 days of the conference) and CEUs in Social Work, Nursing, WV Birth to Three, WV STARS, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Language Pathology, Counseling, and Professional Development Graduate Hours. For more information regarding CEUs, please review our website information.

In order to receive CEUs for each session, you must be present for the entire session. Attendance will be automatically documented through the Eventsquid Platform. It is your responsibility to document CEU credits. Use the CEU certificate provided on [http://www.wvearlychildhood.org/Celebrating\\_Connections.html](http://www.wvearlychildhood.org/Celebrating_Connections.html) to record your participation. Please review your CEU/licensing certification requirements before attending the conference. We hope this will be helpful to you when applying for credit. Please do not give or send the conference committee any of your CEU forms or information. We do not submit your CEU forms to your licensing body.

## Courtesy

Please be courteous to your fellow participants and presenters by muting yourself during sessions and utilizing the raise hand and chat box when you wish to ask questions.

## Evaluation/Feedback

This is our first ever effort in a virtual conference of this size. We are constantly learning and growing with technology. Therefore, we would like not only your suggestions, but your compliments, so we can discover what works and what should be changed. Please complete the overall conference evaluation form provided within the Eventsquid Platform so we can learn as we move forward.

# Conference Registration Form

Online registration is preferred. Please visit [wwearlychildhood.org/Celebrating\\_Connections.html](http://wwearlychildhood.org/Celebrating_Connections.html).

Please remember to enclose FULL PAYMENT or Purchase Order for your registration. All paper registrations must be postmarked by March 20, 2021. After March 20, 2021, paper registrations will be returned unprocessed. Please return with payment to: RVCDS, Attn: Celebrating Connections, 611 Seventh Avenue, Suite 322, Huntington, WV 25701.

Please see the back of this page to make workshop selections and conference fees.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Initial Last

Name for Badge: \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Work Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, and Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Do You Require Any Special Assistance?  Sign Language Interpreter  
 Alternative Formats (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*The following information is optional. This information enables us to meet our reporting requirements and helps to provide appropriate services to families and children. (Check all that apply)

## PROFESSION/DISCIPLINE:

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent  | <input type="checkbox"/> Public School Preschool    | <input type="checkbox"/> In Home Family Child Care Provider                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Surrogate parent                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Education Educator | <input type="checkbox"/> Service Coordinator in the Birth to Three System  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent of a child in the Birth to Three System    | <input type="checkbox"/> Kindergarten Teacher       | <input type="checkbox"/> Service Practitioner in the Birth to Three System |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent of a child with a developmental disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Preschool Educator | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Service Coordinator                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Higher Education                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Head Start Teacher         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Worker                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Starting Points                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Head Start Assistant       | <input type="checkbox"/> Program Administrator                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Early Head Start           | <input type="checkbox"/> Advocate  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Therapy                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Classroom Aide             | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Protective Services Personnel               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Occupational Therapy                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Care Center Teacher  | <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Specialty Care Provider                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Speech/Language                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Care Center Aide     | <input type="checkbox"/> Home Visitor                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Right from the Start Provider                     | <input type="checkbox"/> CCR&R                      | <input type="checkbox"/> MIHOW   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foster Parent                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Parents as Teachers        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy Families America                          |   |  |

## Ethnic Group:

- |   |  |                                      |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> African American | <input type="checkbox"/> Native American | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic         | <input type="checkbox"/> Caucasian       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

# Conference Registration Form

Registration  
(Postmarked by 3/20/2021)

**General Conference Institutes and Sessions:**

All Three Days			\$75
Any Two Days	<input type="checkbox"/> April 21	<input type="checkbox"/> April 22	\$55
Any One Day	<input type="checkbox"/> April 21	<input type="checkbox"/> April 22	\$30

**WORKSHOP SELECTIONS**

You MUST indicate 2 choices. Please fill in the session number next to the letter.

	First Choice	Second Choice
<u>Wednesday</u>		
Sessions A1-A5 (11:00 AM-12:00 PM)	A-	A-
Sessions B1-B6 (1:00-3:00 PM)	B-	B-
Sessions C1-C5 (4:00-5:00 PM)	C-	C-
<u>Thursday</u>		
Sessions D1-D5 (11:00 AM-12:00 PM)	D-	D-
Sessions E1-E6 (1:00-3:00 PM)	E-	E-
Sessions F1-F6 (4:00-6:00 PM)	F-	F-
<u>Friday</u>		
Sessions G1-G5 (11:00 AM-12:00 PM)	G-	G-
Sessions H1-H6 (1:00-3:00 PM)	H-	H-

**PAYMENT METHOD \*\*Please make checks out to River Valley Child Development Services (RVCDS)\*\***

My payment method is:	Personal Check	Agency Check	Purchase Order	Money Order	Credit Card
Please fill in check # or PO # in the appropriate space	Check #	Check #	PO#	Check#	Type (circle one) Visa MC Discover (see below) *AMEX is NOT accepted

**Credit Card Information:**

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Card #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Billing Address and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Keynote Presentation:

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

**“Building Your Bounce: 23 Questions That Can Change the Way You Look at Life!”**



**Presented by**

**Nefertiti Poyner, Ed.D., Early Childhood Specialist/Lead Trainer, Devereux Center for Resilient Children, Villanova, PA**

Building Your Bounce is a presentation designed to meet you where you are and take you to a place of greater strength, determination, and resiliency. Participants are sure to leave this presentation with energy, enthusiasm, and a commitment to make a few positive changes in their lives that will lead to greater happiness and fulfillment that will undoubtedly resonate in the work they do every day with children and families.

This presentation will emphasize how important it is that adults take care of themselves and promote their social-emotional health; how the social-emotional well-being of adults impacts the children in their care in both positive and negative ways; and specific, simple and inexpensive strategies to reduce stress and promote their social-emotional health.

## Concurrent Sessions 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

A-1

### Teaching Emotional Literacy in Early Childhood Classrooms

Level: Basic

ECE Core Knowledge: Child Growth & Development; Environment & Curriculum

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: P

This training will address emotional literacy which is the ability to identify, understand, and express feelings in an appropriate way. Emotional literacy skills are the building blocks of developing healthy relationships and learning self-regulation. This training will provide caregivers and teachers with ways to teach and support emotional literacy learning throughout the day.

**Presenter: Sara Smouse. Early Childhood Behavior Support Specialist, M.A., NBCT, West Virginia Behavior/Mental Health Technical Assistance Center at the Autism Training Center at Marshall University, Huntington, WV**

A-2

### Facilitating Transitions of Children and Families from WV Birth to Three to Pre-K

Level: Basic

ECE Core Knowledge: Family & Community

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: SN

In the reauthorization of the IDEIA, a mandated process of transition is described for young children as they approach the age of 30 months, from Part C to Part B services. A carefully charted process is in place which is intended to enhance the smoothness of this transition experience. This virtual session is designed to a) help participants explore and understand the concerns, priorities, and resources of families and children who are on the threshold of this transition, and to b) consider strategies and supports to enhance the meaningfulness and smoothness of this process.

**Presenter: Diane Smith Grych, Ph.D., Adjunct Instructor, Early Childhood Regents Bachelor of Arts, Concord University, Athens, WV**

**A-3**

**Assistive Technology 101**

Level: Basic  
ECE Core Competency: Child Growth & Development; Family & Community  
ITMH Competency:  
Training Content Targeted Area: M

An introduction to assistive technology (AT) and how it can be used to enhance the opportunities and independence of children with special needs at home and in the classroom. The presentation will also provide information about the WVATS program and how its services can be accessed throughout the state.

**Presenter: Jennifer Ham, AT Specialist, West Virginia Assistive Technology System (WVATS), West Virginia University Center for Excellence in Disabilities, Morgantown, WV**

**A-4**

**Connections Matter  
\*Part 1\***

Level: Basic  
ECE Core Knowledge: Child Growth & Development; Family and Community  
ITMH Competency:  
Training Content Targeted Area: M

Every day connections are more important than we ever believed. Our brain, our relationships, and our community are all inter-connected. Science tells us that relationships have the power to shape our brains. Relationships help us learn better, work better, parent better. When we experience tough times, positive relationships help us heal. With each positive connection, we develop a healthier, stronger community. This session uses video, discussion, and experiential activities. The curriculum was developed by Linda Chamberlain, Ph.D., for the Iowa Chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America, and brought to West Virginia by the West Virginia ACEs Coalition. [www.connectionsmatter.org](http://www.connectionsmatter.org)

**Presenters: Michele Baranaskas, LCSW, Coordinator, Parents in Community Outreach, a program of TEAM for West Virginia Children, Inc., West Virginia and Barbara Crawford Tucker, M.A., Adolescent Health Initiative Coordinator, West Virginia**

**A-5**

**It's Not Just Data - It's IMPACT**

Level: Basic  
ECE Core Knowledge: Professionalism & Leadership; Administration & Management  
ITMH Competency:  
Training Content Targeted Area: A

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) affects the impact you have on families and in your community. This hands-on learning session is for everyone who wants a brief review of CQI basics and also how to step up your CQI game to create the most impactful outcomes with rapid cycle testing and effective team building.

**Presenters: Gregg Oxley and Michelle Romanek, CQI Consultants, West Virginia Home Visitation Program, Charleston, WV**

**Concurrent Sessions  
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm**

**B-1**

**Project WET's Early Childhood Water Education:  
Getting Little Feet Wet  
\*Part 1\***

Level: Basic  
ECE Core Knowledge: Child Observation & Assessment; Environment & Curriculum  
ITMH Competency:  
Training Content Targeted Area: S

Getting Little Feet Wet is Project WET's (Water Education Today) early childhood curriculum guide. It was developed specifically for teachers working with children (ages 3-6). The guide contains 11 interactive, hands-on activities for young learners to explore different aspects of water—from water properties to water sounds. Each activity offers Pre-K and K-2 options and is correlated to educational standards. This is Part 1 of a two-part series and includes a material list for preparation.

**Presenter: Tomi M. Bergstrom, Western Watershed Basin & Project WET Coordinator, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, Charleston, WV**

B-2

### HELP!! I Think I'm Burned Out!

Level: Intermediate

ECE Core Knowledge: Professionalism & Leadership

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: A

The purpose of this presentation is to be knowledgeable of the signs of workplace burnout, coping and self-care strategies, and what employers can do to reduce future burnout. We will also discuss the psychological factors behind occupational fatigue.

**Presenter: Sarah Feick, MA, Administrative Supervisor and WVBT Ongoing Service Coordinator, Skill Builders, LLC, St. Marys, WV**

B-3

### Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood—WV Project Learning Tree

Level: Basic

ECE Core Knowledge: Child Growth & Development; Family & Community; Child Observation & Assessment; Environment & Curriculum; Health, Safety & Nutrition; Professionalism & Leadership; Administration & Management

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: M

This workshop introduces formal and non-formal educators to Project Learning Tree's (PLT) *Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood* activity guide, and helps educators prepare for facilitating activities with young learners. Participants will receive the *Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood* activity guide which includes over 130 experiences that engage children in outdoor play and exploration and is specifically designed for educators who work with children ages three to six. Topics include exploring nature with five senses, meeting neighborhood trees, and experiencing trees through the seasons. An accompanying music CD features songs from children's musician Billy B. Brennan that encourage children to sing, dance, and move.

**Presenter: Linda Carnell, Assistant State Forester - Education and Communication, WV Division of Forestry and WV Project Learning Tree, Romney, WV**

B-4

### Making Sense of Sensory Processing Disorders

Level: Basic

ECE Core Knowledge: Child Growth & Development

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: P

In early childhood and beyond, learners depend on the use of their senses to navigate their environment, establish & maintain social connections, and organize information in an efficient manner. When one or more of our sensory systems is disrupted, what does that look like? What can we do? In this workshop we define various sensory processing disorders and explore how to create safe exploration opportunities for our learners.

**Presenter: Jessie Olsen, Professional Development Specialist, Lakeshore Learning, Carson, CA**

B-5

### The Game Plan

Level: Intermediate

ECE Core Knowledge: Child Growth & Development; Child Observation & Assessment; Environment & Curriculum; Professionalism & Leadership

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: P

Preschool teachers, assistants, speech-language pathologists and other related service providers can do so much more for preschool students by coordinating their efforts and utilizing the same game plan. The presenters will highlight the importance of using an evidence-based curriculum, individualized modifications for participation and embedded communication opportunities in daily activities. Collaboration will be emphasized with examples of team game plans (Building Blocks forms) and teaming suggestions. Throughout the presentation, core vocabulary and the language foundation of learning will be explained.

**Presenters: Lee Ann Brammer, MA and Libby Simmons, CCC/SLP, West Virginia Department of Education, Office of Special Education, Charleston, WV**

**B-6**

**Afterschool Works in West Virginia**

Level: Basic

ECE Core Knowledge: Child Growth & Development; Family & Community

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: S

The afterschool field is an essential part of our communities' response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Programs are working around-the-clock to support youth, families, and their staff. Programs are focused on improving children's safety and well-being, helping essential personnel continue to do their jobs, maintaining touch points with families, creating engaging learning opportunities for young people, and providing food and other supports for families in need. The West Virginia Statewide Afterschool Network (WVSAN) envisions a day when all school age West Virginia youth have access in their communities to high quality afterschool and summer learning programming. The WVSAN strives to provide resources to support the capacity and sustainability of afterschool and summer learning programs across West Virginia. This includes engaging and building partnerships with families, education leaders, elected officials, businesses, and other stakeholders to rethink and expand the times, places, and resources students have to access learning. Participants will learn about supports and initiatives provided by the WVSAN including the West Virginia Afterschool Program Standards, engaging in STEM opportunities, and social-emotional learning supports provided by programs.

**Presenter: Susan Gamble, Ed.D., Barbara Little, and Kandi Workman, B.A., West Virginia Statewide Afterschool Network, West Virginia**

**Concurrent Sessions  
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

**C-1**

**Project WET's Early Childhood Water Education:  
Getting Little Feet Wet  
\*Part 2\***

Level: Basic

ECE Core Knowledge: Child Observation & Assessment; Environment & Curriculum

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: S

Getting Little Feet Wet is Project WET's (Water Education Today) early childhood curriculum guide. It was developed specifically for teachers working with children (ages 3-6). The guide contains 11 interactive, hands-on activities for young learners to explore different aspects of water—from water properties to water sounds. Each activity offers Pre-K and K-2 options and is correlated for educational standards. This is Part 2 of a two-part series and includes a material list for preparation.

**Presenter: Tomi M. Bergstrom, Western Watershed Basin & Project WET Coordinator, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, Charleston, WV**

**C-2**

**Thinking Outside the Box with Behavior:  
Transforming with Calming Spaces**

Level: Basic

ECE Core Knowledge: Child Growth & Development; Child Observation & Assessment; Environment & Curriculum; Health, Safety & Nutrition; Professionalism & Leadership

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: SN

Lincoln County Schools has seen a dramatic increase of difficult behaviors in our younger students. Through the SAT process and WVBTT transitions, we discover, more often than not, the children were exposed to drugs, abuse, or neglect; are in the state's custody; within foster care; or were adopted out of foster care. At an elementary school that had the highest percentage of at-risk students, we built a "calming space." Along with several other measures within a trauma-informed approach, these calming spaces have given our educators another option to have a student calm themselves and return to class. This presentation will discuss the issues that caused Lincoln County to develop a trauma-informed approach, the different pieces of the trauma-informed approach that are used, how calming spaces are built, and the successes and challenges we have faced.

**Presenter: Dr. Rikki McCormick, Director of Special Education & Student Support Services, Lincoln County Schools, Hamlin, WV**

**C-3**

**Model as a MASTER PAL: Supporting Communication Partners of Those Who Use AAC**

Level: Intermediate

ECE Core Knowledge: Child Growth & Development;

Family & Community; Environment & Curriculum

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: SN

A MASTER PAL, or “skilled partner” of an individual who uses Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) engages in authentic and meaningful interactions, which include using AAC. By empowering communication, engaging learners, and responsively shaping interactions, communication partners have a significant influence on the development of skills and quality of interactions of those who use AAC. This session is an overview of Model as a MASTER PAL, a framework and compilation of resources that focus on supporting communication partners of those who use AAC by highlighting behaviors and belief systems that shape quality communicative exchanges and emphasize the importance of being an engaged and respectful communication partner. The series includes all resources to facilitate PL on MASTER PAL topics for teams or departments. All content can be reviewed at [bit.ly/ModelasAMASTERPALtrainingmodule](http://bit.ly/ModelasAMASTERPALtrainingmodule).

**Presenter: Tabi Jones-Wohleber, SLP/AT Specialist, Communication AACtualized, LLC, Shepherdstown, WV**

#### C-4

### Putting the Pieces Together for Partnerships in WV

Level: Basic

ECE Core Knowledge: Family & Community

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: M

A key part of a child’s successful education is a strong partnership between home and school. This partnership is especially true for children with special needs. This course’s panel discussion will give you the opportunity to hear from families across the state of West Virginia about their experiences, building partnerships, seeking out resources, and what supports are available with communities, regional, and state level groups. Come and learn about strategies you can use. Join us to learn from these incredible stories of the journey to strengthen partnerships. Resources and program information will be shared.

**Presenter: Brenda Lamkin, Executive Director, M.Ed., West Virginia Parent Training and Information (WVPTI), West Virginia**

#### C-5

### 100 Easy Ways to Promote Social Emotional Learning

Level: Basic

ECE Core Knowledge: Child Growth & Development; Family & Community; Environment & Curriculum; Health, Safety & Nutrition; Professionalism & Leadership

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: M

Participants will learn about children’s social-emotional development and how to use positive reinforcement, role-modeling, stories, music, and games that provide a powerful foundation to enhance children’s learning and behavior. This workshop will teach teachers and specialists the 100 Easy Ways to Promote Social-Emotional Learning to guide their children through a positive, preventative, and effective instructional approach. During this workshop, participants also learn to use strategies and techniques to bring young children out of their emotional brain into their logical brain to increase peer relations, expressing their feelings in a positive manner, and to improve self-regulating behavior.

**Presenter: Dr. Michael S. Hubler, Ed.D., Young Children’s Social-Emotional Learning Specialist, Time to Sign, Inc., Indialantic, FL**

## Keynote Presentation:

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

“Don’t Get So Upset!” Help Young Children Manage Their Feelings by Understanding Your Own



Presented by

**Tamar Jacobson, Ph.D., Author and Early Childhood Education and Development Consultant, Philadelphia, PA**

Early childhood teachers are taught strategies as a quick fix to control children’s behaviors. Self-reflection about what makes adults tick emotionally is critical in helping children manage their own feelings. This presentation challenges early childhood teachers to reflect on how we *perceive* children’s need for attention in connection with how we remember being treated as young children, and find strategies for responding to them in ways that support emotional health and development, and help young children thrive.

## Concurrent Sessions 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

D-1

### Motivating Children and Understanding Our 4 Brains

Level: Basic

ECE Core Knowledge: Child Growth & Development; Family & Community; Environment & Curriculum; Health, Safety & Nutrition

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: M

Innovative and enriching workshop for educators/parents to learn how to enhance learning and help children by understanding their brain’s emotional inter-workings, how this impacts children’s behavior, and what we can do to help our children to have a better day–everyday! Our children’s early years are spent in their emotional brain where it is harder to self-regulate, retain information, and grow behaviorally and academically. This program will utilize sign language and other tools to provide educators information and tools to be able to help guide young children in their classroom.

**Presenter: Lillian I. Hubler, President, Time to Sign, Inc., Indialantic, FL**

D-2

### A Yellowstone Experience in the Classroom

Level: Basic

ECE Core Knowledge: Child Growth & Development; Family & Community; Environment & Curriculum

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: M

This presentation will show educators how to present Yellowstone in the classroom and other National Parks. It promotes the beginning understanding of geography, ecosystems, climate, animal science, hiking safety, and camping safety. It is also a wonderful way to have a hands-on learning experience that will stay with the child for years to come. Not all of our children will be doctors and firefighters. We need to expand the world of environmental careers to them. They will learn about park rangers, biologists, and environmental jobs.

**Presenter: Kelly Serdynski Gray, Preschool/Special**

Needs Teacher, Berkeley County Schools, Hedgesville, WV

### D-3

#### Keeping West Virginia Babies Safe

Level: Basic

ECE Core Knowledge: Professionalism & Leadership

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: M

In West Virginia, more than 30 babies die a year of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Syndrome and many of these are preventable. In this session, we will talk about the current guidelines surrounding safe sleep along with resources and materials available for educating families about safe sleep. We will also share what we are doing this year to promote safe sleep and how you can join us.

**Presenters:** Kristy Stout, LGSW, Co-Coordinator, and Candice Hamilton, MPH, Co-Coordinator, Our Babies Safe and Sound, Huntington, WV

### D-4

#### Connections Matter \*Part 2\*

Level: Basic

ECE Core Knowledge: Child Growth & Development; Family & Community

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: M

Every day connections are more important than we ever believed. Our brain, our relationships, and our community are all inter-connected. Science tells us that relationships have the power to shape our brains. Relationships help us learn better, work better, parent better. When we experience tough times, positive relationships help us heal. With each positive connection, we develop a healthier, stronger community. This session also uses video, discussion, and experiential activities. The curriculum was developed by Linda Chamberlain, Ph.D., for the Iowa Chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America, and brought to West Virginia by the West Virginia ACEs Coalition, [www.connectionsmatter.org](http://www.connectionsmatter.org).

**Presenters:** Michele Baranaskas, LCSW, Coordinator, Parents in Community Outreach, a program of TEAM for West Virginia Children, Inc., West Virginia, and

Barbara Crawford Tucker, M.A., Adolescent Health Initiative Coordinator, West Virginia

### D-5

#### Growing Together with Birth to Three

Level: Basic

ECE Core Knowledge: Professionalism & Leadership

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: A

This presentation will cover the legal and philosophical foundations of the WV Birth to Three early intervention system. The session will also discuss the process experienced by families as they enter the system and the need for collaboration across early childhood systems.

**Presenter:** Sheila Zickefoose, MA, IMH-E, West Virginia Early Childhood Training Connections and Resources, Buckhannon, WV

## Concurrent Sessions 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

### E-1

#### Promote Self-Regulation and Resilience through Play Therapy \*Part 1\*

Level: Intermediate

ECE Core Knowledge: Child Growth & Development; Environment & Curriculum; Health, Safety & Nutrition

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: M

Exploring the brain explains why trauma often results in behavior patterns that are challenging to the child and family, and disruptive to classrooms, groups, and events. Now, we have all experienced at least one common trauma, the worldwide pandemic. Learn how trauma affects brain development, behavior patterns, health and mental health for life. Play Therapy is an approach linked with the neuroscience of behavior through brain function and results in behavior change. Learn about the foundations of Play Therapy, several models of Play Therapy, and regulation and promoting resilience. Walk away with Play Therapy based strategies and activities. Part 1 of a two-part session.

**Presenter:** Katrina Jefferson, LCSW, Registered Play

**Therapist, Certified Play Therapist, Owner, PeaceTree Center for Wellness, Huntington, WV**

**E-2**

**A Day in the Life of a Young Child: Best Practices from Greeting to Goodbye  
\*Part 1\***

Level: Intermediate

ECE Core Knowledge: Child Growth & Development; Environment & Curriculum

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: P

Join Ellen for an in-depth look at all the many ways we can support children’s learning through play by using recent brain research to inform activities and interactions. In this session, participants will be introduced to a wide variety of fresh ideas for activities throughout a child’s day at child care and school. There will be an emphasis on recent brain research that explains the “why’s and how’s” of these exciting activities. Even though this session will be offered on Zoom, the participants will have many opportunities to actively participate. Come prepared to play! Part 1 of a two-part session.

**Presenter: Ellen Booth Church, Adjunct Professor, Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL**

**E-3**

**Ready, Set, Communicate: Integrating AAC Tools and Strategies Into Your Toolkit for Young Learners  
\*Part 1\***

Level: Intermediate

ECE Core Knowledge: Child Growth & Development; Family & Community; Child Observation & Assessment; Environment & Curriculum

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: M

Did you know that a child cannot be too young, or too impaired to benefit from AAC to support language development? Did you know there are no pre-requisites for AAC? Did you know that providing peers/siblings access to AAC tools can lead to awesome peer-to-peer interactions using AAC? Misperceptions around Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) for young learners abound, and with good reason; the field of AAC has made tremendous gains in the last decade! This session will not only dispel myths around AAC but also review tools and strategies to address the complexities

of unique learners in a variety of environments, explore essential implementation practices with interactive activities, and unpack communication partner behaviors that grow language, foster relationships, and ultimately pave the path for self-determination in young learners with complex communication needs. Part 1 of a two-part session.

**Presenter: Tabi Jones-Wohleber, SLP/AT Specialist, Communication AACtualized, LLC., Shepherdstown, WV**

**E-4**

**Unlock your Imagination and Creativity with Books, Music, Puppets, Storytelling, and Nature  
\*Part 1\***

Level: Intermediate

ECE Core Knowledge: Child Growth & Development

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: P

This presentation will target toddlers to school age. Each age level connects with a puppet. Learn how to make stories come alive with puppets, props, and playful tales. A puppet on the hand is a special connection for all children. The storyteller in each participant will emerge as they learn participation stories, read along stories, and tales for the storyboard. Storytelling helps develop imagination, early literacy, creativity, visual expression, critical thinking, and oral communication skills. Everyone will leave with tools and ideas that can be used immediately. Each attendee should have available a piece of construction paper and some markers. Part 1 of a two-part session.

**Presenters: Mary Jo Huff, Author, Storyteller, Newburgh, IN and Lisa Maddox, Puppeteer, Get Connected with Lisa, Dover, TN**

**E-5**

**Trauma and Building Resiliency in Early Childhood  
\*Part 1\***

Level: Basic

ECE Core Knowledge: Child Growth & Development; Environment & Curriculum

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: M

Secure attachment is an essential developmental goal of childhood. When this goes wrong, the challenges providing help increase with each year, especially when the patterns of insecure attachment are passed down

through a family system of interacting. Through video observation of infants and children, this workshop will look at pre-verbal and verbal markers of secure and insecure attachment. As well as the multiple resilience factors that can make a difference in the lives of West Virginia families. If we have 10 ACEs, that leaves 42 more cards in the deck for resiliency. Part 1 of a two-part session.

**Presenter: Sky Kershner, Executive Director, KPCC Counseling, Charleston, WV**

## E-6

### Parental Mental Health: Factoring in Fathers \*Part 1\*

Level: Basic

ECE Core Knowledge: Family & Community; Health, Safety & Nutrition

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: A

This interactive workshop is a call for action to address the unmet needs of expectant and new fathers. It will address the common barriers that fathers and health care providers experience in factoring in fathers. This includes men in pregnancy, early parenthood, and beyond the perinatal period. The research shows that men experience a range of mental health concerns at rates that are comparable to those of women. We will strategize how communities and professionals can improve the care of all parents who may be marginalized by current practices. Part 1 of a two-part session.

**Presenter: Jane Honikman, M.S., Author, Founder of the Postpartum Action Institute, Santa Barbara, CA**

## Concurrent Sessions 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

## F-1

### Promote Self-Regulation and Resilience through Play Therapy \*Part 2\*

Level: Intermediate

ECE Core Knowledge: Child Growth & Development; Environment & Curriculum; Health, Safety & Nutrition

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: M

Exploring the brain explains why trauma often results in behavior patterns that are challenging to the child and family, and disruptive to classrooms, groups, and events. Now, we have all experienced at least one common trauma, the worldwide pandemic. Learn how trauma affects brain development, behavior patterns, health and mental health for life. Play Therapy is an approach linked with the neuroscience of behavior through brain function and results in behavior change. Learn about the foundations of Play Therapy, several models of Play Therapy, and regulation and promoting resilience. Walk away with Play Therapy based strategies and activities. Part 2 of a two-part session.

**Presenter: Katrina Jefferson, LCSW, Registered Play Therapist, Certified Play Therapist, Owner, PeaceTree Center for Wellness, Huntington, WV**

## F-2

### A Day in the Life of a Young Child: Best Practices from Greeting to Goodbye \*Part 2\*

Level: Intermediate

ECE Core Knowledge: Child Growth & Development; Environment & Curriculum

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: P

Join Ellen for an in-depth look at all the many ways we can support children's learning through play by using recent brain research to inform activities and interactions. In this session, participants will be introduced to a wide variety of fresh ideas for activities throughout a child's day at child care and school. There will be an emphasis on recent brain research that explains the "why's and how's" of these exciting activities. Even though this session will be offered on Zoom, the participants will have many opportunities to actively participate. Come prepared to play! Part 2 of a two-part session.

**Presenter: Ellen Booth Church, Adjunct Professor, Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL**

## F-3

### Ready, Set, Communicate: Integrating AAC Tools and Strategies Into Your Toolkit for Young Learners \*Part 2\*

Level: Intermediate

ECE Core Knowledge: Child Growth & Development; Family & Community; Child Observation & Assessment; Environment & Curriculum

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: M

Did you know that a child cannot be too young, or too impaired to benefit from AAC to support language development? Did you know there are no pre-requisites for AAC? Did you know that providing peers/siblings access to AAC tools can lead to awesome peer-to-peer interactions using AAC? Misperceptions around Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) for young learners abound, and with good reason; the field of AAC has made tremendous gains in the last decade! This session will not only dispel myths around AAC but also review tools and strategies to address the complexities of unique learners in a variety of environments, explore essential implementation practices with interactive activities, and unpack communication partner behaviors that grow language, foster relationships, and ultimately pave the path for self-determination in young learners with complex communication needs. Part 2 of a two-part session.

**Presenter:** Tabi Jones-Wohleber, SLP/AT Specialist, Communication AACtualized, LLC, Shepherdstown, WV

**F-4**

**Unlock Your Imagination and Creativity with Books, Music, Puppets, Storytelling, and Nature**  
\*Part 2\*

Level: Intermediate

ECE Core Knowledge: Child Growth & Development

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: P

This presentation will target toddlers to school age. Each age level connects with a puppet. Learn how to make stories come alive with puppets, props, and playful tales. A puppet on the hand is a special connection for all children. The storyteller in each participant will emerge as they learn participation stories, read along stories, and tales for the storyboard. Storytelling helps develop imagination, early literacy, creativity, visual expression, critical thinking, and oral communication skills. Everyone will leave with tools and ideas that can be used immediately. Each attendee should have available a piece of construction paper and some markers. Part 2 of a two-part session.

**Presenters:** Mary Jo Huff, Author, Storyteller, Newburgh, IN and Lisa Maddox, Puppeteer, Get Connected with Lisa, Dover, TN

**F-5**

**Trauma and Building Resiliency in Early Childhood**  
\*Part 2\*

Level: Basic

ECE Core Knowledge:

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: M

Secure attachment is an essential developmental goal of childhood. When this goes wrong, the challenges providing help increase with each year, especially when the patterns of insecure attachment are passed down through a family system of interacting. Through video observation of infants and children, this workshop will look at pre-verbal and verbal markers of secure and insecure attachment. As well as the multiple resilience factors that can make a difference in the lives of West Virginia families. If we have 10 ACEs, that leaves 42 more cards in the deck for resiliency. Part 2 of a two-part session.

**Presenter:** Sky Kershner, Executive Director, KPCC Counseling, Charleston, WV

**F-6**

**Parental Mental Health: Factoring in Fathers**  
\*Part 2\*

Level: Basic

ECE Core Knowledge: Family & Community; Health, Safety & Nutrition

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: A

This interactive workshop is a call for action to address the unmet needs of expectant and new fathers. It will address the common barriers that fathers and health care providers experience in factoring in fathers. This includes men in pregnancy, early parenthood, and beyond the perinatal period. The research shows that men experience a range of mental health concerns at rates that are comparable to those of women. We will strategize how communities and professionals can improve the care of all parents who may be marginalized by current practices. Part 2 of a two-part session.

**Presenter:** Jane Honikman, M.S., Author, Founder of the Postpartum Action Institute, Santa Barbara, CA

## Keynote Presentation:

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

“What if Today Was Their Only Day?”



Presented by  
**Lisa Murphy, M.Ed., Founder & CEO of  
Ooey Goocy, Inc., Kissimmee, FL**

In this motivational keynote address, Lisa shares the powerful story of her first day of school. Through active and engaging storytelling, Lisa brings you back to her first day, taking you on a grand tour of Miss Mary's Nursery School. And, in the style she has become famous for, she shares many observations, lessons, and anecdotes about how early childhood has changed along the way. Lisa will share the sights, sounds, and smells of the place where, at the young age of three, she decided to become a teacher and identifies the how, and why, that one day solidified her decision to become an educator. This inspiring keynote gets participants back in touch with their personal how and why. It gets them excited and gets them thinking: If it WAS their only day, what will they remember?

## Concurrent Sessions 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

G-1

### Oh Those Little Ones!

Level: Intermediate

ECE Core Knowledge: Child Growth & Development; Environment & Curriculum

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: I

The latest brain research reminds us of the importance of creating responsive, engaging, stress-free environments, and nowhere is this more important than our infant and toddler rooms! While this session offers hands-on exploration of many activities that are appropriate for your infant and toddler rooms, its main focus is on making sure the adults working with our wee-ones realize that nothing, and we nothing!, is more important than creating and nurturing those strong bonds of attachment.

**Presenter: Lisa Murphy, M.Ed., Founder & CEO of Ooey Goocy, Inc., Kissimmee, FL**

G-2

### Let's Make It a Sign Day Every Day!

Level: Intermediate

ECE Core Knowledge: Child Growth & Development; Environment & Curriculum; Professionalism & Leadership

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: M

We will learn how to use sign language with hearing children, how to make signing fun for children, proper formation of signs, learn to sign a song, and learn a story in sign. We will learn different ways of incorporating signs from classroom management to reading books. “I know a little sign language, now what do I do with it?” “How do I incorporate it into what I am doing every day?” We will answer these questions and practice this through this session. Bring your list of words you want to know signs for.

**Presenter: Janelle St. Martin, Owner, WeSign2, Sign Language Interpreter, Teacher & Mentor, Bridgeport, WV**

## G-3

### The Mindful Classroom: Incorporating Mindfulness into Your EC Program

Level: Basic

ECE Core Knowledge: Professionalism & Leadership

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: A

This session will describe the benefits of incorporating mindfulness activities, for both students and staff, into your daily routine. The presenter will provide practices and activities appropriate for early learners and how these can promote self-regulation in children and a more calm and smooth-functioning environment. We will also look at ways to include caregivers and siblings.

**Presenter:** Gloria Sage, Coordinator of Direct Services/ MA Ed./RYT200, WV Autism Training Center, Huntington, WV

## G-4

### Keeping Our Kids Safe: CDC Guidelines for Child Care Centers

Level: Basic

ECE Core Knowledge: Health, Safety & Nutrition

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: M

This session will provide an overview of WV Bureau for Public Health requirements for child care centers operating during the COVID-19 pandemic, and an overview of CDC guidance for child care programs that remain open, focusing on preventing the spread of COVID-19, social distancing, cleaning/disinfecting, and screening.

**Presenter:** Judy Vallandingham, Public Health Sanitation Division Director, WV Bureau for Public Health Office of Environmental Health Services, Charleston, WV

## G-5

### West Virginia 211

Level: Basic

ECE Core Knowledge: Family & Community

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: A

Come learn all the ways that West Virginia 211 can get families connected to resources.

**Presenter:** Delaney Laughery, West Virginia 211 State Director, Parkersburg, WV

## Concurrent Sessions 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

## H-1

### Many Kinds of Smart!

Level: Intermediate

ECE Core Knowledge: Child Growth & Development; Environment & Curriculum

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: M

Think you are good at your job because you love children? What about the ones that challenge you? Using these powerful questions as a framework, Lisa puts her own spin on Howard Gardner's classic theory. This session is a far cry from simply listing various personality characteristics, needs, and preferences. By providing easy to implement, yet possibly challenging, "comfort zone stretchers," Lisa challenges teachers to make sure they are celebrating all of the children in the classroom, not just the ones they like.

**Presenter:** Lisa Murphy, M.Ed., Founder & CEO of Ooey Goey, Inc., Kissimmee, FL

## H-2

### Benefits of Using Sign Language with Hearing Children and Basic Signs

Level: Intermediate

ECE Core Knowledge: Child Growth & Development; Environment & Curriculum; Professionalism & Leadership

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: M

We will talk about the benefits of using sign language with hearing children then cover some signs for words that you use every day. Sign language may be used to increase a child's language ability. Using signs can help increase verbal vocabulary and interest in language.

**Presenter:** Janelle St. Martin, Owner, WeSign2, Sign Language Interpreter, Teacher & Mentor, Bridgeport, WV

### H-3

#### Keeping Up with Child Care Licensing Requirements

Level: Basic

ECE Core Knowledge: Health, Safety & Nutrition

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: M

Over the past few years, child care licensing regulations have gone through many changes. However, the basic mission remains the same, which is to provide healthy, safe environments for children while their parents work. Some of the topics presented are playground safety, supervision of children, background checks through WV CARES, and Emergency Disaster Planning.

**Presenter: Teresa Lawlor, MSW, Child Care Licensing Specialist, WV Department of Health and Human Resources and the Child Care Licensing Unit, Charleston, WV**

### H-4

#### The Journey of a Former Foster Child

Level: Basic

ECE Core Knowledge: Child Growth & Development

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: M

Tasha Hall is a mother with a Master's degree. Tasha was also a child who aged out of the foster care system at the age of 18 before completing high school. Struggling with challenges including homelessness, Tasha has achieved her first set of dreams. Her inspiring story is about overcoming hardships and sustaining determination that led her to rise above her circumstances. Tasha's current goal is to prevent hopelessness in children living in foster care, to inspire them to grow beyond their own challenges and to create success for themselves. Learn first-hand what kids in foster care need to succeed.

**Presenters: Leslie Stone, MA+45, Owner/Founder - Stone Strategies, LLC and Tasha Hall, MA, Counselor, Tasha Inspires, Huntington, WV**

### H-5

#### Language, Literacy, and AAC: Building Literacy Experiences for Emergent Learners and Communicators

Level: Intermediate

ECE Core Knowledge: Child Growth & Development; Family & Community; Environment & Curriculum

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: M

Our earliest experiences with letters, books, words, and print lay an essential foundation for shaping our readiness for meaningful literacy learning. This is true for ALL learners regardless of their differing abilities. Children with complex support needs, including those who are non-speaking, are at risk of having fewer early literacy experiences, which coupled with other learning needs can exponentially limit their access to meaningful literacy instruction. Erickson & Koppenhaver (2020) suggest that those with complex learning (and communication needs) require robust literacy experiences and instruction to foster "...autonomy, self-advocacy, and human connection," skills that begin in the early childhood years. This session will review the current literature and provide an overview of best practices for literacy routines for emergent learners. Through interactive activities, video examples, and exploration of resources participants will set goals for incorporating literacy routines with families, or in classrooms. Tips and templates for creating and sharing personal or high-interest books on a variety of PC and iPad platforms will also be shared.

**Presenter: Tabi Jones-Wohleber, SL/AT Specialist, Communication AACtualized, LLC., Shepherdstown, WV**

### H-6

#### Supporting Families and Strengthening Communities

Level: Basic

ECE Core Knowledge: Family & Community Relationships; Environment & Curriculum; Professionalism & Leadership; Administration & Management

ITMH Competency:

Training Content Targeted Area: M

The West Virginia Home Visitation Program will discuss how to utilize the Learn the Signs, Act Early project, Help Me Grow, and early childhood community partnerships to improve resiliency among families and children. Panel discussions and information sharing from both a State and local perspective on improving social determinants of health and engagement/empowerment of families through information on early childhood programs and navigation of systems of care. Discussion topics will share information on advancing and distributing relevant, existing tools, materials, and programs to improve physical and mental well-being among families.

**Presenter: Jackie Newson, Program Director, West Virginia Home Visitation Program**

# Continuing Education Unit (CEU) Reporting Form/Certificate of Attendance

Approved Provider Description/Title

Annual Celebrating Connections Conference, April 21-23, 2021

Please complete, sign, and submit as required by your licensing, certification, etc., entity. It is your responsibility to follow the appropriate protocol. Make a copy of this completed form for your records.

**PLEASE INDICATE THE SESSIONS YOU ATTENDED AND TOTAL HOURS BELOW.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Type of License \_\_\_\_\_ State(s) and License(s) Number \_\_\_\_\_

Approved Provider Name - Celebrating Connections Conference - Individual Approved Provider

Approved Provider Number \_\_\_\_\_ (See CEU table for Approved Provider Number)

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021

Approved Hours

Actual Hours

Keynote: Building Your Bounce 1.5 \_\_\_\_\_

Session A- \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Session B- \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Session C- \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_

## THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2021

Keynote: Don't Get So Upset! 1.5 \_\_\_\_\_

Session D- \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Session E- \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Session F- \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_

## FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2021

Keynote: If Today Was Their Only Day 1.5 \_\_\_\_\_

Session G- \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Session H- \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL HOURS EARNED: \_\_\_\_\_ Note: You may only claim credit for the hours or portions of hours you actually attended. If required by your licensing, certification, etc., entity, present this certificate to a Celebrating Connections representative at the CEU table for a signature upon completion.

"In signing this form, I certify that I have attended and completed the continuing social work education contact hours, WV Birth to Three contact hours, or other continuing education contact hours indicated above. I also understand that continuing education hours must be earned to renew my license(s) and that knowingly falsifying records could result in disciplinary action, including suspension or revocation of my license(s)."

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Keep a copy of this form for your records.

# Certificate of Attendance

This certificate is awarded to

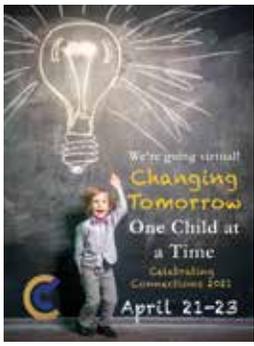
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Celebrating Connections Conference  
April 21-23, 2021



Conference Committee Signature





RVCDS/WVECTCR  
611 Seventh Avenue  
Suite 300  
Huntington, WV 25701

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