



## SECA 2017 Preliminary Interest Session List

**Thursday/March 9, 2017**

**9:00-10:30 am**

***Are You an Author?***

**Presenters:** Dr. Mari Cortez, Dr. Wilma Robles-Melendez, and Dr. Kenya Wolff

**Room:** Azalea A

**Focus:** Professional Development

Are you interested in submitting a manuscript for publication in *Dimensions of Early Childhood*? We hope that you'll join the ranks of SECA authors. Join Dr. Mari Cortez (editor) and Drs. Wilma Robles-Melendez and Kenya Wolff (members of the SECA Editorial Committee) to get all the information you'll need to take that first step.

**10:00-11:00 am**

***Totally Tods - Music for Our Youngest People***

**Presenter:** "Mar" Harman

**Room:** Magnolia A

**Focus:** Infant/Toddlers/Music

Toddlers enjoy music, too; but they have special needs. Mar. will focus on developmentally appropriate activities/materials for toddlers and educate participants on their developmental value.

***Ethical Considerations When Observing Young Children for Assessment***

**Presenter:** Dr. Susan Barnes

**Room:** Magnolia B

**Focus:** Assessment

Participants will explore how teachers can ethically observe children in naturalistic settings and protect the privacy of children and families during on-going assessment activities.

***From Peek-a-Boo to Pretend Play: Support Children's Executive Function and Self-Regulation***

Presenter: Dr. Diane Bales

Room: Azalea B

Focus: Child Development

Learn what executive function is and why it matters for children. Explore activities you can use to teach problem-solving skills to infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

**10:45-12:15 pm**

***Reviewing for Dimensions of Early Childhood***

Presenters: Dr. Catheryn Weitman, Dr. Mari Cortez, & Dr. Kenya Wolff

Room: Azalea A

Focus: Professional Development

If you are interested in serving the early childhood profession and SECA by becoming a reviewer for our nationally recognized journal, *Dimensions of Early Childhood*, join Dr. Catheryn Weitman and Dr. Kenya Wolff (SECA Editorial Committee) and Dr. Mari Cortez (editor) to get all the information that you'll need to take that first step.

**11:15 am-12:15 pm**

***Mindful Music - Using Music for Self-Regulation***

Presenter: "Mar" Harman

Room: Magnolia A

Focus: Child Development

Give children the skill of self-regulation and get them ready for a successful life by using music and movement activities that Mar. will share.

***Reflecting on Faith in Public School Classrooms***

Presenter: Dr. Rebekah Marcum

Room: Magnolia B

Focus: Curriculum

This interactive session will help teachers and teacher educators reflect on how their beliefs and religious experience may influence their teaching practices.

***These Are a Few of My Favorite Stories***

Presenter: Beverly Oglesby

Room: Azalea B

Focus: Early Literacy

Explore new and different activities to use with some favorite and familiar stories by popular authors. All activities will engage students who will come away with a product to help them remember the stories. The presenter will also share strategies and ideas to help participants work with their emergent readers.

***Let Them Play: The Natural Way***

Presenter: Brenda Langston

Room: Azalea C/D

Focus: Curriculum

In this session we will discuss natural play and how it allows children the freedom to explore with natural items and risky play. You will see pictures of children engaged in natural play and gain ideas to add to your outdoor play environment.

**1:45-2:45 pm**

***Keep Calm and Let's Address Sensory Issues***

Presenters: Kortney Vosburgh, Kaylyn Martin

Room: Magnolia A

Focus: Child Development

Many students with sensory issues need modifications and it's costly. Let's collaborate on various inexpensive strategies so calming/sensory labs can be included in your classrooms.

***Teaching Social and Emotional Learning Skills to Young Children***

Presenter: Inna Dolzhenko

Room: Magnolia B

Focus: Child Development

The presenter will describe a curriculum for early childhood and elementary school teachers to help them foster children's social and emotional development, demonstrating sample instructional activities, guiding the audience through the steps of project-based lessons. Handouts will be available on social-emotional learning skills, strategies and techniques, lesson plan guidelines, and sample instructional activities.

***How to Encourage Constructive Feedback from Others***

Presenter: Dr. Kathy Pillow-Price

Room: Magnolia E

Focus: Professional Development/Home Visitors

Learning how to get and receive feedback will help home visitors and other ECE professionals with family engagement as well as being applied in other work place relationships.

***When is a "Two" a "Three?" Supporting Older Toddlers***

Presenter: Christine Snyder

Room: Azalea C/D

Focus: Infant/Toddler

Nationally, toddler classrooms are often staffed with teachers who have the least amount of training and education and this is also true in the South. This session is aimed at giving teachers who work with toddlers, practical strategies through interactive workshop activities to help them better support these young learners.



**HIGHSCOPE**® Sponsored by HighScope Educational Research Foundation

***Implementation of the CCDF Regulation and Rule***

Presenter: Eric Blanchette

Room: Azalea B

Focus: Administration

In September of 2016, the ACF Office of Child Care published new rules to provide clarity to states, tribes and territories on how to implement the CCDF reauthorization law. The rule sets higher standards for grantees receiving federal funds through the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program in important areas such as health and safety requirements; training and professional development for child care providers; and eligibility rules that better support working families.

**1:45-3:30 pm**

***In the Spotlight: Celebrating 75 Years of Strengthening Families Living in Poverty***

Room: Magnolia D

Presenters: Heather Siskind & Jeanette Johnson

Focus: Administration

Join the Executive Director and Family Strengthening Program Director of the Jack and Jill Children's Center in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Their mission is to "break the cycle of poverty for children of high need working families through quality early childhood education and family strengthening programs." Learn how this dynamic program serves families and children and generates the financial donations to maintain and expand programs.

**3:00-4:00 pm**

***Loose Parts Play: Open-Ended Materials for Art, Math, Science & More***

Presenter: Cindy Ligon

Room: Magnolia A

Focus: Curriculum

Discover how an environment rich with open-ended materials (both synthetic and natural) invites children to experiment, create, engage, collaborate, and invent.

***Social Media Marketing for the Child Care Industry***

Presenter: Abhas Jain

Room: Magnolia B

Focus: Administration

Millennial parents are the most connected and technology dependent population and spend over 17 hours per week on social networks. Child care centers hoping to market to this demographic have no choice but to leverage social media or risk falling behind their competition. This session will jumpstart the attendee's efforts to formulate and implement their social media strategy.

***Families During Times of Crisis: What Home Visitors (and Others) Can Do to Help***

Presenter: Dr. Nicholas Long

Room: Magnolia E

Focus: Professional Development/Home Visitors

As part of "Strategies for the New South," home visitors and early childhood educators need increased awareness of strategies they can utilize to assist families confronting various types of crises. When families receive more effective guidance/assistance the long-term negative impact of such crises on children/families can be reduced.

***Strengthening the Family and Child – A Resiliency Approach***

Presenter: Steve Erwin

Room: Azalea B

Focus: Family Engagement

Families and children are at risk in today's changing society. This interactive presentation will explore and identify the at risk factors that we all face each day and identify protective factors in adults and children that strengthen their ability to be resilient and thrive in an ever changing climate.

**KAPLAN<sup>®</sup>** *Sponsored by Kaplan*

***The Coaching Process: Teachers' Knowledge and Motivation May Be the Key***

Presenter: Shannon Lockhart

Room: Azalea C/D

Focus: Professional Development

HighScope has found that coaching practices, no matter what the focus of the coaching, have increased the quality of teaching practices. Taking into consideration the interplay between a teacher's knowledge and motivation may be the key to successful outcomes when coaching teachers.



**4:15-5:15 pm**

***Understanding the Needs of Children in Stress Due to Poverty***

Presenter: Dr. Billi Bromer

Room: Magnolia A

Focus: Professional Development/Child Development

Understanding risk and resilience can help educators address the needs of children and families in stress that may be an outcome of poverty.

***Writing Partnerships in the Primary Classroom***

Presenters: Erica Rutherford

Room: Magnolia B

Focus: Early Literacy

Harness the power of talk to improve your students' writing. Through writing partnerships even the youngest students can improve their writing abilities.

***Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework: Parental Resilience***

Presenters: Dr. Jenny Dura & Cindy Hendricks

Room: Magnolia D

Focus: Family Engagement

This session will utilize the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework model and discuss ways for caregivers to promote parental resilience. Each participant will leave with ideas on what everyday actions look like and how to implement them into their child care environment immediately.

### ***The Role of a Home Visitor – Making the Connections***

Presenter: Steve Erwin

Room: Azalea B

Focus: Home Visiting

Home Visiting programs are the strongest ways to impact change within families. This presentation will validate and support the hard work that Home Visitors do each day. This interactive session will explore the role of the home visitor in creating trusting relationships and identify strategies that will assist the parent (caregiver) in connecting to the child.



### ***Two-by-Ten Guidance Strategy: Lessons Learned***

Presenters: Dr. Gretchen Cole-Lade & ECE Students (Macey Brown, Jaybree Wood, Rendi Hudson, Reyna Hulsey, Shelby Dobrinsky & Ashlynn Steedman)

Room: Magnolia E

Focus: Professional Development/Student Research

An ongoing research project at Oklahoma State University will be presented, emphasizing the progression of the Two-by-Ten guidance strategy over several semesters. Current students will share their results and insights of their own Two-by-Ten strategy. We will introduce the Student-Teacher Relationship Scale and review the previous semester results of a pre- and post- STRS from our student interns.

***Friday/March 10, 2017***

**8:00-9:00 am**

### ***Strategies for Increasing Vocabulary in Early Childhood***

Presenter: Ashley Kazery

Room: Magnolia B

Focus: Early Literacy

Strategies for increasing vocabulary will help children learn and use increased numbers of words. The presenter will discuss implementation of strategies to increase vocabulary and resources/ideas to give parents.

***Teaching Verbal Behavior to Children with Autism***

Presenter: Mansur Choudry

Room: Magnolia D

Focus: Special Populations/Professional Development

Strategies will be shared that are designed to engage children on the spectrum to teach verbal behavior through meaningful activities that will provide them with language and social skills.

***Upcycling: Converting Trash to Extraordinary Learning Materials***

Presenter: Dottie Ports

Room: Magnolia E

Focus: Early Literacy

This presentation is a hands-on demonstration of developmentally appropriate "upcycling" (not recycling) for the classroom. Everyday discarded objects are re-designed into creative classroom materials.

***Waterford UPSTART: Cultivating Early-Learning Gains with Cloud-Based Software***

Presenters: Benjamin Heuston & LaTasha Hadley

Room: Magnolia F

Focus: Administration

Join Waterford Institute President & CEO Benjamin Heuston as he discusses how the Waterford UPSTART adaptive, cloud-based program is helping children in Utah and other areas get an early start in their education and increasing the likelihood they graduate high school. Heuston will be joined by LaTasha Hadley, the Director of Jackson State University, to discuss results and explain how they are customizing the program to local needs in Mississippi.

***Emotions & Language Development: How Emotional Engagement Supports Early Language and Literacy***

Presenters: Dr. Jennifer Henk, Mardi Crandall, Dr. Laura Herold & Mary Bassett

Room: Magnolia G

Focus: Early Literacy

This session will explore the connection between emotions and language development, and will give strategies for engagement with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers to support language.

***Technology That's Right for You!! – A Day in the Life of Center Owners & Directors***

Presenter: Abhas Jain

Room: Magnolia H

Focus: Administration

Owners/directors will learn technologies for: 1) Marketing using social media, 2) Managing inquiries, 3) Center management systems, 4) Communicating with millennials, and 4) Collecting money.



***Your Leadership Stance: A Conversation About How You Are***

Presenter: Diana Courson

Room: Azalea C

Focus: Leadership

How you are is as important as what you say and do. Let's talk about an intentional leadership stance that can generate ripples of change.

***What is All This STEAM About?***

Presenters: Shana Milligan & April Kendrick

Room: Azalea D

Focus: Curriculum

With emphasis on school readiness and development, we will explore learning in the STEAM areas (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts Math) in a developmentally appropriate way!

**9:15-10:15 am**

***Enhancing Dramatic Play with Vygotsky***

Presenter: Savanna Gragg

Room: Magnolia E

Focus: Curriculum

This session will be an interactive exploration of the role of instructional theory in developing meaningful dramatic play experiences for preschoolers using Vygotsky's socio-cultural theory.

***Language and Play: Impact on Infant/Toddler Brain Development***

Presenter: Dr. Craig Jones

Room: Magnolia F

Focus: Professional Development

The early childhood professional's role in using language and play to facilitate infants' and toddlers' brain development is the focus of the presentation. Current emphasis on "the earlier the better" makes it important that we work with infant/toddler classrooms to both assure DAP and to develop appropriate understanding and skills of the ECE professional.

***Supporting the Shy Child in the Classroom***

Presenter: Mushira Shamsi

Room: Magnolia G

Focus: Professional Development

This session focuses on understanding shyness, its challenges and strategies for teachers to help actualize the potential of the shy child in the classroom.

***Mommy and Me at Mote: Ocean Education for Small Fry!***

Presenter: Miranda Wrobel

Room: Magnolia H

Focus: Curriculum

Young children are natural scientists filled with wonder and curiosity. Join Miranda to learn how to bring informal marine science education into early childhood classrooms.

[www.mote.org](http://www.mote.org)

***Conflict Resolution***

Presenters: P Diana Embry

Room: Azalea C

Focus: Administration

Learn how conflict resolution can resolve difficulties in retraining employees. You'll learn seven steps to resolving conflict.

***The Growing Brain: Defeating Poverty through Positive Brain Development***

Presenters: Dr. Sara Miller & Robin Jones

Room: Azalea D

Focus: Professional Development

Positive experiences, not money, impact healthy brain growth. Learn about basic brain architecture and experiences that enhance or derail the early formation of healthy brains.

**1:30-2:30 pm**

***Everybody Here Has a Bucket ...***

Presenters: Carol McCloud & Red Grammer

Room: Magnolia A & North

Focus: Professional Development

And everybody here can have a bucket that's full ... if we practice the three "happiness" rules. Co-presenters Red Grammer and Carol McCloud will use Red's world-renowned music and Carol's bestselling bucketfilling books to show you how simple it is to create a bucketfilling life and a bucketfilling environment where kindness and happiness grow.

***Using Non-Fiction Interactive Read Alouds to Support Young Children's Literacy Development***

Presenters: Dr. Julianne Coleman, Dr. Carol Donovan, Dana Evans & Crystal Kaczor

Room: Magnolia B

Focus: Early Literacy

This presentation session will focus on planning appropriate interactive read alouds using non-fiction texts with young children. Understand the importance of integrating interactive read-alouds in classrooms with young children of various socio-economic backgrounds and

various learning abilities, supporting best practices in the inclusion of problem-based learning for all children.

***Teaching Communication Skills to Children with Autism***

Presenter: Mansur Choudry

Room: Magnolia D

Focus: Special Populations/Professional Development

The workshop will present strategies designed to engage children on the spectrum in meaningful activities that will teach them language, social skills to be verbal and functional.

***WISE Food Experiences in Childcare: Changing Parents and Nutrition at Home***

Presenter: Dr. Leanne Whiteside-Mansell

Room: Magnolia E

Focus: Curriculum/Family Engagement

Nutrition and consumption at early ages predicts nutrition and consumption in adulthood. WISE is a curriculum to enhance the diet of preschool children at home and school.

***Strategies for Building Partnerships with Families***

Presenters: Robin Jones & Jennifer Bowman

Room: Magnolia F

Focus: Family Engagement

This session will assist providers with recognizing the importance of their interactions with families and how those partnerships prevent the risk of abuse and neglect.

***Supporting Emotional Competence in Your Classroom***

Presenter: Deanna Hibbard

Room: Magnolia G

Focus: Child Development

There are a variety of materials in your classroom that can be used to promote social emotional competence. Explore how these items can be used to help children recognize and express emotions, recognize and solve social problems and learn to be friends.

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***Stop, Think and Act! Classroom Strategies and Activities that Develop Children's Executive Function Skills***

Presenter: Shannon Lockhart

Room: Magnolia H

Focus: Professional Development

Learn practical classroom activities and strategies to support the development of executive function in preschool children.



***Joining Forces for a New South: Positive Classroom Guidance through Shared Reflective Practice and Action Research***

Presenters: Dr. Laura Herold, Libby Lance & Kiersten Hale

Room: Azalea C

Focus: Professional Development

This session explores the impact of shared reflective practice on positive classroom guidance and presents strategies for collaborative reflection between students, teachers, administrators, and faculty.

**2:45-3:45 pm**

***Building Children's Early Literacy Knowledge through Engaging Literature***

Presenters: Dr. David Brown & Dr. Kristan Nicole Pearce

Room: Magnolia B

Focus: Early Literacy

Session participants will learn essential components of Early Literacy instruction and a variety of literacy based strategies that support crucial early literacy knowledge and skills.

***Dyslexia: What Is It and How Should It Be Assessed?***

Presenters: Dr. David Hurford & Amy Pasco Drummond

Room: Magnolia D

Focus: Professional Development

Dyslexia affects 15 to 20% of our children. The presentation will address the nature of dyslexia, its characteristics, and proper assessment and diagnosis.

***Safe Sleep in Child Care***

Presenter: Alicia Hundley

Room: Magnolia E

Focus: Professional Development

This workshop will shed light on the latest research available on how child care providers can prevent SIDS and other sleep related deaths in infancy.

***Bornlearning® Communities: Strengthening Families in Low-Income Neighborhoods***

Presenters: Dr. Jaesook Gilbert, Dr. Helene Harte & Amanda Greenwell

Room: Magnolia F

Focus: Family Engagement

This session will describe a community program that creates a pathway to the

traditional school-based program by affirming and strengthening the assets of low-income families.

***Shaping a Better Future by Improving Your Program***

Presenters: Alice Story & Dr. Kathy Pillow-Price

Room: Magnolia G

Focus: Professional Development/Home Visitors

Want to improve your program? Come to this fun, interactive session and learn how to establish a plan that will help you with continuous improvement!

***It's all about ME! Conflict Resolution with Toddlers***

Presenter: Christine Snyder

Room: Magnolia H

Focus: Infant/Toddler

Learn HighScope's six steps of conflict resolution with toddlers. Discover how temperament and strong emotions plays a role in the process.



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***Meetings Held in Two Languages – Roles of the Teacher and the Interpreter***

Presenters: Darlene Kurtz & Dr. Anarella Cellitti

Room: Azalea A

Focus: Professional Development/Family Engagement

How do teachers successfully meet with parents who don't speak English? Learn strategies for successful family engagement with a bilingual interpreter/translator.

***Remapping the Cradle to Prison Pipeline to the Cradle to College Pipeline in Louisiana***

Presenters: Dr. Michelle Fazio-Brunson, Dr. Debra Hailey, Dr. Stacy Garcia, & Patricia Alexander

Room: Azalea B

Focus: Child Development

We will share our experience remapping the Cradle to Prison Pipeline to the Cradle to College Pipeline in a small, rural town, partnering with two schools that primarily serve children from low socioeconomic backgrounds. Learn how to establish relationships with community partners to collect resources necessary for making family literacy bags and for providing teachers with materials to develop their preschool and kindergarten children's skills in all domains.

***One Governing Board's Success in Serving Children and Families of the South***

Presenters: Dr. Dianne Lawler, Lisa Owens, Angela George, Robin Thomas

Room: Azalea C

Focus: Administration

Participants will learn about governing boards, Head Start and Early Head Start governance, Policy Councils, and fiduciary responsibility. Discussion and interactive participation will be encouraged.

***Mud Marvelous Mud***

Presenter: Cheri Lindsley

Room: Azalea D

Focus: Curriculum

Oh the joys of messy play! We'll look at why messy play is important for children, how to create a mud kitchen on your playground and even touch on organizing a Mud Day event!

**4:00-5:00 pm**

***Digital Initiatives: The Early Learning Gap and Technology***

Presenter: Benjamin Heuston

Room: Magnolia B

Focus: Professional Development

Digital initiatives in closing the early learning gap have a distinct advantage over traditional efforts: they can be implemented anywhere. Participants will learn how utilizing new technology such as Raspberry Pi and other devices will help us target all children, including those with unreliable or no internet access.

***Preschool Screen for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE): How and Why***

Presenter: Dr. Leanne Whiteside-Mansell

Room: Magnolia D

Focus: Professional Development

Identification of preschool children at risk of experiencing Adverse Early Childhood Experiences (ACE) is possible and allows intervention to prevent developmental delays and illness.

***Executive Functioning in Preschool Children***

Presenter: Dr. Cecile Komara

Room: Magnolia E

Focus: Child Development

Executive Functioning (EF) is important for Kindergarten Readiness. Come find out what skills constitute EF and how you can support EF skills in your classroom.

***Georgia's Rural/Non-Rural Quality-Rated Childcare Programs & Social Determinants of Health***

Presenters: Dr. Nancy Webb & Dr. Madison Gates

Room: Magnolia F

Focus: Professional Development

Early childhood is a critical time for children's development with many studies linking

early childhood education to school readiness and early school achievement. Learn how early childhood programs and collaborations can help to close this critical gap.

***Positive Research Outcomes of a Statewide Child Development Training Course***

Presenters: Kerri Wade & Brenda Porter

Room: Magnolia G

Focus: Professional Development

Research has shown that a trained work force is key to providing quality child care. West Virginia, a state with limited resources, has developed a creative strategy to address this challenge. In cooperation with the U. S. Department of Labor, the Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialist Program was developed to increase employee knowledge and to support employers in providing quality care.

***Using ITERS-R/ECERS-R to Promote Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)***

Presenters: Elizabeth Stone & Merry Pennell

Room: Magnolia H

Focus: Professional Development

CQI is an on-going process that can help teachers and directors look at ways to improve the outcome for staff and child success in an early care and education environment. Tips and strategies will be shared to better promote understanding and implement the identified areas of growth by using the ITERS-R and ECERS-R as a tool.

***Starting Young: Meeting the Needs of African American Students during the Early Years***

Presenter: Dr. Bweikia Steen

Room: Azalea A

Focus: Child Development

This interactive presentation will discuss and analyze current research about the preschool to prison pipeline and the important role of curriculum, instruction, assessment, and family.

***Helping Children to Rise above Their Circumstances: Building Resilience***

Presenters: Dr. Debra Jo Hailey, Dr. Michelle Fazio-Brunson, Dr. Stacy Garcia, & Patricia Alexander

Room: Azalea B

Focus: Child Development

Despite poverty and associated hardships that the children in your classroom experience, you can help them to rise above their circumstances through everyday interactions.

***Engaging College Students with Refugee Families through C.A.R.E. (Creativity and Reading Education)***

Presenter: Dr. Holly McCartney

Room: Azalea C

Focus: Professional Development

Learn how a three week program merging Creativity and Reading Education (C.A.R.E.) impacted refugee families, their children, college students and the faculty leading the

program.

***Instructional Coaches Wear Many Hats: How These Hats Help Everyone***

Presenter: Dr. Tara Wilson

Room: Azalea D

Focus: Professional Development

More schools are hiring instructional coaches. How can they help our Title I students? This interactive session will answer this question and many more!

***Saturday/March 11, 2017***

**8:30-9:30 am**

***The Anti-Bias Journey: Tools for Early Childhood Educators***

Presenter: Dr. Rania Salman

Room: Magnolia E

Focus: Professional Development

Professionalism is a key tenet when working with children and families suffering from generational poverty. Participants in this session will engage in discourse focused on marginalized groups and how the field of early childhood education can provide a voice for individuals who are living in poverty.

***Crosswalk to Quality***

Presenters: Leigh-Anne Gant, Freda Kirkland, & Monica Fontana May

Room: Azalea D

Focus: Professional Development

This session will explore a crosswalk correlation between Mississippi's influential systems on quality: Child Care Licensing Regulations, ITERS-R, ECERS-R, CLASS and Early/Head Start criteria.

***Shapes, Symbols, and Scissor Skills Sequenced for Success!***

Presenter: Marianne Gibbs

Room: Azalea A

Focus: Professional Development

Join Marianne for an interactive session on documentation and assessment methods for handwriting readiness and scissor skill proficiency. Enhance parent conference interactions and your professional articulation of students' progress with objective and meaningful information.

***Engaging Families in Early Language and Literacy with Accessible Activities***

Presenter: Dr. Brittney Schrick

Room: Azalea B

Focus: Curriculum/Family Engagement



This session will provide hands-on, early language and literacy activities accessible to low-income parents, programs, and schools and linked to Head Start Early Learning Outcomes.

***Recognizing the Superhero in Every Child***

Presenter: Rebecca Jenkins

Room: Azalea C

Focus: Professional Development

Participants will gain insights into the possibilities for supporting and advocating for a child of a minority group to be a pro-social and effective member of his learning community. The presenter will also emphasize the critical role of partnering with and empowering families to be strong advocates in their child's educational environment.

**8:00-10:45**

***Faith Based Forum***

Room: Magnolia F

Facilitator: Kathy Young

This forum is designed to provide a networking opportunity for early childhood professionals in faith-based programs. The initial hour will be spent in networking activities, with a focus on the special challenges and opportunities that are inherent in faith-based settings. The forum will be closed with a session with Terre Harris.

***What a Character! Encouraging Character Development in Young Children***

Presenter: Terre Harris

As more and more faith based programs join the arena of Early Childhood education, it is important for us to address the needs and concerns they have as they do all they can to promote Character Development in the young friends they teach. This introduction to basic character development skills will hopefully challenge educators to make these objectives part of their daily routines.

**9:45-10:45 am**

***Apps and Interventions to Help Children with Dyslexia!***

Presenter: Dr. Tammy Benson

Room: Magnolia E

Focus: Special Populations

Successful digital applications, online tools, and successful interventions focused on helping children with dyslexia will be presented. Specific strategies will be presented for working one on one with students using the intensive training based on the Orton- Gillingham Reading Intervention Model.

***Developing Eager Learners: Strategically Using Non-Fiction Materials***

Presenter: Dr. Robbie Roberts & Leslie Roberts Batts

Room: Azalea D

Focus: Early Literacy

Examine how children who might not sit still for a read-aloud can be enthralled with a great non-fiction book, media or hands on materials.

***Authentic Assessment for ECE***

Presenters: Dr. Charlene Brickman, Jill Mallette & Kathleen Sheehan

Room: Azalea A

Focus: Assessment

Teaching in a high stakes environment and striving for DAP? Join us for a discussion of DAP that will reinforce assessment and make it doable!

***Valuing the Invaluable: Keeping a Focus on What Matters Most***

Presenters: Mardi Crandall & Dr. Jennifer Henk

Room: Azalea B

Focus: Professional Development

Change is part of our field. Gain an appreciation for the breadth of the profession while holding fast to what is most important.

***Closing the Literacy Gap: Using Oral Narratives in Your Classroom***

Presenter: Roxanne Knowles

Room: Azalea C

Focus: Early Literacy

Research-based best practices for promoting oral narratives in the early childhood Classroom, simple techniques to foster and improve emergent literacy in your classroom, will be presented. Participants will benefit from this presentation by learning questioning techniques, storytelling and story acting procedures that can immediately be implemented in their classrooms at no cost.