

# Let's Flourish Together!

ACSI  Early Education

## 2022 Virtual Early Education Conference Breakout Sessions

We will hear from inspirational keynote speaker, Dr. Althea Penn, who will share how to nurture your classroom and embrace your purpose to flourish in your role. The schedule will include keynote sessions and 4 engaging breakout opportunities. Pre-selection of breakout sessions will be required during the registration process on [acsi.org/eeconferences](https://acsi.org/eeconferences). Choose 1 session from A B C & D below.

Choose 1 session from Breakout Session A below.

Session Code	Breakout Session A	Session Description	Speaker
A1	Early Signs of Dyslexia & Helpful Interventions	Dyslexia is a language-based learning disability, BUT it is one that can be remedied with the right dose of love, encouragement, and effective strategies. Participants will learn the early warning signs and what to look for during early childhood. We'll learn WHY and HOW to help those students who are also struggling to formulate their expressive language. Dyslexia is lifelong, meaning that these kids need tools to place in their tool belts so that they can successfully recognize letters, sounds, and patterns, and read simple sentences. Early Education Core Competency: Special Needs and Inclusion	Dr. Rebecka Spencer
A2	Preparing a Culturally Sensitive Classroom	Attuned early educators bring their selves to the task of expressing divine care in everyday moments, inspired by the imago Dei - the image of God - lovingly knit into every young life in the classroom. Honoring imago Dei within children and colleagues begins with gaining cultural competency. This session will provide a framework for processes, checklists and guiding questions, classroom environment and curricular suggestions, self-evaluation tools and journaling prompts, and access to a mini-unit on cultural exchange ideas. Early Education Core Competency: Cultural and Linguistic Diversity	D'Arcy Maher
A3	Biblical Worldview Integration Tips and Ideas	You have a tremendous impact on the future of a child as they begin developing their own worldview by the age of 2 and their moral compass is fairly determined by the age of 9. (Barna Group, 2009). Come learn how to integrate biblical principles across every subject using ACSI's Purposeful Design Preschool Bible as a sample text. The strategies you'll learn will be usable with any curricular content, giving kiddos a strong picture of God in their world. Early Education Core Competency: Child Development and Learning: Spiritual	Karrie Edwards and Jennifer Bollinger

A4	Creating Classroom Culture that Fosters Connection and Safety	Managing big behaviors has always been a common classroom challenge. With today's stressors it is even more important to build a healthy learning environment where everyone's social and emotional needs are being met, including yours. This can be accomplished through everyday routines and effective strategies that make us rethink our focus in order to reduce challenging behaviors and foster healing in children. Come learn what some of these strategies are and try them out on Monday! Early Education Core Competency: Learning Environment and Curriculum	Madison McCloskey
A5	Understanding Infants & Toddlers: It's Not About Stimulation- It's about Education!	Stimulation in the form of sensory experiences should come from interactions with the environment and people, not just materials. In this session, we will look at some toys and activities that may be inappropriate or overstimulating, as well as the kinds of materials and activities that provide infants and toddlers with high quality interactions and learning experiences. Spoiler alert - you probably already have many of them in your classroom, you just haven't thought to use them in the ways we will be! Early Education Core Competency: Child Development and Learning: Cognitive	Vanessa Mininger

**Choose 1 session from Breakout Session B below.**

Session Code	Breakout Session B	Session Description	Speaker
B1	The B-I-B-L-E: Miracle Grow for Little Ones	Christian early educators are challenged with integrating Bible truth in developmentally appropriate ways. Biblical integration is taking a standard, benchmark, or developmental goal and teaching relevant Biblical truths and principles about God's character and nature from a Christian perspective. Participants will glean lesson planning and instructional strategies that promote spiritual formation and faith development in the youngest learners. Early Education Core Competency: Child Development and Learning: Spiritual	Dr. Althea Penn
B2	Upgrade your Integrated Units: Planning for Authentic Learning	Planning with integrated units for early childhood classrooms is a strategy that represents developmentally appropriate practice. Learn why it is important for authentic learning and learn what qualifies as a strong theme. Hint: It isn't because it is cute! We will deconstruct popular unit themes to see if they represent best practice and work on an appropriate sequence of themes for young learners. You will leave with a plan for replacing superficial unit themes and upgrading them for meaningful, authentic learning. Early Education Core Competency: Learning Environment and Curriculum	Dr. Stacia Emerson
B3	The Impact of Learning Outdoors	This session will explore the benefits of an outdoor classroom on all domains of development. We will look at the why's and how's of moving learning outdoors, as well as discuss ways to plan creative and engaging activities that facilitate investigation and discovery. Finally,	Allison Jessee

		will spend time recognizing the learning that is happening as children play in this intentional environment, and how we can support and communicate this learning to others. Early Education Core Competency: Learning Environment and Curriculum	
B4	Nurturing the Heart of the Child	An Increasing number of children are struggling to be successful learners in school. Learning is a function of nurture. Well nurtured children show up in the classroom excited about learning and curious about the world. They know how to make a friend and be a friend. They are problem solvers and creative thinkers. This session will focus on essential developmental milestones related to spiritual, social, emotional, and cognitive development. Early Education Core Competency: Child Development and Learning	Dr. Barbara Sorrels
B5	Understanding 2s & 3s: Uniquely Designed	God shares in Psalm 139 how we are uniquely designed by Him and so are the children in our care. As Christian educators we are entrusted to teach and nurture the children in our care in the unique way God designed them. 2's and 3's have developmental differences and achieve milestones at different rates, unique to how God made them. Join me on a journey as we move from "no" to "why" to independence and curiosity, taking a closer look into the unique design of two- & three-year-olds. Early Education Core Competency: Child Development and Learning	Amber Chandra

**Choose 1 session from Breakout Session C below.**

Session Code	Breakout Session C	Session Description	Speaker
C1	Learning Challenges & Parent Grief	Participants will learn about steps to take when a child presents with learning challenges. We will discuss how to make data informed decisions about your concerns, to acquire early intervention services through your public school, and to support parents through the grief process. Participants will also be provided with a glimpse into how other cultures perceive disability. Come join us for ideas to implement best practices when you return to your class. Early Education Core Competency: Special Needs and Inclusion	Dr. Julie Lane
C2	Recognizing and Managing ACEs /Trauma EE Classrooms	This session introduces early childhood educators to 1) the neurobiology of trauma and adverse childhood experiences, 2) signs of trauma and ACEs in young children, and 3) easily implemented trauma-informed classroom strategies. We will consider how chronic stress impacts early social emotional development as well as faith formation and how we, as educators, can minister to and support children dealing with the challenges of trauma. Early Education Core Competency: Health, Safety and Nutrition	Tammy Kennington

C3	Hocus Pocus, Get Your Kids to Focus!	We all have children who are difficult to engage. Come learn some very specific & easily replicable strategies to engage even the most unmotivated student. And these are NOT theory-based, but application-based strategies. This will be an entirely interactive session, where you'll not only see, but experience the power of these strategies that will give you simple yet powerful new tools to rapidly and decisively engage students whom you never thought you would...or could! Early Education Core Competency: Relationships, Interactions and Child Guidance	Jon Schade
C4	Power of Play	"We are designed to be lifelong players, built to benefit from play at any age." -Stuart Brown Join us for this hands-on session to experience the power of play first-hand as it promotes social and emotional skills, learning, and resilience. After engaging in play, participants will reflect on their experience, and have an opportunity to consider the application of play in their classrooms. Early Education Core Competency: Learning Environment and Curriculum  <i>Prior to our session, please gather a set of open-ended materials and have a piece of paper and pencil available for journaling. Possible materials: Sticks, stones, yarn, buttons, beads, blocks, bottle tops, fabric scraps, driftwood, wire, cardboard, pinecones...almost anything to engage your Hands, Heart and Mind!</i>	Carly Bedard
C5	Scripture Pictures	Scripture Pictures is a unique way to teach Bible stories with a strong visual component, which is so important to young learners. A series of six to nine simple images that you can easily create help your youngest students retell the stories using the visual cues. Each weekly Scripture Picture has a life lesson to hide in the child's heart. They quickly gain confidence in retelling the stories and tend to share them with anyone who will listen! Early Education Core Competency: Child Development and Learning: Spiritual	Amy Crouse

**Choose 1 session from Breakout Session D below.**

Session Code	Breakout Session D	Session Description	Speaker
D1	Talk, Sing, Read, and Write: Building Early Literacy Skills	These four simple practices support the development of a child's early literacy skills. These practices are doable and can be adapted to suit any child's learning needs. Research has found that providing children from birth to five with consistent, language-rich experiences such as talking, reading, singing, and writing can have important benefits on their brain development and future school success. Come to this session to discover engaging ways to build literacy skills by talking, singing, reading, and writing! Early Education Core Competency: Child Development and Learning: Cognitive	Dr. Christie Baird

D2	Meeting Millennial Parents' Needs	<p>The profile of millennial parents has drastically changed in the last two years. The parents we serve today are markedly different than they were even two years ago. Many millennial parents are more anxious, fearful, and cautious than ever before. They are looking to us to assure them that their child is safe, loved, and receiving a good education. We will be discussing how our parent populations' profile has changed and how we can meet their needs.</p> <p>Early Education Core Competency: Families and Community Relationships</p>	Jeneane Stevens
D3	Discover the Wonders of God's World with Backyard Science	<p>Explore biological, chemical, and physical sciences with innovative activities that you and your little scientists can enjoy together! Encourage imagination and creativity while children develop their scientific inquiry and problem-solving skills. Invite children to design a protective and stimulating environment for their pet insect; concoct the best bubble solution for the most stable bubbles and create wacky bubble blowers; explore force and motion with launchers and ramps made from natural materials and loose parts; and more.</p> <p>Early Education Core Competency: Child Development and Learning: Cognitive</p>	Judy Ross
D4	Musical Engagement in the Classroom	<p>Music can be used in a variety of ways to engage your students, manage the classroom, and build community. Discover how to use music throughout the school day to help children learn while having fun. Explore different ideas of using music the very next time you step into the classroom. No musical experience necessary. Come and be ready to move! This is a fun, hands-on workshop for those who work with young children.</p> <p>Early Education Core Competency: Child Development and Learning: Physical</p>	Dr. Angela Park
D5	Understanding Developmental Kindergarten	<p>It goes by many names: TK, High 5s, Transitional Class, Developmental Kindergarten...but what is it? Who is it designed for? What are the goals of this extra year before kindergarten? How do we determine who should be in this class? Does the state's cut-off kindergarten entrance age matter? What skills should be reinforced in this class? Join us as we discuss this increasingly popular program for those children who may be old enough for kindergarten, but just aren't quite ready and would benefit from this sweet gift of time.</p> <p>Early Education Core Competency: Learning Environment and Curriculum</p>	Alyssa Anaya and Bethany Ficks