



2024 ACSI Early Education Virtual Conference Sessions

Session	Speaker	Session Title	Session Description
Welcome February 16 8:15 AM ET 7:15 AM CT 6:15 AM MT 5:15 AM PT February 24 11:15 AM ET 10:15 AM CT 9:15 AM MT 8:15 AM PT			
Opening	Althea Penn	Welcome	Praise and worship and instructions for the day.
Session 1 February 16 8:30 AM ET 7:30 AM CT 6:30 AM MT 5:30 AM PT February 24 11:30 AM ET 10:30 AM CT 9:30 AM MT 8:30 AM PT			
General Session	Elisabeth Jochum	Two New Ways to Play	Playtime for preschoolers is important and provides for the development of important skills including negotiation, theory of mind, and divergent thinking. We'll examine two unique approaches to introduce symbolic play to your students, and also consider simple ways that you can increase the amount of time your students spend in symbolic play.
Session 2 - Breakout Session Choice February 16 9:35 AM ET 8:35 AM CT 7:35 AM MT 6:35 AM PT February 24 12:35 PM ET 11:35 AM CT 10:35 AM MT 9:35 AM PT			
Session 2A	Diana Schmell	Issues of Gender in Early Childhood Literature	Societal influences about gender have trickled down to reach even the youngest learners. This session will discuss how gender identity agendas are introduced to children at young ages. This session will start with truth from God's word that lays a biblical foundation about gender and where we find our identity. Using biblical truth, we will explore the subtle and sometimes not so subtle, messages that are portrayed in early childhood books. Developing minds are impressionable and as educators we need to be aware of the types of books that our students are exposed to and that we display in our classrooms. Strategies will be discussed to help educators guide parents in deciphering the messages that are hidden in some children's books. This topic will be handled with gentleness and grace as we explore this issue.

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Session 2B	Jenny Sue Flannagan	Connecting Content, Concepts, and Children to God	Have you been looking for a different way to integrate faith and learning? Have you been looking for different ways to teach science? Come and do science with Dr. Jenny Sue while learning how to connect content, concepts and children to God!
Session 2C	Dave Hill	Culture Eats Learning Objectives for Breakfast	Our staff and classroom culture is powerfully communicating something, whether we are intentional in creating it or not! In this session we'll explore how to Maslow before Bloom and how to build an environment that establishes health among our teachers and children.
Session 2D	Althea Penn	Reigniting the Passion for Leadership - Part I	Christian school leaders must adapt and rise to the challenges created by ever-changing circumstances. In this session participants will fan the flames of their intrinsic strengths and strategic skills needed to lead with agility. They will also work to improve their ability to influence both within the school and externally to cast and accomplish the school's purpose.
BREAK (25 minutes)			
Session 3 - Breakout Session Choice			
February 16 11:00 AM ET 10:00 AM CT 9:00 AM MT 8:00 AM PT February 24 2:00 PM ET 1:00 PM CT 12:00 PM MT 11:00 AM PT			
Session 3A	Elisabeth Jochum	Signs of Distress	More children in our classrooms are experiencing emotional distress. What are the signs, and how can we help? We'll look at common behaviors that students exhibit (often called "acting out") and equip you to recognize those signs. You'll be able to put some methods into practice that help to de-escalate a student who is in distress, and others that can increase a student's sense of safety and well-being.
Session 3B	Jenny Sue Flanagan	Creating Knowledge Rich Science Experiences in the Early Classroom	Knowledge-based schooling has been shown to impact student learning. What is knowledge-based schooling? Well, it is when you learn something new by connecting it to what you already know. Come and learn how to use engaging science experiences in preschool & Kindergarten to set the foundation for your student's later learning!! Plus, it will be fun!
Session 3C	Julie Stokes	Wonderfully Made	There is always that one child in the classroom that does not fit the norm. The student may not be on grade level, they may be easily distracted, have odd behaviors. Instead of focusing on what the student can do often times teachers look at what the student cannot do compared to others or focus on negative behaviors the student demonstrates. In this session educators will learn the importance of relationship building and that all God's children are fearfully and wonderfully made. We will dive into understanding a child's world through their eyes and how educators flip their thinking into focusing on the gift God gave each child. Leaving the negative thoughts behind and enjoying all the blessings in their classroom. Psalms 139: 13-16 James 1:19-20 Ephesians 4:29

Session	Speaker	Session Title	Session Description
Session 3D	Althea Penn	Reigniting the Passion for Leadership - Part II	Christian school leaders must adapt and rise to the challenges created by ever-changing circumstances. In this session participants will fan the flames of their intrinsic strengths and strategic skills needed to lead with agility. They will also work to improve their ability to influence both within the school and externally to cast and accomplish the school's purpose.
Session 4 February 16 12:05 PM ET 11:05 AM CT 10:05 AM MT 9:05 AM PT February 24 3:05 PM ET 2:05 PM CT 1:05 PM MT 12:05 PM PT			
General Session	Dave Hill	Edifying Education	What does it look like to 'start children off in the way they should go'? In this session we will explore the role in leading and listening, in articulating and affirming. You will be equipped to lead children through some of the cultural issues of the day while creating a culture of encouragement within the classroom.
Closing (15 minutes)	Althea Penn	Wrap Up	Prayer and giveaways.