



Early Education Conference Breakout Sessions October 7, 2023

The schedule consists of five sessions. Sessions 1 and 5 are the opening and closing keynote sessions where we will be together as one group. We will hear from Elisabeth Jochum who will help us explore a better understanding of how children are wired by God and how to develop *core connections*.

8:00 Session 1 – Upper Turner Meeting Room

2:30 Session 5 – Upper Turner Meeting Room

The conference also includes three breakouts (Sessions 2 – 4) where we will have the opportunity to learn from additional engaging speakers in small groups. Following registration for the conference, you will receive a confirmation email with a link to choose your sessions.

10:10 Session 2 – Breakouts (Wilden Hall Classrooms/LAPC Board Room)

11:10 Break/Transition to Sessions

11:20 Session 3 – Breakouts (Wilden Hall Classrooms/LAPC Board Room)

12:20 Lunch

1:20 Session 4 – Breakouts (Wilden Hall Classrooms/LAPC Board Room)

2:20 Transition to Session 5 (Upper Turner Meeting Room)

Session 1 – General Session – Connections are vital: within the human body, between humans, between God and man. Students today need help re-connecting their minds with their bodies, their emotions, and their caregivers. Parents and teachers need help re-connecting our minds with our bodies, our emotions, and with the children who are entrusted to us. Minds, hearts, and souls that are connected in the Lord are built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Explore how you, as an educator, can help children develop healthy brain connections and thrive as God designed them.

Session 2 - Breakouts – Choose one

	Breakout Choices	Session Description	Presenter
2A	Introduction to Behavior Management	Education has been significantly impacted by classroom disruptions, with teachers spending a considerable amount of time redirecting challenging behaviors. This not only detracts from valuable class lecture time but also slows down the coverage of essential topics in the classroom. In order to effectively address and redirect these challenging behaviors, educators need to acquire a solid understanding of the fundamentals of behavior management. This course is designed to provide educators with a comprehensive introduction to the basic principles of behavior modification. Participants will gain insights into how behaviors are learned and maintained, enabling them to select and implement more efficient and effective classroom interventions. By equipping educators with the necessary knowledge and strategies, this course aims to empower them to reduce disruptive behaviors and create a more conducive learning environment.	Gilda Panales Wilden 102
2B	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.	Elisabeth Jochum Wilden 103
2C	Optimal Joyful Learning: Building Environment that Encourage Positive Behavior (Part 1)	Optimal Joyful Learning: Building Environments That Encourage Positive Behavior. These interactive two-part sessions are designed to help educators and leaders understand how to create optimal, joyful learning (DAP). Part 1: Creating a positive behavior environment based on the Teaching Pyramid model (Tier 1&2). We'll examine the classroom environment and culture and gain tools and strategies for implementing positive behavior and DAP activities that promote optimal joyful learning in your class.	Eman Metri Wilden 104
2D	Classroom Environment: Your Tool to Successfully Address Challenging Behaviors and Build Positive Relationships	Classroom environment is like a two-sided coin. One side is the physical context (and what we DO there), and the flip side is the relational context (and who we ARE there). We'll explore both sides of the "coin" and discover how your classroom environment can be a powerful tool to successfully address challenging behaviors and help build caring, grace-oriented relationships within a supportive classroom community. You'll come away with ideas for setting up your classroom space to encourage positive interactions and minimize	Judy Ross LAPC Room

		disruptions; develop routines and procedures that optimize children's learning and provide choice; and learn how community circle and other play-based activities help children develop problem solving skills, support one another, and work as a team. We'll look at real life scenarios and how teachers and children solved problems and built classroom community together.	
2E	Who Is This Child In My Class?	Our heart and passion should be to create an environment where each child thrives and is successful. How do we do that when there are so many factors, characteristics, skills and abilities to consider? What do we need to consider and implement? What do the children from us? Let's look at today's child and the things we need to be aware of.	Cindy Meier Wilden 105
2F	Senses Gone Haywire! What is Sensory Integration Dysfunction?	All children learn through exploration, perceiving and processing information through the use of their senses. Sometimes, the sensory systems do not develop normally, resulting in difficulty integrating sensory input. Some students with "discipline problems" are really experiencing sensory integration dysfunction. Come learn practical ideas for helping these children succeed.	Julia Chandler Wilden 229
2G	Let's Give Teachers a Time Out!	As early education educators, we are familiar with the role that emotions play in growth and development and running a classroom, but often times forget how we ourselves as unique individuals handle and respond to them. Let's take a look at some strategies that can help us to manage our own frustrations, fears and disappointments that we deal with on a daily basis from students, co-workers and parents. It's time for a Teacher Time-Out!	Koryn Parker Wilden 230
2H	Steering the Ship through the Storm	Whether you are an administrator, lead teacher, office assistant, assistant teacher, janitor, or kitchen, we all face daily trials. Come participate in an interactive session and learn strategies to cope when trials come. We are stronger together!	Terri Reynolds Wilden 231
2I	Sensory Play with Purpose	Learn different ways to bring sensory play into your classroom by using a variety of mediums. Sensory play can help stimulate learning in many areas of the classroom. Come join us for a hands-on workshop!	Janette Lopez Wilden 119
2J	Loving Thy Diverse Neighbor: <i>Picture Books to Highlight Our Connections</i>	Reading aloud carefully selected diverse picture books helps young children appreciate our individual differences and learn to recognize that we are all part of God's family. By exploring the emotions of fictionalized characters, students appreciate the commonalities between us. Race, culture, gender, and other individual differences (e.g. physical and educational challenges) are explored in an effort to note how we are more alike than we are different. Students develop social and emotional learning as they are taught ways to recognize and label emotions. Primary students journal about the characters and about times when they have experienced similar feelings to those like and unlike themselves. This knowledge is	Dr. Cynthia Dollins Wilden 228

		translated into action plans for how to enact compassion and empathy for one another. As we reflect on diverse traditions and situations, we more clearly see God's image in the diversity of others.	
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Session 3 Breakouts - Choose one

	Breakout Choices	Session Description	Presenter
3A	Introduction to Classroom Management (Part 1)	Why is classroom management so important? When done effectively, classroom management is important for three main reasons. It: (1) Creates and sustains an orderly learning environment in the classroom (2) Improves meaningful academic learning and fosters social-emotional growth (3) Increases students' academic engagement and lowers negative classroom behavior. This training will introduce strategies and tools to assess how their classrooms are effective to target current students' behavioral and academic support.	Gilda Panales Wilden 102
3B	Self-Regulation: Understanding Kids Who Struggle	Why do so many kids struggle, and how can we help? The pre-frontal cortex is the brain's center for self-regulation. Brain research is now telling us that many different factors can influence a student's ability to regulate emotion and behavior. Let's take a closer look at those factors and find opportunities to encourage healthy pre-frontal brain development!	Elisabeth Jochum Wilden 103
3C	Optimal Joyful Learning: Building Environment that Encourage Positive Behavior (Part 2)	Optimal Joyful Learning: Building Environments That Encourage Positive Behavior. Part 2 focuses on The Power of Playful Learning and how to create developmentally appropriate and individually appropriate activities. What is "playful learning" and why is it so important to a child's development and your teaching practices? Come find these answers and more.	Eman Metri Wilden 104
3D	Teach Foundational Reading Skills and Build Relationships Through Purposeful Play!	Come ready to play with Language and Literacy! We'll explore engaging, play-based activities for Print Concepts (ABC, Play With Me; Mr. Window and Friends; Sentence Magician; Jump and Track Sentences), Phonological Awareness (Bounce and Roll Vowels; Word Squats and Slinky Soundouts; Onset and Rime Playdough Squishers), Alphabetics and Word/Print Recognition (Word Stretchers; Syllable Stomps; Little Words to Big Words), and Literacy Interest and Response (What Can YOU Do With a Piece of Paper?; Guess the Connection; This is the Sun...or is it?), and more. Promote beginning reading skills AND build supportive, grace-oriented relationships with a wealth of creative, play-based activities you can use Monday morning!	Judy Ross LAPC Room

3E	Movement is More than Just Playground Time!	There are many skills we want to consider when incorporating movement into our programs. Due to the sedentary lifestyle and the stillness of sitting with computers, tablets, and phones, it is vital that we incorporate perceptual motor development into our program. Brain research shows that moving is beneficial. Let's look at how we can ensure our children have opportunities to explore and master some of the important skills.	Cindy Meier Wilden 105
3F	Partnering with Parents	A crucial component to any successful early education program is the ability to effectively partner with parents. An attitude of openness and effective communication are key elements in this. We will explore ways to accomplish this on a day-to-day basis as well as some tools for when challenges arise.	Julia Chandler Wilden 229
3G	Think Life, Speak Life	This session will be looking at how we can break generational habits and create healthy thoughts and words for healthy child and adult development. Come discover what habits you're passing from generation to generation.	Sarah Pate Wilden 230
3H	Behavior Management - Unlocking the keys to reduce aggression or defiance in your classroom	In this session, we'll discuss what clear behavior expectations look like in the early learning environment and how to implement them. We'll explore how being proactive can help reduce negative behaviors and what the use of redirection and attention to the positive looks like in early education. The goal: having students with increased compliance, and less aggression and defiance.	Terri Reynolds Wilden 231
3I	Surprising Criteria for Kindergarten Readiness	Preschool teachers spend countless hours preparing lesson plans they hope and pray will help prepare their students for kindergarten, however, in talking to kindergarten teachers, they have quite a different set of criteria for readiness than early educators. Come and explore ways you can prepare your students for kindergarten beyond the ABC's and 123's. You just might be surprised!	Teena Ingram Wilden 119
3J	The Blessed Opportunity to Educate Children with Disabilities: <i>Practical Strategies through Universal Design for Learning</i>	This session will look at the spiritual and educational benefits for all learners through inclusive education of children with and without disabilities. The session will also provide a brief overview of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and include multiple free resources educators can use to continue their learning after the session. Using a case study format, participants will then get to practice applying UDL elements to a standard lesson in order to meet the needs of a profiled primary age student.	Dr. Tammy Bachrach Wilden 228

Session 4 Breakouts – Choose one

	Breakout Choices	Session Description	Presenter
4A	Introduction to Classroom Management (Part 2)	The purpose of this workshop is to equip teachers with the knowledge and strategies necessary to implement an effective classroom reward system. A well-designed reward system can promote active participation, reduce disruptive behaviors, and create a positive classroom environment. By allocating more time to teaching and fostering positive relationships among classmates, teachers can enhance the overall learning experience for their students.	Gilda Panales Wilden 102
4B	Leading with Faith, not Fear: <i>Developing Social Emotional Learning Skills in a Christian Classroom</i>	We live in a challenging culture where children are 'coddled' and have forgotten how to embrace challenge, curiosity, and grit. As Christian educators we need to demonstrate and teach Social Emotional Learning skills that spring forth from a Christian context - to make our children compassionate to others through developing personal strength. For a child to be cognitively engaged for learning, they must first be engaged and regulated - emotionally and behaviorally. We will learn strategies to develop and practice resiliency as in 1 John 4:18, 'Perfect love casts out all fear'. And we will learn that the converse is also true, 'Perfect fear casts out all love.'	Dr. Julia Johnson Wilden 103
4C	Inspiring Higher Level Thinking in Young Children	Questions are powerful tools that enhance the children's critical thinking skills. Small questions like "How many?" "What Letter is that?" Always has one answer. Thoughtful questions (big questions) spark young children's curiosity and encourage children to think deeply. Throughout the workshop we'll discover the 6 levels of questions, discuss, and reflect on expanding children's thinking by asking questions in each interest area, throughout daily routines and during other learning opportunities in the classroom. We will also consider how to support families to use high-level questions with their children at home. This intentional approach is rooted in Bloom's Taxonomy, and each participant will be provided with examples of questions at each of the six levels of questioning for each interested area in the classrooms.	Eman Metri Wilden 104
4D	<i>Swimmers... and Crawlers... and Flyers, Oh My!</i> STEAM Activities Based on God's Amazing Creations	Come explore engaging STEAM activities based on the wonders of our God's amazing and diverse creations. We'll discover attributes, behaviors, and life cycles of a sampling of ocean creatures, land animals, insects, and birds, based on the Creation Story in Genesis. We'll also explore a variety of related storybooks and informational text to help us in our STEAM investigations. STEAM activities presented in the session cover concepts of Science (e.g., Observation and Investigation; Scientific Inquiry; Our Five Senses; Life Science); Technology (utilizing tools to help us in our investigations); Engineering (designing habitats for our	Judy Ross LAPC Room

		creatures); Art (creating models of our creatures, using loose parts); and Math (counting, comparing, and contrasting colors, shapes, sizes, patterns, etc.); and much more.	
4E	What Do Teachers/Staff Need Most from their Directors?	Leading a team can be difficult, challenging, and even frustrating at times. Sometimes we feel overwhelmed and like we're alone on an island. Let's look at some characteristics of an effective leader and what staff really want (and need) from you.	Cindy Meier Wilden 105
4F	Spiritual Development of Young Children	The spiritual development of young children is a central goal in most faith-based programs, but do our practices line up with how faith actually develops? Join us as we explore the spiritual development of young children and how our early learning classrooms can best facilitate its development.	Julia Chandler Wilden 229
4G	Resilient Equipping	Building resilience and grit in our children that they may flourish against all odds is the job of all educators. Come learn how you can teach children skills to bounce back from adversity, develop grit, and build resilience.	Sarah Pate Wilden 230
4H	212 Degrees: Take your teaching practice to the next level.	What difference does one degree make? At 211 water is hot, at 212 it boils, and with boiling water comes steam... and steam can power a locomotive. We will discuss three areas that will help teachers move to "next level teaching": 1. Being present; 2. Connect with students – relationships; 3. Extend learning. Come learn strategies to enhance what you're already doing and take your classroom to another level!	Terri Reynolds Wilden 231
4I	Cyberbullying: Cultivation of Forgiveness Among Digital Natives	In this session, we'll learn about the impact of cyberbullying including (a) the detrimental effects of cyberbullying among children raised in the digital generation, (b) the virtue of Forgiveness as a response choice for victims of cyberbullying, (c) findings from an exploratory study which examined the parental practices of forgiveness, and (d) practical approaches to strengthen home-school-community partnership to nourish healthy social and emotional growth among digital natives.	Mickie Wong-Lo Wilden 119
4J	The Faithfulness of God	As Christian leaders and educators, we rely on the faithfulness of God. How can we better understand God's faithfulness and how can this deeper understanding to equip us to lead better in our particular role? We'll find out together.	Lindsay Tolman Wilden 228

Session 5 – General Session – Putting It All Together This final session will equip you with tools to better understand health and wholeness in your students, their families, and yourself. What current trends impact the concept of wholeness, and what does it take to foster community connection with the parents and children we serve? What are your next steps to implement what you’ve learned today? Let’s put it all together!

