

CULTIVATING RESILIENCE



ACSI Early Education Workshop

Created to Flourish: God's Design for Developing the Mind and Brain

August 2, 2022 · Plano, TX

- 8:00 AM Registration Opens
- 8:30 AM **Opening Session – A Matter of the Heart**
Psalm 139:23 reads: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my concerns." This verse reminds us God fully knows and sees our hearts. As educators of children, we are called not only to physically and mentally know the children entrusted to us but also to attune to their hearts spiritually. However, this requires we first examine our own hearts and thoughts toward today's children. This session will challenge educators to approach the day's sessions with a sense of renewed urgency to love and nurture the hearts and minds of children.
- 9:30 AM Break
- 9:45 AM **Session 1 - Connection + Relationship = Healthy Brain**
Experience the most recent and relevant research on how God wired the brain for connection and how these relationships create a sense of safety, security, and emotional well-being in the brain.
- 10:45 AM Engagement Activity
- 11:00 AM **Session 2 - All Learning is NOT in the Head**
One of the first tasks children need to accomplish is to become competent and confident in the use of their bodies. Recent findings have also indicated that physical stability is an important foundation for preventing feelings of anxiety. This session will explore the connection between the brain and the body and identify ways to support this connection.
- 11:45 AM Lunch
- 12:15 PM **Session 3 – Flourishing Through Trauma**
What is childhood trauma and its effects on children? This session will create an awareness of the effects of childhood trauma and identify a trauma-sensitive classroom that offers the compassion, trust, and warmth of Christ.
- 1:00 PM Engagement Activity
- 1:15 PM **Session 4 – Identifying the Environments Needed for Children to Flourish**
Awareness and knowledge are the first steps in meeting the needs of children and adolescents. Armed with information from the earlier sessions, participants will dive deeper into specific learning environments that are brain-friendly and create opportunities for students to flourish and reach their God-given potential.
- 2:15 PM Break
- 2:30 PM **Session 5 – Engaging the Heart**
What does it mean to see the world through the eyes and hearts of children and adolescents? This final session will challenge participants to think about ways to reflect and embrace thoughts and ideas from today's sessions and leave the conference ready to empower themselves, colleagues, and students to flourish in the new school year.
- 3:30 PM Closing