



Designed to Flourish

May the Lord cause you to flourish, both you and your children. Psalm 115:14 (NIV)

ACSI  Early Education

2021 Virtual Early Education Conference Breakout Sessions

We will hear from inspirational keynote speaker, Dr. Milt Uecker, 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. Choose 1 session from A B C & D below.

Session Code	Session Title	Session Description	Speaker
A1	Waiting Is Not Easy! Integrating Self-Regulation in the Early Education Classroom	The ability to pay attention, follow directions, control impulses, and build and maintain strong relationships impacts the flow of the classroom. Research also supports that children who can self-regulate experience short- and long-term academic success. What tools can be added to our toolbox to expand this foundational skill? Engage with us to learn some tools to take to your classroom. EE Core Competency: Relationships, Interactions and Child Guidance	Ruth Borrmann
A2	The Power of Play	Dive deeply into the research and theory behind the power of play in the social, emotional, physical, and cognitive growth of our learners. Become an advocate for one of the most valuable learning tools we have among us...play. Review the basics of how children learn and connect their learning to play. Integrate the concept of play levels and discuss the concept of guided play. Be equipped to advocate for valuable play in your classroom and use less worksheets even in Covid-19 times. EE Core Competency: Child Development and Learning: Social, Emotional, Physical, Cognitive	Adrienne Fiscus
A3	Teaching Math from a Biblical Perspective	Math is a language that expresses relationships found across all aspects of God's created world. As math is spoken during a child's experiences it reveals its origin in God the creator. Join us as we examine this child-directed shift in pedagogy that helps us explore math as an understanding that is dependent on concrete experiences. Learn why math instruction must be focused on exploring their world through all of their senses and centered on doing instead of telling. EE Core Competency: Child Development and Learning - Cognitive	Dr. Milt Uecker
A4	Amplify Your Impact in Preschool Ministry... Pause,	You are where you are in a pivotal moment of change and uncertainty. You have been placed as a leader in your school or church community for this season. God has uniquely created you to minister to the little ones and families in your care as you share and demonstrate the	Emily Toole

	Shift, and Pivot to Flourish	redemptive message of Christ in ways that are meaningful, relevant, relational, and developmentally appropriate. How? As a leader of young children, now is a time we can pause and reflect on how we reach and minister to preschoolers and their families in a changing world where safety and digital savvy are critical, shift the ways we care for and lead them utilizing easily accessible resources, and pivot toward creating an engaged community of authentic partnerships and relationships so that those we lead will flourish. EE Core Competency: Family and Community Relationships	
B1	Project Based Learning: Little Learners Exploring Big Ideas	Dig into the processes of Project Based Learning (PBL) in which content is guided by the natural curiosity and questions of little learners. PBL instruction is purposeful in exploring those questions through inquiry and real-life, hands-on experiences. PBL is a purposeful way to integrate a biblical worldview into the classroom as you explore little learner's big questions through the lens of God's creation. EE Core Competency: Learning Environment and Curriculum	Jen Kleiber
B2	How Preschoolers Process Emotion	How children think affects how they behave! Preschoolers have many strong emotions every day that spill over into how they respond to the world around them. Let's look deeper into how their brains are affected by emotion. What gets in the way of healthy emotional development, and how can we help? We'll offer practical ways to develop a calmer, caring approach to children caught up in powerful emotions. (And we might come away understanding our own reactions better too!) EE Core Competency: Child Development and Learning - Emotional	Elisabeth Jochum
B3	Treasure Hunt: Digging for the Truth in Children's Books	Children love books and enjoy the stories and the characters. Most of these books have a sacred truth inherent to them, and it is up to us as the teacher to uncover this for our students. Examine the ways to reveal the biblical worldview found in many children's books. EE Core Competency: Child Development and Learning - Spiritual; Cognitive	Dr. Penny Clawson
B4	Support Developmental Trauma: From a Faith-Based Perspective	With an increased understanding of trauma, educators are better equipped to support learning and behavior of affected students. Join us to learn about the neurological impact of trauma on children and strategies to support children in the school setting, imbedded with the truth that we are all created in God's image, both as individuals and in community. This work invites us to think about the impact of trauma on a child's learning, behavior, and development; to focus on healing through relationships; and to plan how to set up our school environments to promote healing. EE Core Competency: Child Development and Learning - Physical and Cognitive	Betsy Winkle
C1	Understanding and Supporting Sensory Processing in the Young Child	How do we identify kids who may have sensory challenges? Actively explore sensory processing and motor development as you participate in an in-depth discussion about how children with these difficulties present. Obtain strategies that can be easily implemented to help	Stephanie Roberts

		<p>foster increased skill development and comfort in the young child. Join us to gain a broader perspective of potential sensory triggers that could impact children’s participation. Leave with a deeper understanding of how you can help all children thrive.</p> <p>EE Core Competency: Child Development and Learning - Physical & Cognitive</p>	
C2	Autism, ADD, ADHD or Developmental Progression?	<p>Explore research-based techniques to support young children who appear developmentally delayed or different. Although we do not diagnose, we can become familiar with some of the initial signs of Autism, ADD, ADHD, and other disabilities. Let's examine language and engagement strategies designed to be used in your early childhood classroom. Gain insight through resources offered for developmental progression. In addition, enjoy fun fingerplays and ideas for interaction to be used with children virtually or in person.</p> <p>EE Core Competency: Special Needs and Inclusion</p>	Dr. Belinda Dunnick Karge
C3	Take That Outside! The Outdoor Classroom and Early Education	<p>Traditionally, learning has been seen as an indoor activity. Whether it’s the ABCs or 123s, conventional thinking assumes that serious academics require tables, paper, and a classroom space. As early educators, however, we fully understand the vital role the outdoor environment plays in learning. Yard time isn’t a recess from learning for young children but the practical, hands on application of knowledge. Give your kiddos a chance to hypothesis, experiment, and make observations in God’s laboratory. Come and see how to creatively manage the Outdoor Classroom to provide the fully immersive and engaging environment to stimulate and empower our lifelong learners.</p> <p>EE Core Competency: Learning Environment and Curriculum</p>	Cyndi Bailey
C4	The Art of Creating: How Process-Focused Art Experiences Support Early Learners	<p>Little people are born to create; it displays their uniqueness and who they are. Art is a person’s personal creation and there is joy in the ownership of that. Compare the difference between process art and product art and describe elements of an art curriculum within a developmentally appropriate early education program.</p> <p>EE Core Competency: Learning Environment and Curriculum</p>	Melinda Glen
D1	Behavior Management through Social Emotional Learning	<p>Social Emotional Development is instrumental in supporting children’s challenging behaviors in a classroom environment. Let’s emphasize the importance of each child’s well-being and consider the tools they need to learn to be successful and confident participants in the classroom. These skills can revolutionize the most chaotic classroom settings. Come prepared to engage in self-reflection examining our emotions, and the emotions of our students, as we explore practical strategies for social emotional development lesson planning.</p> <p>EE Core Competency: Relationships, Interactions and Child Guidance</p>	Michele Smith
D2	Classrooms as a Habitat for Wonder	<p>As early educators, you know children are born with an innate sense of wonder. Curious by nature, we can’t keep young children from exploring as they try to understand their world. Seems like everything is a wonder to them-even an old box!! Come and learn to use simple science experiences, great children’s books, and questions to engage</p>	Dr. Jenny Sue Flannagan

		<p>young children in learning! Use science topics to get early childhood students asking questions, doing long-term research, using numbers, and communicating.</p> <p>EE Core Competency: Child Development and Learning - Cognitive</p>	
D3	<p>Designed to Move and More: Discovering How Children Are Designed to Learn</p>	<p>Research continues to illuminate God's amazing design of the connections between a young child's brain and body. Not surprisingly, this research is simply catching up to what the Bible has already shared with us about effective teaching. In this interactive session, learn about, explore, and experience Biblical best practices for teaching children, following the template provided in Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and supported by Jesus' own teaching practice. Framed within a hypothetical unit, apply these best practices and leave with practical teaching, engagement, and assessment strategies to use in your classroom next week.</p> <p>EE Core Competency: Learning Environment and Curriculum</p>	<p>Dr. Linnea Lyding and Lyssa Rickard</p>
D4	<p>Teaching Simple Sign Language in Early Education</p>	<p>Use sign language in your early childhood classrooms to make learning fun AND helpful! Learn the benefits of introducing your students to simple signs, ways to incorporate sign language into routines, and how using sign language with your students now could lead people to God in the future.</p> <p>EE Core Competency: Cultural and Linguistic Diversity; Special Needs and Inclusion</p>	<p>Jennifer Freese</p>