

## SESSIONS AT A GLANCE

<b>10/15/26 Thursday</b>	<b>Diamond/Sapphire- 250 (Rounds of 10)</b>	<b>Plaza A- 40 (Classroom)</b>	<b>Plaza B- 40 (Classroom)</b>	<b>Plaza C- 40 (Classroom)</b>	<b>Plaza D- 40 (Classroom)</b>	<b>Illinois- 40 (Classroom)</b>	<b>Governor- 40 (Classroom)</b>	<b>Ruby Ballroom- 100 Play</b>
6:15-7:00	<b>Yoga Session with Tammy Davis Classroom</b>							
7:00-8:00	<b>Conference Registration</b>							
8:15-9:30	<b>Keynote – Dr. Antoinette Taylor (Diamond/Sapphire)</b>							
9:45-11:15	<b>Dr Bridgett Mitchell (NAEYC)</b>	<b>Tracy Patton -</b> Infants, Toddlers & Twos Oh My!		<b>Erin Wiese-Reichert -</b> Hands-on STEAM for Preschoolers	<b>Candace Smith -</b> Cultivating Care: Building Trauma-Informed Classrooms Through Educator Wellness	<b>Amanda Quesneberry -</b> Creating Supportive, Inclusive Environments	<b>Mary Korthauer &amp; Kema Gibson -</b> The Serious Business of Play for SPED	<b>Nikki Bowman -</b> Meeting the Needs of All Students in a Play-based, Mixed-age classroom
11:15-1:00	<b>Lunch/Exhibit Hall Grand Opening/ Playroom</b>							
1:15-2:45	<b>Dr. Antoinette Taylor -</b> 100 Years of NAEYC, Early Childhood Education and Care, and Kindergarten: How it started, How it's going, and Where it needs to go.	<b>Shawntay King -</b> Beyond SEL: Understanding the Teacher's Role in Supporting Social-Emotional Development	<b>Dr. James Mitchem &amp; Debbie Sykora -</b> Lessons Learned: Coaching for Inclusion in Community Based Organizations	<b>Chris Horan -</b> Emergency Readiness Hubs: Bring Your Team and Build Your Center's Plan Together	<b>Abby Spychalski -</b> Guiding Big Emotions	<b>Amanda Quesneberry &amp; Elizabeth White, Yadira Ramirez, &amp; Nicole Offutt -</b> Elevating the ECE Workforce: Alternative Pathways to Degree Completion	<b>Amy Kelly -</b> What Is Our Role? Screen-Aware Decision Making in Early Childhood	<b>Sara Garner &amp; Tammy Davis -</b> Tiny Explorers: Growing Through Touch, Texture, and Play
3:00-4:30	<b>Tammy Davis &amp; Sara Garner -</b> Art as A Language of Expression: Process-Oriented Art experiences for Infants and Toddlers	<b>Gretchen Sprinkle -</b> Is It Just Trending? Reframing Neurodivergence	<b>Iris Corral &amp; Elizabeth Martel -</b> From Conversations to Collaboration Communication That Connects	<b>Tessa Hobbs-Curley &amp; Cheri Burcham -</b> Mindful Practice: Bring Self-Awareness into the Classroom	<b>David Banzer &amp; Christina Delgado -</b> Engineering Challenges to Support Early Math Learning	<b>Megan Jung -</b> Positive Descriptive Feedback: What is it and How to use it	<b>Emily Kleeman &amp; Stephanie Mitzenmacher -</b> Big/Little Buddy Programs	<b>Julia Singler -</b> Powered by Play: Developing Early Literacy Through Joyful Learning - What Recent Research Tells Us About Integrated, Play-Based Foundational Literacy Instruction
4:30-5:30	<b>Submit Certificates &amp; Exhibit Hall - Shopping, Door Prizes/ Playroom</b>							

## SESSIONS AT A GLANCE

10/16/26 Friday	Diamond/Sapphire- 250 (Rounds of 10)	Plaza A- 40 (Classroom)	Plaza B- 40 (Classroom)	Plaza C- 40 (Classroom)	Plaza D- 40 (Classroom)	Illinois- 40 (Classroom)	Governor- 40 (Classroom)	Ruby Ballroom- 100 Play
6:15-7:00	<b>Yoga Session with Tammy Davis Classroom</b>							
7:00-8:00	<b>Conference Registration</b>							
7:30	<b>Exhibit Hall Opens</b>							
8:00-9:30	<b>Ryan Edwards &amp; Haley Ford</b> - Leveraging Play as a Tool to Build Educator Resilience	<b>Jose Orlando Torres</b> - Revolutionizing the Word Wall: How classrooms can build belonging vocabulary	<b>Kirsten Miller &amp; Katie Neidetcher</b> - Understanding Behavior: What's typical, what's not, and how to talk with families about concerns	<b>Ashley Harms &amp; Wendy Connell</b> - Belonging Builds Commitment: Reflective Supervision and Staff Satisfaction	<b>Becky Grider</b> - The Family Talk Toolkit: Four Easy Steps to Hard Conversations	<b>Mark Parker</b> - Why Good Programs Are Losing Child Care Liability Insurance and What We Can Do About It	<b>Deborah Perez &amp; Nelly Ventura</b> - Building Ecosystems of Care: Supporting Playful Partnerships	<b>Amanda LaLuna-Chorak &amp; Pamela Powell</b> - Teddy Bear Clinics & More: Medical Play in Early Childhood
9:45-11:15	<b>Dr. Antoinette Taylor</b> - The Road from Early Childhood Education and Care to Kindergarten: A Bumpy Ride or a Smooth Transition	<b>Emily Dorsey &amp; Natalie Danner</b> - Success for All! Strategies to Support Preschoolers with Disabilities	<b>Leslie Katch</b> - Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health: What teachers and leaders need to know	<b>Melissa Casteel</b> - The Inquisitive Leader - Trading Knowing for Wondering: A Strategic Advantage	<b>Becky Grider</b> - It Takes a Community: Building Sustainable Early Childhood Partnerships That Strengthen Programs, Families, and the Workforce	<b>Dan Berman</b> - Engaging Community Partnerships to Promote Prenatal to Five Literacy	<b>Beth Miller</b> - From Vision to Victory: Building Stronger Grant Proposals for Child Care Sustainability	<b>Margi Bhansali &amp; Erean Mei</b> - Playing Our Way Through the Transition to K: Using Play-Based Practices to Support Students With and Without Disabilities in K and Beyond
11:15-12:00	<b>Exhibit Hall/Games/Playroom</b>							
12:00-1:30	<b>Children Champion Luncheon</b>							
1:45-3:15	<b>Cori More &amp; Jennifer Buchter</b> - Screen Time: What do we know, where to we go	<b>Kathleen Sheridan &amp; David Banzer</b> - From Wonder to Care: Helping Young Children to Love the Earth	<b>Kristen Driscoll &amp; Kayla Schwenk</b> - The Power of 'Me' & 'We': Building Positive Toddler Communities	<b>Molly Crain &amp; Meghan Redeker</b> - Emergency Preparedness: Empowering Staff to Handle the Unexpected	<b>Sparkle Jackson &amp; Jodi Eppenstein</b> - Creating Trauma-Informed, Culturally Responsive, and Inclusive Early Childhood Classrooms	<b>Beth Trammell</b> - Leading with Heart and Backbone: Compassionate Accountability in a Mental Health-Aware Era	<b>Zahara Hussain &amp; Samantha Jean Iwinski</b> - Bridging Families and Classrooms: Ways to Incorporate Families	<b>Martha Meyer &amp; Laura Florian</b> - A Great Nature Education Resource: the Blueberry Awards
3:30-5:00	<b>Jennifer Butcher &amp; Cori More</b> - Ethical implications of behavior based approaches in ECE	<b>Kimberly Vazquez</b> - Supporting the mental health of immigrant children in the classroom	<b>Carmen Holley</b> - Small Bodies, Big Reactions: Practical Strategies for Early Relational Health in Preschool Classrooms	<b>Dr. Ja'Re Thorn</b> - Do Your Biases Impact Your Teaching Practices?	<b>Tarah Kadzielawski</b> - Improving Outcomes for Children—How the Learning Environment impacts the Quality of Interactions	<b>Bonnie Spencer</b> - Know Your Worth: Advocacy for Infant & Toddler Educators	<b>Dorothy Turner</b> - The Power of Team Building: Stronger Together	<b>Jesse Ilhardt &amp; Raha Dempsey</b> - Fostering Staff Collaboration, Talent Development + Retention Through Play
4:45-5:30	<b>Submit Certificates/Playroom</b>							
6:30-8:30	<b>Showing of Make a Circle - Classroom</b>							

## SESSIONS AT A GLANCE

10/17/26 Saturday	Diamond/Sapphire- 250 (Rounds of 10)	Plaza A- 40 (Classroom)	Plaza B- 40 (Classroom)	Plaza C- 40 (Classroom)	Plaza D- 40 (Classroom)	Illinois- 40 (Classroom)	Governor- 40 (Classroom)	Ruby Ballroom- 100 (Open with Chairs Around Perimeter)
7:00-8:00	<b>Conference Registration</b>							
8:00-9:30		<b>Dr. DeShonda Jennings</b> - Pour Into You: Self-Care Strategies for Sustainable Leadership	<b>Emilie Austin</b> - Steering Forward with AI: Smarter Tools for Smoother Leadership in Early Childhood Education	<b>Tanille Ulm</b> - Loose Parts putting all the pieces together collaboratively	<b>Barbara O'Donnell</b> - STEAM-Based Activities for Young Ecologists	<b>Toni Galassini &amp; Michelle Zurita-Sharpe</b> - Counting is More Than 1, 2, 3: Intentional Strategies for Building Strong Counting Skills	<b>Erin Acosta</b> - Beyond the Screen: Rebuilding Children's Language Through Human Connection	
9:45-11:15		<b>Carly Teeling</b> - When Less is More: Developmentally Appropriate Technology Use in Early Learning	<b>Lisa Cipriano</b> - Big Feelings, Safe Spaces: What We Can Do to Support Challenging Behavior and Healing	<b>Paula Schnicker-John son &amp; Ashley Baldrige</b> - Play Schemas in Action	<b>Ruth Baugh</b> - Coaching and Mentoring New Early Childhood Educators	<b>Toni Galassini &amp; Cyndi Lopardo</b> - Beyond Counting: Exploring Geometry, Measurement, and Data in Picture Books	<b>Sandra Duncan</b> -Designing the Ultimate Classroom Through the Five Senses: How Sensory-Intelligent Design Improves Regulation, Behavior, & Learning	
11:30-1:00		<b>Elsbeth Stowe-Grant</b> - Mindfulness & Movement: Strengthening Social-Emotional Growth, School Success, and Educator Well-Being in Early Childhood Classrooms	<b>Wendy Connell &amp; Natalia Ambrozek</b> - Strengthening Coaching Systems for Early Childhood Leaders	<b>Melissa Favata &amp; Leslie Hampton</b> - Mastering time and task management	<b>Dr. Carrie Comer-Yates</b> - Self Regulation in Early Childhood Classrooms: Improving Teacher Practice while Supporting Engagement and Achievement	<b>Michelle Zurita-Sharpe</b> - Visuals! Visuals! Visuals!	<b>Joyce Hemphill &amp; Laura Lynne</b> - Make + Play = Learn	
1:00-1:30	<b>Submit Certificates</b>							