

SESSIONS AT A GLANCE

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

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