

Friday's Workshops

A-1 - The immortality of Influence: Believing Every child Can Achieve their Dreams

Presenter: Salome Thomas-El

Audience: All

Join our Friday Keynote speaker, Salome Thomas-El, as he explores the question, "How do we ensure that every child achieves their greatest potential?" Learn how to succeed with children who are facing the most serious barriers to success: poverty, violence, neglect, and low expectations.

B-1 - Engaging Families from a Strength-Based Solution Focused Model

Presenter: Bob Brinker

Audience: All

Explore the strength-based solution-focused model of engagement as a proven model in engaging families and facilitating change. Learn how the SBSF model can be used in a variety of settings to facilitate growth and change.

B-2 - Leading from the Middle: Interact with Children, Families and Colleagues to Make a Difference

Presenter: Camille Catlett

Audience: All

To achieve the goal of quality services and supports for young children in Pennsylvania, the creativity and commitment of every early childhood colleague is needed. Become familiar with the concept of leading from the middle and highlight ways in which your interactions with children, families, and colleagues can make the biggest difference on a daily basis.

B-3 - Coping Effectively with Life Stress: Creating a Safe Space for Our Families

Presenter: Cindy Rzasas Bess

Audience: All

Understand and identify the true nature of stress and how it affects individuals. Acquire strategies that reduce the stress in the child while in the classroom, support the family in finding effective methods for coping with stress, and identify the signs of a family crisis.

B-4 - For Me, For You, For Later: Financial Basics for Families by Sesame Street for PNC Grow Up Great

Presenter: DVAEYC Staff

Audience: All

Learn how to implement the PNC For Me, For You, For Later math curriculum, designed to assist children in exploring the meaning of choices and gain understanding of spending, sharing and saving. Take away activities and resources to strengthen these skills in your classroom.

B-5 - Family Central: Partnering with Families as Part of Ongoing Observational

Presenter: Suzanne Scheel and Kristen Johnson

Audience: All

Come learn about ways to integrate family observations into your standard assessment practices. Teaching Strategies GOLD online demonstration will be included in the session.

B-6 - All About Asthma: A Doctor's Advice

Presenter: Naline Lai and Julie Kardos

Audience: All

Join pediatricians Naline Lai, MD and Julie Kardos, MD as they untangle the mystery behind asthma. Learn how to administer asthma medications and to understand side effects that affect classroom learning. Recognize when asthmatic children need increased medical attention and how best to communicate this information to parents.

B-7 - Using Shared Services to Support Reflective Teaching Practice

Presenter: Louise Stoney

Audience: Administration

Explore how Shared Service Alliances are creating new leadership and supervision models, including communities of practice that help teachers reflect on their experiences and learn from one another.

B-8 - Effective Communication with Families: Active Listening Do's and Don'ts

Presenter: Diane Wagenhals and Suzanne Spanton

Audience: Administration

Gain helpful tools to develop the skill of Active Listening — a specific, intentional form of communication in which the Listener focuses attention on information being shared and generates responses to what is being said that reflect the content, feelings or possible meaning of what is being shared. Practice Listening and avoid typical, less healthy responses.

B-9 - Protective Urges: Working with the Feelings of Parents and Caregivers

Presenter: Jennifer Bradshaw and Teresa Hayes

Audience: Infant/Toddler

Explore the underlying emotional issues of infant/toddler care and their impact on the relationships between parents and teachers. Examine the protective feelings and emotional responses that teachers experience when they care for infants/toddlers. Gain strategies to ease parents' concerns and to work through feelings about relating to parents when dealing with difficult issues.

B-10 - The Best New Books for Preschool Children**Presenter:** Isabel Baker**Audience:** Preschool

Join Isabel Baker as she introduces teachers to the best new preschool books of the year. Learn the importance and benefits of carefully choosing the books that are displayed in the classroom and the titles that are read aloud each day.

C-1 - Making Music a Family Affair**Presenter:** Beth Bierko and Scott Bierko**Audience:** All

In this lively, interactive workshop, experience the power music has to build community and fellowship among children, teachers and families. Learn songs about family and family life. Bring recording devices for capturing tunes.

C-2 - Strengthening Families: Building Protective Factors with Families**Presenter:** Zachary Cohen**Audience:** All

Explore the framework that builds protective factors promoting family stability and preventing child abuse and neglect. Identify the five research-based protective factors, and review examples of practical strategies.

C-3 - Effective Strategies to Support Families Who Speak Different Languages**Presenter:** Karen Nemeth**Audience:** All

Discuss how programs can be better prepared to serve diverse families with planning, policy and professional development. Specific strategies will be provided and resources shared.

C-4 - There's A Blog for That: Keeping Families Connected Digitally**Presenter:** Carol Wolf and Tamara Clark**Audience:** All

Examine how classroom blogs and digital portfolio blogs have revolutionized communication with teachers and families concerning children's development. Learn new ways that technology can bring children's daily learning into an evolving, active and interactive dialogue with families.

C-5 - Empowering Parents: Proven Strategies to Promote Parent Involvement**Presenter:** Britta Schasberger**Audience:** All

Obtain information regarding ways of improving collaboration between caregivers and parents. Explore the challenges and successes with promoting parent involvement and its impacts on child development and parent child interactions.

C-6 - Engaging Parents as Partners in Children's Inquiry-Based Science Learning**Presenter:** Dale McCreedy and Julia Skolnik**Audience:** All

Examine compelling arguments for engaging parents, learn effective strategies for linking home and school or after school, and gain resources to get started. Activity outlines will be available.

C-7 - The Sofa Spud Dilemma: Educating Families on Childhood Obesity**Presenter:** Karen Rucker**Audience:** All

Understand how childhood obesity is creating the first generation of children who may have a shorter lifespan than their parents! Discuss how we got here, what will occur if we continue, and how to partner with families to address this critical issue.

C-8 - Becoming a Visionary Director Part 1**Presenter:** Debbie Green**Audience:** Administration

Reflect on many aspects of an early childhood program and leave with strategies of moving toward becoming a visionary director. Implement strategies to create inviting classroom environments and apply new ways of thinking about curriculum design. (Part 1 of 2)

C-9 - Dialogue on Federal ECE Policy**Presenter:** Adele Robinson**Audience:** Administration

Bring your questions to a dialogue with NAEYC expert, Adele Robinson, moderated by DVAEYC's Public Policy Director, Pamela Haines. Acquire answers to what's important and how to get involved.

C-10 - Socially Strong, Emotionally Secure Children: Families and Teachers as Partners**Presenter:** Karen Cairone**Audience:** Preschool

Discover ten exciting strategies and activities designed to promote strong social skills and secure emotions in preschool-aged children. These activities were designed for early childhood professionals and families to help children develop strong protective factors and healthy resilience.

D-1 - Effective Communication with Families: Active Listening Do's and Don'ts**Presenter:** Diane Wagenhals and Suzanne Spanton**Audience:** All

Gain helpful tools to develop the skill of Active Listening — a specific, intentional form of communication in which the Listener focuses attention on information being shared and generates responses to what is being said that reflect the content, feelings, or possible meaning of what is being shared. Practice Listening and avoid typical, less healthy responses.

D-2 - Helping Children and Families Deal with Grief and Loss**Presenter:** Bob Brinker**Audience:** All

The process of grief greatly impacts us all. Examine the grieving process and learn how to help children and families complete the process of grieving in healthy ways.

D-3 - Interactive Storytelling: Learn How Children Can Become Active Participants in Story Time!**Presenter:** Don Dougherty**Audience:** All

Join Don Dougherty as he performs one of his interactive classroom adventure stories. Acquire tips on how to do this in the classroom, and be prepared to laugh, scream, giggle, and shout!

D-4 - Strengths-Based Family Conferences**Presenter:** Patricia Hess**Audience:** All

Learn how to develop strengths-based family conferences that help families learn about and support their child's growth and behavior. Develop communication techniques that avoid bruised feelings on both sides, and promote a supportive partnership. Discuss ways to boost attendance and seek out alternative ways to meet with all families.

D-5 - DVAEYC Annual Member's Meeting**Presenter:** Sharon Easterling**Audience:** All

Meet with representatives of DVAEYC's board and staff to share ideas about DVAEYC's programs and services and how best to meet your needs.

D-6 - Becoming a Visionary Director Part 2**Presenter:** Debbie Green**Audience:** Administration

In Part 2 of this workshop, join Debbie Green, once again, to reflect on many aspects of an early childhood program and leave with strategies of moving toward becoming a visionary director. Implement strategies to create inviting classroom environments and apply new ways of thinking about curriculum design. (must attend Part 1 to register)

D-7 - Implementation of Program Wide Positive Behavior Supports**Presenter:** Julia Slater, Dana Wolfe, DonnaBobo-Carter and Shannon Ellis**Audience:** Administration

Implementing Program-Wide Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) is a process beginning with the vision and support of program leaders. Program-Wide PBIS focuses on teaching new skills for staff and families. Hear experiences from PA PBS Facilitators and consider the benefits for your program.

D-8 - Building Bridges: Creating Respectful Partnerships Between Parents and Infant/Toddler Caregivers**Presenter:** Cindy Rzasas Bess**Audience:** Infant/Toddler

Reflect on the importance of the family-school relationship and learn to foster it so the infant/ toddler benefits from the supportive and collaborative care. Determine effective communication techniques that build supportive and constructive interactions.

D-9 - Engaging Families in Nurturing Children's Social-Emotional Skills**Presenter:** Mary Lynn White**Audience:** Preschool

Participate in this interactive workshop that will present strengths-based strategies to share with families and use in the classroom to help build children's social-emotional skills. Acquire techniques for helping children learn to use self-control, handle big feelings, brainstorm, and solve problems.

D-10 - PLAY PARTY: Create a healthy and active event for the whole family**Presenter:** Yvonne Kusters**Audience:** Preschool

Discover how to create a positive, playful, and active event for families to join in and celebrate their child's health. Obtain healthy tips, active handouts to do together, and lots of fun games for families to play. Foster a connection within your community with a Play Party!

Saturday's Workshops

E-1 - Engaging Fathers in Your Program

Presenter: Bob Brinker

Audience: All

Review the father's role in children's lives and examine the impact of both father involvement as well as "fatherlessness," and the key components of effective father programs.

E-2 - The Right Stuff: Evidence-Based Practices that Support Young Learners in Inclusive Settings

Presenter: Camille Catlett

Audience: All

Explore evidence-based practices that support access to a wide range of activities and environments for diverse young learners. Examples of research, videos, modules, and websites will be shared to illustrate effective ways to support the full participation of young children who are culturally, linguistically, and ability diverse.

E-3 - Taming Tantrums and Managing Meltdowns

Presenter: Bill Corbett

Audience: All

Learn methods for building internal motivation in a child through encouragement that will help them become strong, responsible problem solvers.

E-4 - Teaching and Parenting Emotionally Healthy Children

Presenter: Peter Moses

Audience: All

Gain insights and obtain action plans to improve effectiveness as teachers and parents. Become inspired toward meeting children's vital needs to feel respected, important, accepted, included and secure.

E-5 - Teachers and Families Using Developmentally Appropriate Technology for Language Learning

Presenter: Karen Nemeth

Audience: All

Learn about new apps and strategies for engaging teachers, children and families in developmentally-appropriate technology learning that supports home language and English development.

E-6 - Connecting the Dots: Keystone STARS Standards for Family Involvement

Presenter: Katie Meister and Lisa Reinhard

Audience: Administration

Discover how to use Keystone STARS standards as a framework to begin the often challenging work of developing strong family involvement strategies. Learn to "connect the dots" while reviewing the intent of various standards and how they work together to involve families in a meaningful way.

E-7 - Get your program involved in: For Me, For You, For Later, Financial Basics for Families by Sesame Street as part of PNC Grow Up Great

Presenter: DVAEYC Staff

Audience: Administration

Enhance math skills for your preschoolers through the PNC For Me, For You, For Later math curriculum. Explore the resources this program can bring to your center, including materials, professional development for staff and techniques for family engagement.

E-8 - Engaging Families through Effective and Sensitive Communication from the Teacher/Lawyer/Mom

Presenter: Lori Breen

Audience: Pre-K - Grade 3

Participate in this engaging and dynamic workshop that challenges the "child-centered" focus in favor of a parent and child-centered approach. Gain valuable insight into how to best reach families in order to best serve our youngest children. Get take-away tips that you can use in the field today!

E-9 - Engaging Children and Families through Project-Based Learning

Presenter: Karen Smuck Tylek

Audience: School Age

Project Based Learning (PBL) is a fun and effective way to engage children and their families in active learning. Learn how to design inquiry-based projects that incorporate the PA Early Learning Standards and engage families. Gain the tools necessary to begin planning projects with elementary students.

F-1 - Recovering Families: Supporting Parents in Recovery from Addiction

Presenter: Beth Bitler

Audience: All

Examine the impact of addiction and recovery on children and families and the process of recovery for the entire family. Identify examples of available resources specific to parents in recovery.

F-2 - Protecting the Health of Children and Staff in Child Care Settings

Presenter: Susan Gresko

Audience: All

Learn how to handle illness in child care settings, how to protect the health of staff and other children, and how to implement the national standards in your facility.

F-3 - The “ Playschool” Approach: Engaging Parents in a Cooperative Classroom

Presenter: Amy Saia, Kathleen Blass, Cindy Shillinger and Faith Koons

Audience: All

Review the Parent Cooperative Model that has influenced a successful partnership for over 75 years, with families and the community in a shared vision of high quality and best teaching/learning practice. Identify programmatic approaches that have garnered success.

F-4 - The School-Family-Child Connection: Promoting a School and Family Partnership

Presenter: Claudia Setubal and Jill Jacobs

Audience: All

Explore strategies and approaches to further connect schools and families. Highlights include event ideas, programs, and projects that aid the partnership between the parent/guardian, child, and school.

F-5 - Social Media for ECE: You Can Do It!

Presenter: Suzann Morris

Audience: Administration

Gain the knowledge needed to put social media tools to work for you, and discover how social media is the quickest and most affordable way to connect with parents, to advocate, and to grow your program.

F-6 - Effectively Resolving Problems with Families

Presenter: Meg Burdick and Laura Miller

Audience: Administration

When families aren't fully engaged in a program they are more likely to leave. Learn specific problem-solving processes that can be used for a win-win outcome when solving problems with families.

F-7 - Helping Parents Navigate the Early Childhood Special Education System

Presenter: Kimrenee Coaxum and Izetta Montgomery

Audience: Preschool

Learn about early childhood special education to empower yourself and families to advocate for children. Discover who's involved, where to go, types of services, and the process. Identify helpful hints, appropriate agencies for advocacy, and other resources.

F-8 - Explaining Autism and Other Neuropsychological Disorders to Siblings and Peers

Presenter: Judith Lynn Newman and Azlen Theobald

Audience: School Age

Understand the current state of research regarding peers' and siblings' knowledge about Autism Spectrum Disorders as well as the intervention research designed to increase such knowledge and change attitudes.

F-9 - Keys to Family Engagement in School-Age Care

Presenter: Carmen Gatti and Pat Hess

Audience: School Age

Be empowered with information, principles and approaches that will increase the effectiveness in communicating and engaging families. Determine factors that impact the ability to connect with families and develop strategies to engage families to support their child's development.

G-1 - All Means All: One Program's Journey Toward Supporting Each and Every Child

Presenter: Camille Catlett, Beth Baker and Alice Price

Audience: All

Learn about an excellent program that took on the challenge of examining their values and practices related to serving children who are culturally, linguistically, and ability diverse. Understand that program's process; the lessons they've learned, the changes they've made, and benefits they've achieved for children and families.

G-2 - Dance, Yoga, Fitness, Nutrition and Fun for the Whole Family!

Presenter: Kerri Clark

Audience: All

Discuss and experience fun fitness techniques to do as a family and in the classroom. Explore easy ways to integrate more nutritious choices into a family's diet without a drastic diet change, all while fitting it into the family schedule!

G-3 - Stress Management for Educators and Families

Presenter: Peter Moses

Audience: All

Rediscover innate abilities to adapt to changing professional and personal circumstances. Explore topics that include practical relaxation for teachers/parents, present-tense orientation, time & information management and more stress-free relationships.

G-4 - The Autism Community Inclusion Program

Presenter: Wendy Ross and Roger Ideishi

Audience: All

Learn about the efforts of a multidisciplinary team of professionals in bridging the gap between families affected by autism and community organizations. Identify barriers to community inclusion of families affected by autism, and discuss the importance of community inclusion.

G-5 - Child Safety: What Do I Need to Know?

Presenter: Gina Duchossoi, Tracey Hewitt and Diane Rukavina

Audience: All

Determine leading injury risk areas for children such as fire and burn prevention, bicycle safety, child passenger safety and home safety. Garner important safety messages along with many contact resources and free materials to educate children and families.

G-6 - Inviting Families into the Classroom: Learning from a Life in Teaching

Presenter: Lynne Strieb

Audience: All

Join a conversation about parent involvement led by a former K-2 teacher. Learn specific ways on how to include families in the everyday life of the classroom, and hear recommendations on how to communicate with families.

G-7 - Parents as Partners in Learning and Advocacy: Building the Foundations

Presenter: C. Jackie Chaney and Joanna LaCorte

Audience: Administration

Discover how to provide the kind of welcoming environment that encourages parents to join in the mission of a program. Move beyond a shallow checklist to a deeper consideration of what creates true partnership, and the skills and attitudes to make that possible.

G-8 - The Benefits of Infant Massage: A Workshop for Caregivers and Parents

Presenter: Kelli Zanotti Page

Audience: Infants

Experience how massage helps to build infant attachment and relieve stress in caregivers and children. Identify benefits arising from the use of nurturing touch such as improved physical, social and emotional development, better sleep regulation, relief from common problems, and enhanced receptive and expressive communication with caregivers. (participants must be willing to practice massage on one another)

G-9 - Families that Read Together, Succeed Together

Presenter: Christine Caputo and Jennifer Walker

Audience: Preschool

Learn how a family culture of reading, conversation, and library visits bolsters an individual child's success. Acquire strategies to inspire and support children and families as they bring books and reading into daily life. Kid tested, librarian approved books and reading lists featuring notable new titles will also be featured.

H-1 - Don't Give up... You May Be the Only Hope a Child Has to Grow

Presenter: Bill Corbett

Audience: All

Join our Saturday Keynote speaker as he provides some insight for preschool teachers and directors on the concept that what they see in themselves may be generated in the children in their care.