



*Embrace
the Mess*

building creative, joyful
learning experiences with
young children

seaaeyc

Southeast Alaska Association for
the Education of Young Children

EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE

**March 15-16, 2024
Centennial Hall | Juneau, AK**

WITH SUPPORT FROM Tlingit and Haida Child Care 102-477 Program,
thread, Alaska's Child Care Resource and Referral Agency, State of Alaska Department
of Education and Early Development, & United Way of Southeast Alaska

EMBRACE THE MESS

building creative, joyful learning experiences with young children

Welcome to the annual SEAAEYC Early Childhood Conference! We are thrilled to have you join us for this thought-provoking event dedicated to exploring the joys, challenges, and transformative power of embracing the mess, both figuratively and literally, in early childhood education. Over the next two days, we encourage you to share your insights, experiences, and approaches as we explore how embracing the mess can lead to profound discoveries, foster creativity, and lay the foundation for a lifelong love of learning.

In a world that often seeks order and structure, this conference invites you to challenge those norms and open your hearts and minds to the delightful unpredictability that characterizes early childhood education. Our speakers, workshops, and discussions will delve into the importance of allowing children, as well as ourselves, the freedom to explore, create, and make sense of the world through hands-on, messy experiences.

Thanks to each of you for the extraordinary care and dedication you offer to so many young children and their families each and every day. We hope you enjoy your time at the conference and we are happy to have you here. Let's embrace the mess together and pave the way for a brighter and more imaginative future!

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HOUSEKEEPING & EVENT NOTES

Professional Development

This year's attendance will be tracked using certificates of attendance found in your conference folders. Be sure to sign in, complete the electronic evaluation, and receive an attendance sticker at the end of each session. These certificates are your proof of attendance for the event. They are needed to count toward training hours with child care licensing and are required for educators applying for travel or professional development reimbursement through SEED!

Interested in earning UAS Credit? You can enroll to receive credit for your attendance by logging on to your UAOnline account and searching **ED 593: Embrace the Mess (CRN: 37589, Section: JBA)**. Come visit the UAS/CDA table in the lobby to learn more about what professional development path is best for you and your goals!

Meals

Breakfast: will be available in the lobby starting at 8 am both days.

Lunch: will be served, buffet style, in the lobby both days.

Refreshments: Coffee and tea will be available all day. Light snacks will be available in the lobby between the afternoon sessions both days.

Workshop Expectations

Feel free to sign in when you take your seat—we will be able to email handouts presenters have provided! Session rooms will have a maximum capacity to prevent overcrowding—please respect these capacities and the individuals enforcing them. Have a backup session in mind in the event your first choice is full.

Resource & Activity Tables

We have lots of fun things in store for you! Between sessions, be sure to explore both lobby areas! We have wonderful organizations that will be on-site and ready to say hello and answer questions about how they can support YOU!

Need to have some extra hands-on learning? Visit one of the many activity tables spread throughout both lobbies and PLAY, EXPLORE, and LEARN about various art mediums you can use - for yourself and in your classroom!

Table Care

Keep it clean! Please bus your own tables after each session and take any trash or dirty dishes to the collection trays. You are welcome and encouraged to explore the table décor - we ask that you leave any unused/reusable items on the table so others can enjoy them as well!

Parking:

Are you parked in the right spot? To avoid a parking fine, be sure to park in the designated Centennial Hall Parking Area (marked in green, located between the JACC and Centennial Hall buildings) and sign your car in at the office kiosk. You can park anywhere after 5 pm on Friday and all-day Saturday.



OPENING REMARKS: DR. CARLEE SIMON

Dr. Carlee Simon, the Interim Dean for the School of Education at the University of Alaska Southeast, possesses a rich and varied background in education. With a Ph.D. in Educational Administration and Policy, specializing in Public School Finance from the University of Florida, she has traversed an unconventional path, beginning as a Career Technical Educator with a degree in Architecture. Her tenure as Superintendent of Schools for Alachua County, Florida, overseeing a district of 30,000 students and managing a substantial budget, highlights her adeptness in handling large educational systems.

Dr. Simon's commitment to education is evident in her work to close opportunity gaps and respond effectively to pandemic challenges. In Alaska, she focuses on fostering local educator development and enhancing P-12 education through partnerships with schools, organizations, and tribes. Her approach incorporates evidence-based strategies and innovative methods, aiming to equip educators for the diverse needs of Alaska's student population. Dr. Simon is dedicated to advancing educational excellence and inclusivity at the University of Alaska Southeast and beyond.



CONFERENCE KEYNOTE: TALEA KELLAR



Making has always been a passion for Talea. When she was a little girl, she would sit for hours drawing, cutting, and designing with whatever materials were available. Her greatest passion in life though is working with children. Talea has a Bachelor's Degree in Child Development, and 17 years of working in the field of Early Education. It is her firm belief that early childhood is the most influential time in a child's life. In 2020, she decided to finally combine her two passions and open a children's art studio, Bloom, to spread her love of creating art with families with young children.

Talea is the mother of her 10-year-old, Jack, and preschooler, Finn. She enjoys spending her free time with her husband and sons boating, camping, and enjoying the natural beauty of Juneau. She also enjoys setting up early morning "invitations to create" or science creations for her boys and watching their discoveries and wonder.

EVALUATIONS

Session evaluations will be completed electronically this year, making feedback for the event and for our presenters more accessible and impactful! If that wasn't enough, we will be drawing names for door prizes from the evaluation responses!

At the end of each session, please pull out your phone and scan the following QR codes to complete an online evaluation. Not a fan of QR codes? No problem! Just type the following URL into your browser to access the evaluations!

FRIDAY



SATURDAY



www.rsvpbook.com/embracethemess

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024

CHECK THE BACK OF THE PROGRAM FOR A MAP OF CENTENNIAL HALL!

7:30-8:30	Registration & Breakfast				
8:30-10:30	Welcome Remarks by Dr. Carlee Simon Keynote with Talea Kellar, Joyful and Creative: The WHY Behind Nurturing Creativity in Young Minds <i>Ballroom 2/3</i>				
10:30-11:00	Break				
	<i>Ballroom 1</i>	<i>Egan</i>	<i>Hickel</i>	<i>Hammond</i>	<i>Miller</i>
Session 1 11:00-12:00	Stomp, Clap, Sing, and Play Nikki Love	Getting Messy with the Three "R"s Anna Mattox & Hillary Landers	Embrace YOUR Mess Jamie Shanley	The Art of Advocacy Blue Shibler	Circles of Security for Administrators Colleen Brody
12:00-1:00	Lunch				
Session 2 1:00-2:00	Connecting Literacy and Art Talea Kellar	Supporting Social Emotional Development Colleen Brody	Little Feet, Big Steps Vanessa Plourde-Smith	H.O.P.E. Anna McGovern	Addressing Speech & Language Delays Morgan Saviers
2:00-2:30	Break				
Session 3 2:30-3:30	Culturally Responsive Education & Collage Molly Briggs & Kaye Roldan	Alaska's Early Education Program Standards (Part 1 of 2) Jayne McFarland & Kristen Spencer	You are a MESS Joanna Forst	Yoga Nidra with Healing Sounds Kristin Mabry	Creating More Gender-Inclusive Environments (Part 1 of 2) Aidan Key
3:30-4:00	Break				
Session 4 4:00-5:00	Squish it, Make it, Mix it, Take it! Nikki Love	Alaska's Early Education Program Standards (Part 2 of 2) Jayne McFarland & Kristen Spencer	Storytimes with Bells and Whistles Amelia Jenkins	Reframing Conflict Anna McGovern	Creating More Gender-Inclusive Environments (Part 2 of 2) Aidan Key

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024

8:00-8:30	Registration & Breakfast					
8:30-10:00	Keynote with Talea Kellar, The Magic of Process Art in Early Childhood Education <i>Ballroom 2/3</i>					
10:00-10:30	Break					
	Ballroom 1	Egan	Hickel	Hammond	Miller	Ballroom 2/3
Session 1 10:30-11:30	Music and Movement Karen Lange	Just Add Duct Tape SEAAEYC Parents as Teachers	Creating a Culture of Gratitude Vanessa Plourde-Smith	Hearing and Speech Development Beth Speranza	CPR/First Aid (all-day workshop) Ben Stixrud	
11:30-12:30	Lunch					
Session 2 12:30-1:30	Mess Makers Talea Kellar	Any Book will Do! (Infant/Toddler Focus) Tess Olympia	Identifying as a Writer Kelsey DeCamillis	A Taste of the FAN (Part 1 of 3) Gail Trujillo	CPR/First Aid (all-day workshop) Ben Stixrud	
1:30-2:00	Break					
Session 3 2:00-3:00	Oral Language Development through Storytelling Brett Dillingham	Any Book will Do! (Preschool Focus) Tess Olympia	Fostering Gender Inclusive Environments Ty Shae & Jordan Nigro	A Taste of the FAN (Part 2 of 3) Gail Trujillo	CPR/First Aid (all-day workshop) Ben Stixrud	Building Community Anna McGovern
3:00-3:30	Break					
Session 4 3:30-4:30	Squish it, Make it, Mix it, Take it! Nikki Love	Picky Eaters and Messy Plates Audra Henderson	Embracing without Teeth Emily Thompson	A Taste of the FAN (Part 3 of 3) Gail Trujillo	CPR/First Aid (all-day workshop) Ben Stixrud	
Closing Session 4:30-5:00	Performance by Yéés Ku,oo Multi-Cultural Dance Group <i>Ballroom 2/3</i>					

8:30AM-10:30AM: WELCOME & KEYNOTE

Joyful and Creative: The WHY Behind Nurturing Creativity in Young Minds, Talea Kellar
Ballroom 2/3

This enlightening keynote will explore the power of creativity in early childhood and guide participants through an engaging conversation on the many benefits of encouraging and valuing artistic expression in the classroom.

11:00AM-12:00PM: SESSION ONE

Stomp, Clap, Sing, and Play, Nikki Love
Ballroom 1

Get ready to groove and move in this fun workshop designed to infuse joy, energy, and rhythm into children's play and daily routines! Educators will explore the power of music and movement as tools for fostering active engagement, easing transitions, and encouraging exploration of physical expression.

Nikki is an early childhood advocate with 23 years of EC experience in the field. With a background in visual arts and sociology, she prioritizes working with families and young children. Nikki's passion lies in sharing hands-on art experiences, believing in their power to foster creativity and critical thinking. She is committed to creating nurturing environments where every child can thrive.

Embrace YOUR Mess: Working on Ourselves to Better Serve our Babies, Jamie Shanley
Hickel

This workshop is for anyone who works with children, or adults, and would love time to share ways to embrace our own inner messy. We will have a brief presentation on self-care and the importance of co-regulation skills with young children, but then participants will have opportunity to not feel so alone and connect with other adults who get it. Join this safe space to vent, build community, share stories, laugh, and relate to others who know how hard our work is.

Jamie is an Alaska Native early educator, now overseeing language and literacy programming at Sealaska Heritage Institute's Education Department. She is a former Head Start teacher, childcare business owner, and developed & opened Tlingit & Haida's tribal child care center. She is passionate about culturally sustaining education, and creating enriching experiences and environments for young children. She is a mom to two little ones and an aunty to many.

Circles of Security for Administrators, Colleen Brody
Miller

Calling all administrators! You are invited to participate this session on Circles of Security for the Classroom (COSC). Learn how to use this tool to empower and support your classroom teachers. This session will explore the practical application of COSC in day-to-day teaching practices, while also creating a space to share insight on how to refine SEAAEYC's child care provider mentor program to best meet your needs. Don't miss this opportunity to collaborate with other administrators and learn about valuable programs SEAAEYC wants to bring to your program!

Colleen brings knowledge and experience to the field of early childhood education with a BA in Early Childhood and Elementary Education, a MA in Public Administration, and over 13 years of experience in the field. As an endorsed Circles of Security Classroom Coach, she is committed to fostering secure and supportive learning environments for young learners.

Getting Messy with the Three "R"s - Reflection, Regulation, and Relationship, Anna Mattox and Hillary Landers
Egan

This workshop will explore the zones of emotional regulation in ourselves and in our children. Discuss how to co-regulate and implement time-in between the adult/child relationship. Explore how this can look across different settings. We will finish with ways to help you self-regulate throughout day.

Anna was born and raised in Carlisle, Kentucky. She completed her BA and MA in Occupational Therapy at Eastern Kentucky University. In 2018, she moved to Juneau to be an Occupational Therapist at the REACH Infant Learning Program. She is endorsed as an Infant Family Specialist. When she is not working, Anna enjoys ridge runs, backcountry skiing, tent camping, yoga, and traveling abroad. Hillary was born and raised in Spokane, Washington. She received her BA in Spanish and Environmental Education in 2012. After working as a Spanish teacher and outdoor educator, she returned to school to complete her M.S. in speech-language pathology with a concentration in bilingual language acquisition. She has been working for the REACH Infant Learning Program ever since. In her free time, she enjoys skiing, hiking, reading, and enjoying home-cooked Alaskan cuisine.

The Art of Advocacy: How to Tell Your Story (Part 1 of 2), Blue Shibler
Hammond

****This is a two hour workshop which includes a visit to the Capitol during Session 2****

Unlock the power of storytelling in advocacy in this workshop. Designed for early education professionals, this session delves into the profound impact personal narratives have in advocating for children's rights, educational equity, and policy change. You will explore the essential elements of effective storytelling and learn techniques to craft compelling narratives that resonate with stakeholders to drive meaningful change. Through interactive exercises, discussion, and real-world examples, you will understand the role of storytelling in advocacy and its influence on policy-making, learn strategies to identify and frame personal stories to amplify their impact, develop skills to communicate complex issues in relatable ways, and gain confidence in your ability to advocate effectively.

Blue is a seasoned professional with over two decades of hands-on experience in childcare. Her career journey began as a dedicated childcare provider and has recently evolved into her role as Executive Director of SEAAEYC. Passionate about ensuring the well-being of childcare providers and access to high-quality childcare for all families, Blue Shibler has been a tireless advocate - educating policymakers and raising awareness about the importance of early childhood education.

Connecting Literacy and Art, Talea Kellar Ballroom 1

This workshop is a celebration of the synergy between art and literacy, recognizing their profound impact on early childhood development. Join us to learn how to build curriculum around art and literacy! We will also explore the use of art journals as a powerful literacy tool in the classroom!

Talea is the owner and Creative Director of Bloom Children's Art Studio in Juneau. Talea was born and raised in Wrangell, AK and has called Juneau home for nearly a decade. With a love for creating and a passion for working with children, Talea fosters connection, creativity, and self-confidence.

Supporting Social-Emotional Development in the Classroom, Colleen Brody Egan

Whether you're an educator, administrator, or advocate, this workshop is for you! Participants will explore and discuss evidence-based strategies and practical techniques to foster healthy social-emotional growth in young children. We will dive into the vital role you play in nurturing emotional intelligence, building positive relationships, and creating supportive learning environments for your children. Join us for an interactive session where we will engage in discussions and reflective exercises to deepen your understanding of social-emotional development and its implications for early childhood education.

Colleen brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the field of early childhood education with a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education and a Master's Degree in Public Administration. As an endorsed Circles of Security Classroom Coach, she is committed to fostering secure and supportive learning environments for young learners. With over 13 years of experience in the early childhood field, Colleen has become a seasoned expert, channeling her passion into creating enriching educational experiences that prioritize social-emotional development.

H.O.P.E (Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences), Anna McGovern Hammond

Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences (HOPE) is a new way of seeing and talking about the positive experiences that support children's growth and development into healthy, resilient adults. This workshop will introduce you to the benefits of positive childhood experiences (PCEs) and spark conversation on how our communities and systems of care can ensure equitable access to PCEs and support families' strengths.

Anna is an Afterschool Program Specialist at the Alaska Afterschool Network, a program of the Alaska Children's Trust. She originates from Massachusetts and is a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross. Per millennial typecasts, she found herself not using her degree and instead falling into, and in love with, education and working with youth. Over the years she has served in a variety of capacities ranging from teacher, afterschool provider, camp counselor, youth coalition leader and a coach. While not training on Positive Youth Development topics, she can be found chasing after her 5 and 3 year old boys, sneaking in a good book or workout, and enjoying the outdoors.



Little Feet, Big Steps: Curiosity, Communication and Collaboration will Build You and Your Team, Vanessa Plourde-Smith Hickel

Let's take some time to add more tools to your FABULOUS Teacher Toolbelt to increase curiosity in the classroom, communication skills, problem solving, critical thinking and teamwork! The fundamentals of an effective and FUN classroom will guide us into a deeper conversation on making the classroom a "YES" classroom with more joyous learning that will make you and the children eager for tomorrow.

Vanessa is a lifelong Alaskan that enjoys hiking, kayaking fishing, and cooking. She received her Social Work degree from UAA and has worked in the for-profit and non-profit field. She was an Administrator and owner of a Family Childcare for 16 years after working at McLaughlin Youth Center as a Youth Counselor. Vanessa has a deep knowledge of childhood trauma, ACE's, and resilience. She is currently working as a Professional Development Specialist at thread, the CCR&R in Alaska.

Addressing Speech and Language Delays in Childcare Settings, Morgan Saviers Miller

A discussion of speech and language development in young children. How speech and language delays may present in childcare settings and strategies that providers may use to mitigate communication difficulties.

Morgan is a Speech-Language Pathologist who was born and raised in Juneau, and is now starting as an outpatient speech therapist at Harbor Health Family Medical Clinic. She enjoys working with the pediatric population and uses a collaborative approach when it comes to therapy.

The Art of Advocacy: How to Tell Your Story (Part 2 of 2), Blue Shibler Off-Site

****This session takes place at the Capitol. Participants must attend Part 1 during Session 1 first****

Educators will use the skills they learned in Session 1 and meet with Southeast lawmakers at the Capitol Building.



2:30PM-3:30PM: SESSION THREE

Culturally Responsive Education & Collage, Molly Briggs & Kaye Roldan Ballroom 1

While working with beautiful art created by Indigenous artists, create your own collage as we talk about the complexities of culturally responsive education in early childhood and the importance of intention. We will give language lessons and share resources in hopes of empowering educators and caregivers to include more culturally responsive curriculum and activities with young children.

Molly Briggs is an early childhood educator, currently working in the role as Project Coordinator of Baby Raven Reads at Sealaska Heritage Institute. She is passionate about human development and believes healthy relationships and plenty of time spend outside are the foundation of peaceful living. **Kaye Roldan** is an early childhood educator, photographer and active board member at the Filipino Community Hall. Part of her purpose in life is making young people feel empowered and loved.



Creating More Gender-Inclusive Environments for Children During Times of Heightened Volatility (Part 1 of 2), Aidan Key Ballroom 2/3

While societal awareness is increasing, many educators, parents, and others who care for children are understandably wondering how to best address the needs of transgender children and their families. Beyond these specific needs of families, it can feel like uncharted terrain when considering how to address questions from others as well. How do we talk to children about gender in age-appropriate ways? How do we address differing political, religious, and cultural perspectives? What are my program's legal obligations? Join Key in examining the topic of gender diversity in children and teens, the challenges faced by these children and their families, explore current research, and identify the best approaches for creating an inclusive, supportive environment.

Aidan, an author and educator, works with K-12 schools to achieve optimal inclusion of trans children. Founder of Gender Diversity, Key provides professional development, policy creation, athletics guidance, and education for parents and students. He is the author of *Trans Children in Today's Schools*, (Oxford) and was named the Greater Seattle Business Association's Community Leader of the Year, *Seattle Magazine's Most Influential People of the Year*, and his media appearances include *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *Larry King Live*, and *NPR's Fresh Air*.

Alaska's Early Education Program Standards in the Classroom (Part 1 of 2), Jayne McFarland & Kristen Spencer Egan

This workshop delves into Alaska's Early Education Program Standards. Members of DEED's early learning team will introduce the Standards to early educators, specifically highlighting how standards may look in school district preschool programs. Join us to explore how key components of the Standards may be implemented in the classroom.

Jayne, MEd and MA CCC-SLP, worked for over 20 years as a Speech-Language Pathologist in preschools, the Infant Learning Program, and private practice. Currently, she serves as an Early Learning specialist with DEED.

Kristen, MS EI/ECSE, has worked for 25+ years as a developmental specialist or an early childhood special education classroom teacher, mostly in and around Juneau. She is currently the 619 Coordinator and an Education Specialist II on the Early Learning Team at the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED).

You are a MESS, Joanna Forst Hickel

A lighthearted, yet action oriented, look within. Participants will get the chance to reflect on the "messy bits" of their life and identify tangible steps to creating a higher quality of living and wellness!

Joanna, of Yes! LLC, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Alaska and has served client populations spanning infancy to end of life. With a passion for working with youth and family systems, Joanna has focused her career and practice on education, resources, support, and services for families in Juneau and beyond. Joanna is trained and practiced in MRT, CBT, Play Therapy, Experiential Therapy, and various Attachment and Family System Approaches. Joanna works in collaboration with SEAAEYC, the Division of Public Health, and UAA. With a firm belief in holistic wellbeing across the lifespan, she strives to support self actualization and promote higher quality of life in clients and families. Simultaneously, Joanna serves her favorite role as "mama" to her 3.5 year old, Bodhi, and 1 year old, Gracie.

Yoga Nidra with Healing Sounds, Kristin Mabry Hammond

Join Kristin for a Yoga Nidra practice that will leave you feeling rested and renewed! Come get comfortable and join us as you are led through a guided visualization to bring you into a state between waking and sleeping, resulting in a complete physiological and psychological reset. This visualization practice will be combined with healing sounds for a multi-sensory experience that will provide both deep rest and recovery.

Kristin not only has a career as a Learning Officer for NOAA, but is also a C-IAYT Yoga Therapist, ERYT500 Yoga Instructor, and ICF professional coach. Kristin seeks to empower others to develop habits that enable them to thrive and flourish.

Squish it, Make it, Mix it, Take it!, Nikki Love Ballroom 1

This session is also offered during Session 4 on Saturday

Expect to get your hands messy and your creativity flowing as we delve into sensory play. Participants will leave with practical tips, recipes, and a newfound confidence in their ability to facilitate enriching sensory experiences at home or in the classroom. Unlock these wonders with simple, accessible ingredients. This workshop promises to inspire, engage, and delight children of all ages!

Nikki is an early childhood advocate with 23 years of EC experience in the field. With a background in visual arts and sociology, she prioritizes working with families and young children. Nikki's passion lies in sharing hands-on art experiences, believing in their power to foster creativity and critical thinking. She is committed to creating nurturing environments where every child can thrive.

Alaska's Early Education Program Standards in the Classroom (Part 2 of 2), Jayne McFarland & Kristen Spencer Egan

This workshop delves into Alaska's Early Education Program Standards. Members of DEED's early learning team will introduce the Standards to early educators, specifically highlighting how standards may look in school district preschool programs. Join us to explore how key components of the Standards may be implemented in the classroom.

Reframing Conflict, Anna McGovern Hammond

What role do you play in conflict situations in your program? Do you know how to turn a conflict situation into an opportunity for growth? This interactive workshop introduces participants to a step-by-step model for reframing conflict as well as general principles of conflict resolution.

Anna is an Afterschool Program Specialist at the Alaska Afterschool Network, a program of the Alaska Children's Trust. She originates from Massachusetts and is a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross. Per millennial typecasts, she found herself not using her political science whatsoever, and instead found herself falling into, and in love with, education and working with youth. Over the years she has served in a variety of capacities ranging from teacher, afterschool provider, camp counselor, youth coalition leader and a coach. While not training on Positive Youth Development topics, she can be found chasing after her 5 and 3 year old boys, sneaking in a good book or workout, and enjoying the outdoors.



HERE'S THE
QR CODE FOR YOUR
WORKSHOP
EVALUATION!

Storytimes with Bells and Whistles, Amelia Jenkins Hickel

Come check out some of the latest treasures in picture books, from board books for babies to stories for school-aged children. Get hands-on with simple props and projects to enhance the reading experience

Amelia is a lifelong Alaskan and has worked with children for most of that time. For the past 20+ years she has worked in youth services at the Juneau Public Library where she enjoys working with children of all ages and discovering the best picture books. She has a MLIS from the University of Hawaii.



Creating More Gender-Inclusive Environments for Children During Times of Heightened Volatility (Part 2 of 2), Aidan Key Ballroom 2/3

While societal awareness is increasing, many educators, parents, and others who care for children are understandably wondering how to best address the needs of transgender children and their families. Beyond these specific needs of families, it can feel like uncharted terrain when considering how to address questions from others as well. How do we talk to children about gender in age-appropriate ways? How do we address differing political, religious, and cultural perspectives? What are my program's legal obligations? Join Key in examining the topic of gender diversity in children and teens, the challenges faced by these children and their families, explore current research, and identify the best approaches for creating an inclusive, supportive environment.

CDA and YOU- Overview of the CDA Process, Lisa Oberle Miller

This workshop will provide an overview of the Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential Process. From information on starting the CDA process to crossing the finish line...successfully receiving your CDA Credential! Come to gather information, get your questions answered, discover what supports are available, and how to get your CDA paid for!

Lisa has worked at SEAAEYC for the past 4 years as a Professional Development Specialist with emphasis on CDA trainings and support. Her prior teaching experience includes children of all ages with special needs within the state of Alaska, with her last 15 years of teaching with the Juneau School District as a Preschool Integration Teacher.

8:30AM-10:00AM: KEYNOTE

The Magic of Process Art in Early Childhood Education, Talea Kellar

Ballroom 2/3

Join us as we enter the captivating world of process art and its profound impact on the holistic development of young learners! We will explore how to use process art as a powerful tool to build curriculum, enhance learning outcomes across multiple domains, and lead to a lifetime love of learning!

10:30AM-11:30AM: SESSION ONE



Benefits of Early Childhood Music and Movement, Karen Lange

Ballroom 1

All children are naturally musical. Musikgarten is an early-childhood music program that has a carefully researched and sequenced plan for building musical aptitudes from birth to age 9. Find out how babies & toddlers benefit from music class. Discover how all aspects of learning are greatly enhanced when music is a key element in a holistic approach to learning.

Karen, is a certified Musikgarten Teacher with 10 years of experience teaching ages newborn to adult. With her B.A. in Church Music and piano performance, she has taught traditional piano as well, but prefers the researched and developmental focus of Musikgarten's pathway to music literacy. She is excited to be a part of enriching families in Juneau with the joy of early childhood music and movement.

Creating a Culture of Gratitude, Kindness and Joy for a Thriving Workplace, Vanessa Plourde-Smith

Hickel

Join us for a rich discussion about ways you can inspire and set in motion ripples of positive energy and enthusiasm to strengthen your relationships. You will walk away with new ways to collaborate, bring a renewed sense of joy to your program and incorporate daily practices to build engagement.

Vanessa is a lifelong Alaskan that enjoys hiking, kayaking fishing, and cooking. She received her Social Work degree from UAA and has worked in the for-profit and non-profit field. She was an Administrator and owner of a Family Childcare for 16 years after working at McLaughlin Youth Center as a Youth Counselor. Vanessa has a deep knowledge of childhood trauma, ACE's, and resilience. She is currently working as a Professional Development Specialist at thread, the CCR&R in Alaska.

Just Add Duct Tape: Activities and Toys for Infants and Toddlers, SEAAEYC Parents as Teachers (PAT)

Egan

Duct tape! It's not just for ducts anymore... come to this engaging make-and-take workshop as we explore the different stages and needs of infants and toddlers while making toys to support their development.

With over 75 years of combined experience, the Juneau crew of Parents as Teachers home visitors are seasoned Early Childhood professionals! We come from an array of diverse backgrounds, but all share a love of working with families of infants and toddlers.

Hearing and Speech Development in Young Children, Beth Speranza

Hammond

This workshop will explore various types and causes of hearing loss in children and the symptoms. Learn about the huge impact hearing has on language development and behavior. Don't know when a child's hearing may be effecting their development? We will discuss the criteria for when you should refer children for hearing evaluations.

Beth earned her Doctorate of Audiology in 2013. She has worked with pediatric and adult clinical populations as an audiologist in Juneau and Ketchikan, as well as in Philadelphia. Her interests in audiology include hearing conservation, clinical education, humanitarian audiology, and cochlear implants.



CPR/FA/Infant & Child CPR (Part 1 of 4), Ben Stixrud

Miller

This is an all-day training & ends at 4:30. Space is limited Attendees will complete their First Aid & CPR/AED training with additional focus on Infant & Child CPR. This training is American Heart Association certified with a two-year certification provided upon completion.

Ben is a certified First Aid/CPR/AED instructor with Southeast Extinguisher Service.

Mess Makers: Hands-on Workshop, Talea Kellar

Ballroom 1

This workshop will explore specific activity ideas to encourage development across multiple domains. Participants will engage in hands-on activities, collaborative projects, and have discussions that highlight the benefits of process art for young minds.

Talea is the owner and Creative Director of Bloom Children's Art Studio in Juneau. Talea was born and raised in Wrangell, AK and has called Juneau home for nearly a decade. With a love for creating and a passion for working with children, Talea fosters connection, creativity, and self-confidence.



Any Book Will Do! Building Curriculum through Literacy Extension (Infant/Toddler Focus), Tess Olympia

Egan

Early literacy for infants, toddlers and preschoolers looks different than it does in kindergarten and beyond. Together we will explore how to take a book and make it into a classroom full of fun, creative learning experiences that all connect to one book. Whether it's creative movement, fine motor skills, exploratory art, or social emotional development, it can include a literacy component!

Tess has been in the early childhood field for many years. Her background in early literacy started with her work in preschools, then through studying speech and language pathology and grew into a deep passion working with the Baby Raven Reads program at Sealaska Heritage Institute. Now, at SEAAEYC, Tess manages a childcare apprenticeship program and is excited to continue work in early childhood and early literacy!

DON'T LET YOUR WORKSHOP EVALUATION FALL THROUGH THE CRACKS.



Identifying as a Writer: How Writing Opens Doors, Kelsey DeCamillis

Hickel

In this session, we will spark and reignite your identity as a writer & discuss ways that writing offers for connecting personally, professionally, and with various opportunities like grants and professional development. Come with a pen and paper and an open mind to the possibilities of writing!

Kelsey is a Professional Development specialist with thread, new to Alaska & thread this year. Some areas of professional focus for Kelsey include educator coaching, DEED / PreK program work (specifically Pyramid Model implementation), academic & professional writing, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), Culturally & Linguistically Relevant Teaching, and Disability advocacy.

A Taste of the FAN (Part 1 of 3), Gail Trujillo

Hammond

****This is a multi-session training and ends at 4:30****

This workshop will provide the participants with an overview of the FAN (Facilitating Attuned Interactions). The FAN Approach serves as a framework for parent engagement and reflective practice in home visiting. The FAN focuses on parents' urgent concerns and helps early educators tailor responses to match what parents need most in the moment. The FAN also helps educators recognize how their own internal sense of regulation/dysregulation affects their ability to be fully present with a family.

Gail, M.Sc., PhD (ABD), IMH-E® is the Chair of the Alaska Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (AK-AIMH). She is Endorsed as an Infant Mental Health Specialist® and provides Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation for several Head Start programs in Southeast Alaska. Gail has over 40 years experience in infant and early childhood and is a FAN facilitator.

CPR/FA/Infant & Child CPR (Part 2 of 4), Ben Stixrud

Miller

****This is an all-day training and ends at 4:30. You must have attended all prior sessions to attend****

Attendees will complete their First Aid & CPR/AED training with additional focus on Infant & Child CPR. This training is American Heart Association certified with a two-year certification provided upon completion.

2:00PM-3:00PM: SESSION THREE

Oral Language Development Through Storytelling, Brett Dillingham

Ballroom 1

This presentation focuses on early childhood teachers with mono- and bilingual children to strengthen and build oral language development and socio-emotional growth through storytelling. Learn how to help your students create and tell class stories while increasing oral fluency, vocabulary and improved sentence structure and “book talk”. Learn how storytelling builds self-esteem and confidence through creation of stories, artwork and performance.

Brett teaches *Culturally Responsive Literacy and Performance Literacy* in Ireland, England, Germany, Belgium, Sweden, Hungary, Russia, Vietnam, Thailand, Costa Rica, Argentina, Uruguay, Nigeria, South Africa, Canada, Alaska, and the Lower 48 states. He has been a featured speaker and/or keynoter at the Alaska Native Libraries Conference, National American Reads conference, the Reading Association of Ireland, the National Migrant Education conference, the World Congress on Reading, the Association of International Schools of Africa and the International Reading Association. Brett has published a children's book, a textbook on storytelling, and coordinated the Alaska Reading Tutor Training Program and the Alaska Reading Institutes from 2001 - 2004.



Any Book Will Do! Building Curriculum through Literacy Extension (Preschool Focus), Tess Olympia

Egan

Early literacy for infants, toddlers and preschoolers looks different than it does in kindergarten and beyond. Together we will explore how to take a book and make it into a classroom full of fun, creative learning experiences that all connect to one book. Whether it's creative movement, fine motor skills, exploratory art, or social emotional development, it can include a literacy component!

Tess has been in the early childhood field for many years. Her background in early literacy started with her work in preschools, then through studying speech and language pathology and grew into a deep passion working with the Baby Raven Reads program at Sealaska Heritage Institute. Now, at SEAAEYC, Tess manages a childcare apprenticeship program and is excited to continue work in early childhood and early literacy!

Building Community, Anna McGovern

Ballroom 2/3

Do you know what it takes to build an emotionally and physically safe space for children? Building an emotionally safe community of peers and adults is essential for children to learn and develop as individuals. This interactive workshop will introduce participants to a variety of activities designed to support the community building process.

Anna is an Afterschool Program Specialist at the Alaska Afterschool Network, a program of the Alaska Children's Trust. She originates from Massachusetts and is a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross. Per millennial typecasts, she found herself not using her political science whatsoever, and instead found herself falling into, and in love with, education and working with youth. Over the years she has served in a variety of capacities ranging from teacher, afterschool provider, camp counselor, youth coalition leader and a coach. While not training on Positive Youth Development topics, she can be found chasing after her 5 and 3 year old boys, sneaking in a good book or workout, and enjoying the outdoors.

Fostering Gender Inclusive Environments, Ty Shae and Jordan Nigro

Hickel

Gender inclusive environments nurture self-esteem, connection and resilience for all. In this workshop, we will consider what it means to foster a gender inclusive environment in your classroom, workplace or home. We will learn about the development of gender identity and self concept in early childhood, along with some tangible takeaways that you can integrate into your own environments to nurture a sense of belonging and honor diversity in families and staff.

Ty is a Home Visitor with Parents as Teachers and an advocate for LGBTQ+ youth in Juneau. **Jorden** manages Zach Gordon Youth Services. She has lived and worked with youth and families in Juneau for 25 years and believes deeply in creating spaces where all youth feel safe and celebrated for who they are.

A Taste of the FAN (Part 2 of 3), Gail Trujillo

Hammond

****This is an all-day training and ends at 4:30. You must have attended all prior sessions to attend****

This workshop will provide the participants with an overview of the FAN (Facilitating Attuned Interactions). The FAN Approach serves as a framework for parent engagement and reflective practice in home visiting. The FAN focuses on parents' urgent concerns and helps early educators tailor responses to match what parents need most in the moment. The FAN also helps educators recognize how their own internal sense of regulation/dysregulation affects their ability to be fully present with a family.

CPR/FA/Infant & Child CPR (Part 3 of 4), Ben Stixrud

Miller

****This is an all-day training and ends at 4:30. You must have attended all prior sessions to attend****

Attendees will complete their First Aid & CPR/AED training with additional focus on Infant & Child CPR. This training is American Heart Association certified with a two-year certification provided upon completion.

3:30PM-4:30PM: SESSION FOUR



Picky Eaters and Messy Plates, Audra Henderson Egan

Join us in this engaging workshop where we will dive into creating healthy food habits with children in your program in a purposeful and meaningful way. Participants will leave with their plates full of strategies and tools, and a flexible mindset around child nutrition.

Audra is a Functional Nutritional Therapy Practitioner, Master of Public Health, Certified Personal Trainer and Nutrition Educator for the University of Alaska, Cooperative Extension Juneau. Audra is passionate about teaching food as medicine. For over fifteen years, Audra has worked with people on-one-one and in groups to support positive physical and emotional transformation.

Embracing without Teeth: Decoding the Mystery of Toddlers Who Bite, Emily Thompson Hickel

Come discover the reasons behind toddler biting behavior and effective intervention strategies! Explore how biting relates to toddler communication, social dynamics, and emotional regulation. Gain practical insights into positive reinforcement techniques and parental involvement to address and prevent biting incidents. Join us to equip yourself with valuable tools for fostering healthy development and positive interactions in the toddler years.

Emily is a seasoned Parents as Teachers Program Manager with 15 years of experience at AEYC. Specializing in birth to three brain development, Emily holds a Master of Education degree and is passionate about empowering families and anyone who cares for young children.

A Taste of the FAN (Part 3 of 3), Gail Trujillo Hammond

****This is an all-day training and ends at 4:30. You must have attended all prior sessions to attend****

This workshop will provide the participants with an overview of the FAN (Facilitating Attuned Interactions). The FAN Approach serves as a framework for parent engagement and reflective practice in home visiting. The FAN focuses on parents' urgent concerns and helps early educators tailor responses to match what parents need most in the moment. The FAN also helps educators recognize how their own internal sense of regulation/dysregulation affects their ability to be fully present with a family.

Squish it, Make it, Mix it, Take it!, Nikki Love Ballroom 1

This session is also offered during Session 4 on Friday

Expect to get your hands messy and your creativity flowing as we delve into sensory play. Participants will leave with practical tips, recipes, and a newfound confidence in their ability to facilitate enriching sensory experiences at home or in the classroom. Unlock these wonders with simple, accessible ingredients. This workshop promises to inspire, engage, and delight children of all ages!

CPR/FA/Infant & Child CPR (Part 4 of 4), Ben Stixrud Miller

****This is an all-day training and ends at 4:30. You must have attended all prior sessions to attend****

Attendees will complete their First Aid & CPR/AED training with additional focus on Infant & Child CPR. This training is American Heart Association certified with a two-year certification provided upon completion.



4:30PM-5:00PM: CLOSING SESSION

Performance by the multi-cultural dance group, Yeés K̓u. Oo – Shu Gyad, followed by closing remarks Ballroom 2/3

Yeés K̓u. Oo – Shu Gyad is comprised of many indigenous nations including, Tlingit, Haida, Tsimshian, Aleut, and Yupik. Their purpose is to share their songs with everyone, show the utmost respect to all, and to teach indigenous children through song – so that they will feel the pride of being indigenous. The group is led by Mansyndoga da gyed (Nancy Barnes). Yeés K̓u. Oo is a Tlingit name that means “New People/New Beginning”, and was translated for the group by the late Clarence Jackson at AFN in 2003.

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024

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