



Early Childhood  
Methodist Conference  
Track B



A Training Event for  
Teachers of Children Ages 0-6  
Sponsored by  
United Methodist Texas Conference Weekday Ministries

Thursday and Friday, January 26 & 27, 2017

Conference Location:  
Cypress United Methodist Church  
13403 Cypress North Houston Rd  
Cypress, TX 77429

# Key Note Speakers

Thursday:

**Tom Wilbeck**

You're a Rock Star:

your children think so ...are they wrong?



Friday:

**Dr. Sarah Lytle**

Building Baby Brains:

The Science of Brain Development



Rock stars seem to live on “easy street.” Rock stars are glamorous most of the time. Rock stars are influential and important in many people’s lives ... The life of a rock star and the life of a teacher have many parallels. This presentation will highlight the awesomeness of teachers in a full and uplifting way while educating teachers of self-care and renewal. Teaching is not easy. Teaching is not glamorous all the time. Teachers, however, are among the most important and influential people in a young child’s life. This presentation celebrates why you started this labor of love.

Tom Wilbeck is a Professional Counselor, trainer and performer who has been delivering Christ-centered therapeutic and educational intervention since 1995. He is currently in private practice as a child and adolescent therapist, licensed by the Texas State Board of Examiners and specializes in play therapy. Tom has also been a trainer for groups ranging from Exxon, Coca Cola, NASA and early childhood education audiences in the greater Houston area.

As a performer, Tom is “Mr. Tom” from Tom’s Fun Band: a nationally ranked children’s recording artist with 3 CDs to his credit. Tom firmly believes that we each have a purpose. He seeks to increase joy in people’s lives so their purpose will shine through.

Children are born learning. From their earliest interactions with parents and caregivers, children’s brains are growing at an incredible rate. Brain development shapes skills that serve as the building blocks for later success. This keynote focuses on the importance of interactions and early relationships as the context that fosters all learning. Through a discussion of the latest research with children from birth to age 5, Dr. Lytle will focus on the foundations of cognitive and social/emotional development that are critical to a wide range of later skills, such as reading and making friends. Finally, she will highlight ways to incorporate research into our daily interactions with children.

Dr. Sarah Lytle is the Director of Outreach and Education at the Institute for Learning & Brain Sciences (I-LABS) at the University of Washington. In this capacity, Sarah leads a team of science communicators who disseminate the latest science of child development to those who can use it. Sarah has a unique ability to clearly communicate complex scientific concepts and she is dedicated to making sure cutting-edge science is accessible to parents, educators, policymakers, and those who advocate on behalf of children. Dr. Lytle has a B.A. in Psychology and Spanish from the University of Notre Dame and a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology at Temple University, where she studied infants’ and toddlers’ language learning from screen media, and she was a 2014-2016 Zero To Three Fellow.

# Registration Information

1. Registration is ONLINE and participants will be able to choose from many workshops! Online payment is a new feature this year.
2. Priority is given to Methodist programs. Online registration begins December 5<sup>th</sup> for Methodist programs and December 12<sup>th</sup> for all other programs. Please be prompt with registration, as some workshops will fill early.
3. Participants must be registered individually. Directors may register each staff member or allow teachers to register themselves.
4. Cost per participant is **\$85**. Payment may be made for individuals via Paypal or credit card. An entire staff may register and request to pay via check. The school may submit one check that covers all participants. To ensure that we post your payment correctly, please include the Account Summary of each participant when paying via check. Please make your check payable to ECMC Houston and mail it to 5920 FM2920, Spring, Texas 77388.
5. After January 9, 2017, the cost to register increases to \$100. Mailed checks must be postmarked by Monday, January 16, 2017. If your check is not received on time, participants may not be able to attend the conference.
6. Please be sure to contact the registrars, Josette Horaist and Lisa Correia, if you have any questions or problems. Their contact information is listed below.

To Register:

1. Go to our website at <http://www.ecmchouston.com>.
2. Locate your school on the Register page.
3. Choose from:  
Conference Registration                      Advanced Track Registration                      Directors' Track Registration
4. Choose your workshops and times for the two-day conference.
5. Add all workshops to cart.
6. When you are ready, proceed to check out. Here you will complete your registration information, which will include an email address and a password. **Each person registered will be required to have an email address and a password.**
7. Decide your method of payment and agree to the terms and conditions of registration.
8. **Please be sure to print your confirmed workshops for the conference as we are going paperless this year!**

Please send payment and direct all questions to the Registrars:

payment:

ECMC Registrar  
5920 FM2920  
Spring, Texas 77388

questions:

[ECMCregistrar@gmail.com](mailto:ECMCregistrar@gmail.com)

## Details of the 2017 conference:

**Lunches:** The conference fee includes a morning snack and lunch each day plus two (2) drinks. Please note that ECMC is not able to provide for special dietary restrictions. If you have special dietary needs, feel free to bring your own lunch.

**Speaker Credentials:** All speakers presenting at ECMC 2016 meet the trainer qualifications required by TDFPS effective January 2012. Speaker qualifications are kept on file and can be provided to participants if requested.

**Parking:** Cypress United Methodist Church has limited parking. Please plan to carpool.

Visit our website for more conference information: <http://www.ecmc.com>

**Please note:** In case of conference cancellation due to inclement weather or other circumstances beyond our control, there will be no refunds. Registered participants will be offered a make-up day at no cost.

### Conference Schedule 2016 Track B

Thursday		Friday
Registration, Vendors, & Sharing	8:00 - 8:30 a.m.	Vendors & Sharing
Session 1	8:30 - 10:00 a.m.	Session 3
Break, Vendors, & Sharing	10:00 - 10:30 a.m.	Break, Vendors, & Sharing
Session 2	10:30 a.m. - noon	Session 4
Lunch, Vendors, & Sharing	noon - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch, Vendors, & Sharing
Welcome & Keynote	1:00 - 2:30 p.m.	Keynote
Advanced Track (includes lunch) 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.		Advanced Track (includes lunch) 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
		Director's Track (includes lunch) 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Please notice that we have tightened the schedule to allow participants to complete 5 hours of training by 2:30 p.m. PLEASE REMEMBER TO USE ALL FREE TIME TO VISIT THE VENDORS AND THE SHARING ROOM. You receive training credit for these activities.

## Early Childhood Methodist Conference Etiquette

The conference mission is to provide a quality, professional training experience for quality, professional Early Childhood Educators. Please remember to respectfully represent your school at all times.

- All attendees must arrange their own childcare. No children are allowed at the conference.
- Cell phones should be turned off during the Keynote and all training sessions.
- Beverages and food are not allowed in the Sanctuary.
- Keep in mind that all the “staff” at the conference are volunteers. They are not there to police the attendees. Please speak to them respectfully.
- The clock hour certificate will be provided after the attendee has completed her/his evaluation of the conference online. This certificate is provided in good faith. Each attendee is honor bound to attend all required training sessions.

# Sharing Room

**“Share with your friends” We’ve all said this . . . now it’s your turn to share with your ECMC friends!**

**Remember to bring a developmentally-appropriate activity to display in the Sharing Room. Other teachers will love to get ideas from you! Each item must be accompanied by the Sharing Room Activity Description form which has been sent to your director. Bring your sample activity and form to the Sharing Room on Thursday morning and pick it up before you leave on Friday.**

**Sharing Room contributors will earn one additional clock hour!**

**Be sure to cruise the Sharing Room to see great new activities that you can take back to your classroom.**

**Feel free to bring a camera to capture the look and purpose of the activity.**

**If you have questions about the Sharing Room, please email Debbie Durkin: [pandddurkin@att.net](mailto:pandddurkin@att.net)**

**Don’t miss this opportunity to let your favorite activities shine!**

## Conference Workshops

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Areas
B1	A "Get to Heart" in a "Have to" World	Darla Baerg	all	Professionalism

We are given the incredible opportunity to work with children and their parents. Our approach to work often depends on our perspective, attitude, and heart towards what we do. We will discuss practical ways to come to work daily both encouraged and excited about our jobs.

Darla Baerg uses her gift of storytelling and humor to encourage, motivate, and teach lessons that apply in the classroom as well as day to day life. She is a wife, mother of 4, frequent speaker and college instructor. She holds degrees from Baylor, The University of North Texas, and Vanderbilt.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Areas
B2	Baby Steps to School Readiness: Implementing a Responsive Curriculum	Marissa Barrett	I, T, 2, & 3	Child Growth & Development

Ensuring that all children are "school ready" has become a national priority. Effective teacher-child interactions are the key to better cognitive, behavioral and social outcomes for children. In this session, participants will learn how to facilitate learning and development for infants and toddlers utilizing the *Texas Infant/Toddler Learning Guidelines* without turning their classroom into watered down preschool.

Marisa Barrett has been a passionate advocate for at-risk children for almost 20 years. Ms. Barrett received her B.S. in Early Childhood Education from Sam Houston State University and has been endorsed as an infant-family associate from the Texas Association for Infant Mental Health. She is also a certified pre-K and infant CLASS observer, and Texas Child Care Health Consultant.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Areas
B3	Bringing the Outside In	Julie Boone	T, 2, 3, & 4	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

Young children are drawn to explore and collect items they find in nature. We will discuss how to create an inviting space in the classroom for these items. As teachers, we model how these collections can be explored, various ways items can be organized, and how observations can be recorded. Children can share their discoveries through rich vocabulary. They can also incorporate items from nature into their play and art.

Julie Boone is an educator with more than 40 years of experience in administration, classroom teaching, and consulting. Julie dedicated 25 years of her career to River Oaks Baptist School where she served as Head of Primary School for 17 years. Currently she is the outdoor classroom specialist at The School for Little Children at Bellaire United Methodist Church.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Areas
B4	Making the Classics Rock!	Barbara Brandt	3, 4, & K	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

Children like what is familiar, and music becomes familiar only when children hear it often enough. If we introduce children to the classics when they are young, they will appreciate and continue listening to the classics their whole lives. Providing a musically stimulating environment for children in your classroom not only increases their musical ability, it promotes their physical development, language development, pre-reading skills, math skills, ability to self-regulate, and creative expression. You don't have to be a music teacher to learn how to pair children's literature with classical music in ways that are emotionally resonant, easily understood, remarkably relevant, and fantastically fun!

Barbara Brandt has worked with young children for many years in many places, including the Houston Zoo, where she was the early childhood educator. This is her tenth year at St. Luke's Day School: she began as a classroom teacher (3s and PreK), became the music teacher, and now also teaches Arts In Action.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Areas
B5	Dealing Effectively with Unacceptable Employee Behavior	Judy Carnahan-Webb	all	Professionalism

“Dealing Effectively with Unacceptable Employee Behavior” This interactive training gives concrete ways to deal with the difficult employees in the work place. It will provide specific strategies for getting adversaries to cooperate and results needed without incurring resentment or damaging relationships.

Come learn how to get bullies to back off, chronic complainers to quiet down and much much more!”

Judy Carnahan-Webb has a BS Degree in Secondary Education, M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education and is a Registered Mast Level Trainer. She is and has been a trainer, educator, mentor, coach, administrator and consultant in the Early Childhood Education field for the past 35 years. She is considered a child care expert and her passion is to assist others achieve their professional goals through effective teachings and trainings.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Areas
B6	The Building Blocks of Building Blocks	Dan Engle	3, 4, & K	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

Block play may be the most powerful activity in the early childhood classroom! Participants will learn how block play supports whole child development, with a special emphasis on language and literacy learning. Teachers will become familiar with the stages of block play, learn ways to manage a block center, and explore ways to keep block play interesting throughout the year.

Dan teaches at St. Luke’s Day School in Houston. He is a graduate of the Early Literacy Leadership Academy at Rice University, and has over twenty-five years of experience in early childhood education.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Areas
B7	Fine Motor Skills...Write Out of the Box!	Dr. Marianne Gibbs	3, 4, K, & Admin	Child Growth & Development

Increase your knowledge of fine motor development as it relates to the handwriting abilities of children 3-6 years old! Fun and easy-to- implement activities and strategies are demonstrated with supporting rationale for the WHATs, HOWs, and WHYs of improving students’ future handwriting efficiency. This is a “must see” session and contains critical, empowering information for teachers WRITE OUT OF THE BOX!

Marianne Gibbs, EdD, OTR is an occupational therapist and dynamic, national early childhood educational speaker. In addition to being a contributing author to Frog Street Press Pre-K curriculum and Benson Handwriting programs, she is the owner of Gibbs Consulting, Incorporated. Dr. Gibbs provides once in a lifetime workshops - every time!

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Areas
B8	Helping Children Who Need it Most: Handling Challenging Behavior	Dianne Goyette	T, 2, 3, 4, & K	Guidance

Many children are experiencing stressors in their lives which lead to challenging behaviors, especially children with identified special needs such as ADHD and autism. Learn how to buffer the effects of these stressors and accommodate these children’s needs. You will learn strategies for effectively managing challenging, defiant, or even explosive behavior, while maintaining your composure and bringing out the best in everyone!

Diane Goyette is a Child Development Specialist, a TECPDS Master Registered Level Trainer and a certified Child Care Health Consultant. She holds a Master’s Degree in Child Development from The University of Texas at Austin, and has 30 years of experience in early childhood education and teacher training. She provides training and consulting through her company, Early Childhood Specialties LLC.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Areas
B9	Language Learning for Littles: Sharing Words, Ideas and Emotions with Young Children	Dr. Sharon R. Jackson	T, 2, 3, & 4	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

Oral language development doesn't stop when a child learns to speak...it continues throughout life as children absorb vocabulary, are prompted to think deeply and learn to be both a speaker and a listener. This session will discuss ways that teachers and parents can encourage language learning and will offer tools and suggestions for a variety of ages. Finally, the opportunity to share and network will allow tried and true ideas to be presented. Come with a children's book to take part in the activities!

Sharon is an early childhood veteran with over 40 years in the field! She is a strong proponent of play based learning and believes that respect is the foundation for positive early experiences. Sharon directs a birth to five program and presents nationally on a variety of topics about early learning and partnering with families for success.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Areas
B10	Introduction to the Infant and Toddler Early Learning Guidelines Ages 0-3	Dr. Tracy Jones	I, T, & 2	Child Growth & Development

This training session will allow participants to become familiar with the structure and contents of the Early Learning Guidelines. We will review key concepts; responsive care giving, caring with children with special needs and implementing culturally appropriate practices. Participants will consider how to apply the guidelines in your classroom.

Dr. Tracy Anne Jones is the Program Coordinator for The Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System, located at the Children's Learning Institute at The University of Texas at Houston. She has over 25 years of experience in early childhood including being a teacher, center director, and program manager of a child care resource and referral agency.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Areas
B11	Shining the Light on Literacy	Chrissy Liverman	T - K, Admin	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

This training is designed to teach teachers of all ages what their role in the development of literacy in children looks like and sounds like. The presentation provides facts of how our influence directly influences our student's, how we are to take an active role in fostering the growth and development of literacy, and provides classroom video of each strategy in action. The training emphasizes how each age level's role is vital to the next... creating a strong foundation in each student. There will be examples of children's work and the big books used in class. Practicing and collaborating will be integrated into the presentation so age levels can briefly discuss how they may incorporate a strategy or technique in their class.

Chrissy Liverman is approaching her 14<sup>th</sup> year of teaching. She has taught Kindergarten, First Grade, and is currently teaching Transition at Holy Covenant CDC. She is married and is a mother to two awesome children.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Areas
B12	Common T-Shirts Don't Make a Team	Mark Lukert	Admin	Professionalism

A healthy climate is of utmost importance to any organization. A positive school climate does not just happen. It takes time, effort and planning to make sure there is consistency throughout the school year. Research proves that the more unified the staff, the better the climate and teaching. Topics such as communication, dealing with negativity, and the Power of the Teacher will be discussed. Join me in this fun, interactive session and leave with creative, inexpensive ideas guaranteed to motivate and rejuvenate your staff and students.

Mark is a recently retired elementary school principal with 40 years experience in the field of education. Currently Mark is a national trainer and speaker and co-author of Synergistics published by Kendall Hunt Publishers. Mark presents keynote addresses for various groups and conducts Team Building workshops across the state and nation.



#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Areas
B13	Appropriate Environments for the Youngest Children or "Oh No! Dr. Maggie's Grandson is in my class!"	Dr. Maggie McGuire	I & T	Healthy, Safe Learning Environment

Come join us as we explore an appropriate environment for infants, toddlers and 2's. What are the "must have" and "better not" keys to a place where our youngest are safe and encouraged to explore.

Dr. Maggie has been a teacher, director, assessor, validator, university professor and now she is a grandmother.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Areas
B14	Boys, Boys, Boys- What to do with a Class Full of Boys!	Courtney Osbourne	3 - K, Admin	Child Growth & Development

Identify the challenges of boys in early education and learn strategies to best reach them educationally, emotionally, and spiritually. Evaluate how to meet a boy's unique learning needs and build Godly character in boys.

Courtney taught Kindergarten and Pre-K in both public and private schools. She has served her church as Pre-Kindergarten director and other roles. She enjoys teaching from the experiences God has given her and desires to encourage woman struggling with infertility, mothers, and teachers.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Areas
B15	The BASICS	Peggy Osbourne	T - K, Admin	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

Do you ever feel like you say something over and over again and the children just don't get it? Do you feel like you are teaching Biblical principles or academics and they are going in one ear and out the other? Join us for this session to learn how to use brain based strategies that can make all the difference!

Peggy Osborne has been in the field of education for over 25 years. Having served as a teacher, administrator and now as a consultant, she enjoys tying together brain research, education and biblical principles. She and her daughter, Lauren, and daughter in law, Courtney enjoy speaking at women's retreats, parenting seminars and educational trainings through their consulting business, You Are My Treasure.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Areas
B16	Goals for our Children: Autonomy, Empathy and Problem Solving	Erika Sanchez	All	Child Growth & Development

Come feel empowered as an early childhood professional as you learn how and why children should be taught the skills to become independent! Every day in preschool, teachers are modeling and developing lifelong character traits in the little people they teach. We will discuss the daily challenges in our classroom such as independence, sharing and conflict resolution. In today's world, we need to raise compassionate, kind and loving adults....walk away from this session knowing that we do that every day!

Erika Sanchez has been passionate about doing what is right for little children for over 20 years. She holds a M.Ed. in Special Education and a B.A. Special Education and Early Childhood. She currently teaches PPCD/Kinder for Cy Fair ISD. She is Mom to 4 boys: the oldest starting college and the youngest starting Kinder!

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Areas
B17	This is My Father's World	Christine Smith	3, 4, & K	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

Let's explore "Our Listening Ears" and other senses together because children's senses are their first scientific tools God has given for exploring their world. Be prepared to join us in the fun as we use those tools to pluck "ear guitars", "spoon in" for a good look, and sing a song to solve a mystery with all 5 senses! So get ready to set your science centers spinning with activities and units that encourage predicting, observing, experimenting,

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recording, and discovery. Fun! Fun! Fun!

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Chris Smith is the Director of Early Childhood for Enid Public Schools, Enid, Ok. She presents and consults nationally in the field of Early Childhood education. Her presentations are researched-based, engaging, and educational and her passion and advocacy for young children is contagious!

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**Advanced Track**  
Designed for very experienced teachers, this is a 4 hour long workshop (including lunch) and will be offered on one day only. Participants will still go to the keynote address on the day they attend this workshop. If you choose the Advanced Track, please ensure that you **ONLY** attend the workshop that is relative to the age that you teach.

#### Thursday Advanced Track

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Areas
B18	Teaching Emotional Intelligence: The Early Years	Brian Goonan, PhD	3, 4, K	Child Growth & Development

Emotional Intelligence is considered a distinguishing “soft skill” in adults. However, our emotional lives and emotional regulation skills begin from the time we are born and are highly teachable. This workshop will give teachers both the theoretical understanding and practical tools for working with children and their families in the early childhood years to create the building blocks for increasing emotional intelligence.

Dr. Brian Goonan is a clinical psychologist who received his degree from Emory University and practices in Houston. Dr. Goonan is a life cycle psychologist who works with individuals, families, and groups from early childhood through late adulthood, caring not only for the needs of the person as they exist today but being mindful of how each stage serves as a foundation for the next. Dr. Goonan has given over 100 presentations and workshops in churches, schools and various organizations throughout Texas.

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#### Friday Advanced Track

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Areas
B19	The Importance of Infant/Toddler Brain Development and Your Role as an Early Childhood Educator	Keith Pentz	I, T, & 2	Child Growth & Development

This workshop will examine research and notable applications of interpersonal connections, language/communication use and patterns, and emotional support and development. All will be addressed as they relate to the establishment of a social brain. How we work with the very young, especially the emotional engagement we provide to infants and toddlers, is a profound opportunity. The society of tomorrow is being determined by our relationships, brains, and minds we help to create today.

Keith L. Pentz, National Early Childhood Specialist for Kaplan Early Learning Company, has been in the field of education for more than 35 years. Keith began his career by working in childcare with infants and toddlers, taught elementary students as well as Kindergarten, and then taught PreKindergarten. Before beginning his career as a consultant, Keith taught at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, Florida and was an Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education at Gordon College in Wenham, Massachusetts,

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## Directors' Track

Designed for directors, this is a 4-hour long workshop (including lunch) and will be offered on Friday only. Participants will still go to the keynote address on the day they attend this workshop.

### Friday Directors' Track

#	Workshop	Presenters	Ages	Core Knowledge Areas
B20	The 7 C's of Culture & Ask the Experts	Tym the Trainer Debra Fischer Kim Renick Tracy Willemssen	Admin	Professionalism

Tym the Trainer will start us off with an inspiring workshop, *The 7 C's of Culture*. Knowing that staffing an early childhood center is one of the most challenging parts of a director's job, this workshop will discuss seven incredible techniques that are imperative to managing a successful program, motivating and retaining quality staff.

Following lunch together, you will have the opportunity to "ask the experts." We've brought together a panel of experts, moderated by Debra Fischer, Director of St. Paul's Day School and past Chair of the ECMC Committee. Our experts include: Tym the Trainer, Kim Renick (Inspector V; DFPS – Child Care Licensing) and Tracy Willemssen (Educational Diagnostician at Holy Covenant Child Development Center).

Make sure you come ready to do some shopping!

The vendors will be in the

## Ministry Activity Center!

There will be many old favorite vendors as well as vendors new to ECMC.