



Early Childhood Methodist Conference Track A



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

Thursday and Friday, February 7 & 8, 2019

**Conference Location:
St. Luke's United Methodist Church
3471 Westheimer
Houston, Texas 77027**

Key Note Speakers



Thursday: Kim Hughes **Intentional Teaching at Its Best! Caring, Sharing, and Daring to Do What is Best for OUR Children**

Teaching is world-changing work. Children crave thoughtful, caring adults who can nurture and challenge them, coach and guide them, understand and care about them. Classrooms can be places of possibility and transformation for not only young people, but also for early childhood teachers. Good teachers marvel at what children bring to our world ... they love to watch them open up, risk, grow and become more competent, more powerful in an ever complex, always changing world. Working with children helps many adults be their best self...for those who love teaching; love what happens to them when they work with young children. This magical world of teaching doesn't happen without intentional, thoughtful and deliberate interactions with young children... Intentional Teaching at Its Best! Caring, Sharing, and Daring to Do What is Best for OUR Children will explore the role of teacher, child, parent, and classroom environments in promoting the motivation for kids to succeed in all facets of learning and life.

Kim Hughes is a 30+ year veteran of education with master's degrees in both Elementary Education and School Leadership/Administration. She excels in providing engaging, informative events for educators and administrators of children infant through elementary age. Kim has worked as both an administrator and a teacher of children birth through fifth grade. She discovered the power of Conscious Discipline while serving as an early childhood educator in an inclusive mental health setting. It soon became her passion to share its transformative and empowering message with as many children, parents, and educators as possible.

Friday: Deborah J. Stewart, M.Ed. **Fostering a Love for Reading in the Early Childhood Classroom through Hands-On, Interactive, Engaging Reading Experiences!**



Are your students caring for your books? Do they look forward to sitting down to read with you as a large group? Do they walk away from the read-aloud experience feeling connected to the story, the illustrations, or the characters? Do they happily spend time on their own reading a book with a friend? Let's find our way to answering each of these questions with a big 'YES!' when it comes to reading with young children. Discover fun and engaging strategies, amazing children's books, and hands-on ideas for capturing student attention and engaging them in the reading process throughout your classroom.

Deborah J. Stewart is the blogger behind the highly acclaimed early childhood education blog called Teach Preschool. Through her blog, Deborah shares 30 years of real-life teaching and leadership experiences with over 1.5 million educators from all around the world. Deborah travels though out the US to speak on early childhood topics that help teachers build highly effective teaching skills and strategies in all areas of the classroom. Deborah wants you to know that the solution to every classroom challenge is absolutely right there within you.

Registration Information

1. Registration is **ONLINE** and participants will be able to choose from many workshops! Online payment via Paypal / credit card is a recommended feature.
2. Priority is given to Methodist programs. Online registration begins December 3rd for Methodist programs and December 10th for all other programs. Please be prompt with registration, as some workshops will fill early.
3. **PARTICIPANTS REGISTER INDIVIDUALLY.** During the registration process you will be required to create an individual account.
4. Cost per participant is **\$85**. Payment may be made for individuals via Paypal, credit card, or check. The school may submit one check that covers all participants. To ensure that we post your payment correctly, please include a list of the participants' names and corresponding invoice numbers. Please make your check payable to ECMC Houston and mail it to:
ECMC c/o Debra Fischer
5501 Main Street
Houston, Texas 77004
5. After January 14, 2019, the cost to register increases to \$100.
6. Mailed checks must be postmarked by Monday, January 14, 2019. If your check is not received on time, participants may not be able to attend the conference.
7. Please be sure to contact the registrars (Josette Horaist, Rachel Green, or Donna Heath) via email: ECMCregistrar@gmail.com if you have any questions or problems.



When we treat children's play as seriously as it deserves, we are helping them feel the joy that's to be found in the creative spirit. It's the things we play with and the people who help us play that make a great difference in our lives.



Fred Rogers

How to Register

To register: **EVERYONE** is required to register **INDEPENDENTLY**.

1. Go to our website at <http://www.ecmchouston.com>.
2. Click the register button in the middle of the home page.
3. Use the pull-down menu to locate your school name.
4. Choose from:

Conference 4 Workshops registration	2 Workshops & 1 Advanced Track registration	2 Workshops & 1 Directors' Track registration	Directors' Track & Advanced Track registration
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5. Choose your workshops and times for the two-day conference.
6. Add all workshops to cart.
7. When you are ready, proceed to check out.
8. Add the participants first and last name. Choose your school with the pull-down menu. Each individual registering will be **REQUIRED** to have their own email address and a password. This allows every individual to view their registration agenda at any time.
9. Double check your workshop choices and agree to the disclaimer. Decide your method of payment and agree to the terms and conditions of registration.

Everyone has access to log into their ECMC registration to view/print their registration agenda.

Please send payment and direct all questions to the Registrars:
via mail:

ECMC c/o Debra Fischer
5501 Main Street
Houston, Texas 77004

via email:
ECMCregistrar@gmail.com



I believe that appreciation is a holy thing, that when we look for what's best in the person we happen to be with at the moment, we're doing what God does. So, in loving and appreciating our neighbor, we're participating in something truly sacred.



Fred Rogers

Details of the 2019 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 2019 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: Signage will direct you where to park. We encourage carpooling.

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

Please note: In case of conference cancellation due to inclement weather or other circumstances beyond our control, there will be no refunds.

Conference Schedule 2019 Track A

Thursday		Friday
Registration, Vendors, & Sharing	8:00 - 8:45 a.m.	Vendors, & Sharing
Session 1	8:45 - 10:15 a.m.	Session 3
Break, Vendors, & Sharing	10:15 - 10:45 a.m.	Break, Vendors, & Sharing
Session 2	10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Session 4
Lunch, Vendors, & Sharing	12:15 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch, Vendors, & Sharing
Welcome & Keynote	1:00 - 2:30 p.m.	Keynote
I/T Advanced Track (includes lunch) 8:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.		PK Advanced Track (includes lunch) 8:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.
		Director's Track (includes lunch) 8:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Please notice that this schedule allows participants to complete 5 hours of training by 2:30 p.m. PLEASE REMEMBER TO USE ALL FREE TIME TO VISIT THE VENDORS AND NETWORK WITH YOUR FELLOW ATTENDEES. You receive training credit for these activities.



Let's make the most of this beautiful day ...



Fred Rogers

Early Childhood Methodist Conference Etiquette

The conference mission is to provide a quality, professional training experience for 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. Please be kind and 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.



Be sure to bring cash for
The Joy School's
Student Leadership Committee
Snack Shack!

Find us in the Activity Center.

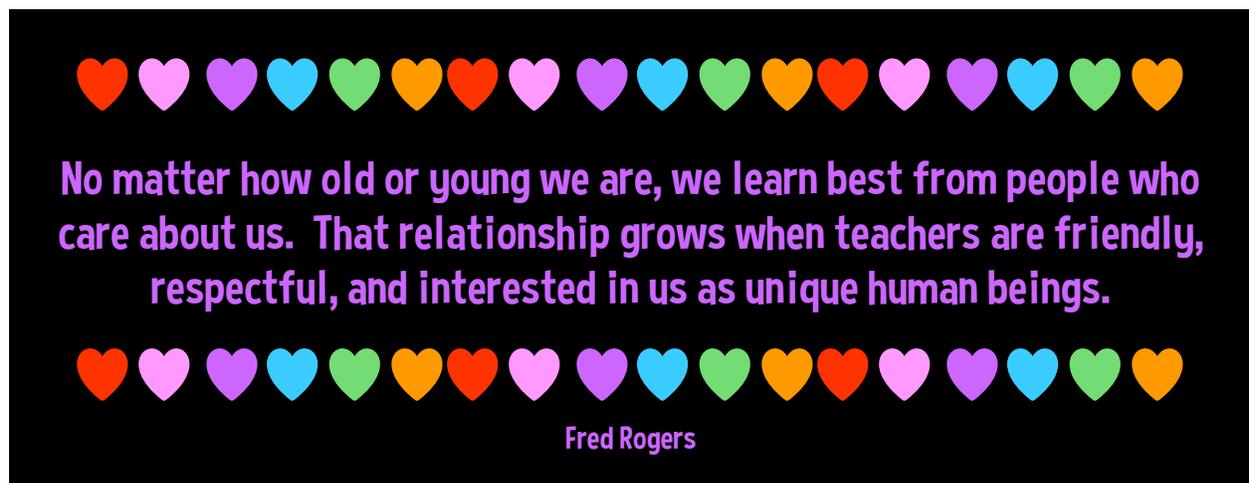


Conference Workshops

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A1	Blast Off Science!	Barbara Cargill	3, 4, K	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

5-4-3-2-1 BLAST OFF for a journey through space with an “out of this world” training! Prepare for space with gravity experiments and live like an astronaut by blasting rockets, tasting space food, space sleeping, and using astronaut tools. Walking on the moon and zooming cool comets make this session loads of fun!

Barbara Cargill earned her undergraduate degree in education from Baylor University and a Master of Science in Science Education degree from Texas Woman’s University. Having taught high school science for almost ten years, she was the recipient of many teaching awards including a National Excellence Award for science teaching. Barbara’s interest in creative learning for children and a love for science motivated her to found the WOW! program in 1995. With over 1,200 children, 3 year olds through 4th grade, attending Science Camp each summer, Barbara brings a wealth of experience to professional development! She has been training teachers for over 23 years. In addition to her passion for science education, Barbara also serves on the Texas State Board of Education. Barbara is honored to serve as a voice for teachers, parents, and children at the state level.



#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A2	What I learned as a therapist that I wish I had known as a teacher!	Casey Casteel	3, 4, K, Admin	Guidance

Teachers play many roles in the classroom! From a counselor’s perspective, we will discuss new ways of understanding, managing and working with students. We will have the opportunity to learn ways to observe, understand, manage and refer challenging behaviors and ways of communicating with both parents and students to help provide a positive outcome.

Casey Casteel has an M.A. in professional counseling and works with children and families as a play therapist in a local private therapy practice. She is also an Elementary school counselor at an EC-12th private school. She has twenty years of experience in the education field working in various fields from early childhood through middle school, the arts, special education and counseling.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A3	It's Not a Kitchen! Exploring Dramatic Play!	Courtney Challis	3, 4, K	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

Look into using your Dramatic Play center to further meaningful and intentional learning. Explore how to incorporate literature, writing and math into this center. Connect to children using hands on learning and fun to further academic goals.

Courtney Challis has a degree from the University of Houston in Interdisciplinary Studies and is a certified EC-4th grade teacher who has a passion for making sure a child loves learning! She has taught in a public Title 1 school in Second grade and Kindergarten. In addition, she has taught Pre-K at St. Paul's School. It was there that she was trained in the Classroom Storytelling Project from the School Literacy and Culture through Rice University. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her three young children and husband.

#	Workshop	Presenters	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A4	Creating Developmentally Appropriate Activities and Using the Classroom as a Third Teacher	Bianca Davis & Patty Maldonado	3, 4, K, Admin	Child Development

When it comes to age appropriate activities, materials do matter. We will help you understand the importance of age appropriate manipulatives to correspond with a child's individual growth. Our activities encourage children to stay engaged while learning. You will also learn that as the children in your classroom grow older, the classroom should grow with them. Here you will learn about visual order and using the classroom as a third teacher. This workshop will include some make and take activities to get you started!

Bianca Davis and **Patty Maldonado** are teachers at St. Luke's Day School. They have been teaching partners for over three years and have taught children aged 18 months through 3. Their objective has always been to create an excellent environment for their children whole learning through play. They have experience writing curriculum and helping to create thematic summer camp experiences. Overall, they are two teachers enthusiastic and passionate about child development and learning.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A5	Bounce From a Book: Creating Writing Experiences Inspired by Quality Children's Literature	Sharon Dworaczyk	4 & K	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

During this presentation, participants will be introduced to quality children's literature and ways to extend children's understanding of the written word. From class quilts to creative art experiences, find out ways to enhance children's literature that make the reading process a fun and engaging one.

Sharon Dworaczyk has worked with young toddlers through second grade age children for over twenty years. Her education background consists of an undergraduate degree in Elementary Education specializing in Early Childhood and English as a Second Language from Texas A & M University in College Station and a master's degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Houston, Clear Lake. She was trained in the Classroom Storytelling Project from the School Literacy and Culture from Rice University in 1996, and has continued with the project as a mentor teacher, seminar leader, and Special Projects Coordinator.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A6	Bringing God To Work	James Evans	all	Family & Community Relationships

The purpose of this class will be to train teachers how to merge their moral values into the workplace.

James Evans graduated from Cypress Falls High School in Houston, TX. He also pursued higher education and obtained a bachelors degree in Communications from the University of Houston- Downtown. James is frequent speaker for conferences and seminars. He places strong emphasis on communication and healthy relationships.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A7	Behavioral Interventions Based on Intrinsic Motivation	Gayle Y. Fisher, M. Ed.	T - K	Child Growth & Development

Why does a child make the behavior choices they do? This workshop is about understanding children's undesired behaviors, with and without learning differences. We will discuss age-appropriate re-directs using intrinsic motivation, multiple intelligences, classroom management, natural consequences, sensory integration, executive function, and behavior interventions built on best practices of trust, boundaries, mental health awareness and learning challenges.

Gayle Fisher is an educator, mom of a 6th grader with learning differences, author, learning differences consultant, and has been living in the spectrum 9+ years. She teaches non-credit workshops as an adjunct at LSC-M Academy of Lifelong Learning and out in the community. She is Founder at GettingSorted.com, Founding Co-Facilitator of SpecialNeedsSibs.org & OurTrainingCenter.org; and writes at IfWeLearnDifferently.com. She is on the Advisory Council of the Center for School Behavioral Health Collaborative. She loves to collaborate, and is always working on new projects. More can be found at GettingSorted.com.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A8	Responsive Planning for Infants & Toddlers	Amy Foster-Palmer	I & T	Child Growth & Development

Within the foundation of relationships and positive interactions, this training provides an insight into the process of responsive planning for infants and toddlers. Participants will gain an awareness of the importance of developing a responsive curriculum and understand the process of creating and implementing responsive lesson plans. Additionally, participants will explore how to create an environment that supports responsive planning.

Amy Foster-Palmer started her career in early childhood 20 years ago and has held a variety of positions, including classroom teacher, trainer, education specialist, administrator, advocate, social services worker, coach and mentor. She received a master's degree in Child Development with a specialization in administration from Erikson Institute in Chicago and a bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri in Human Development and Family Studies. She is a Master Registered Trainer (#4011) with the Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System and enjoys training professionals in the field of Early Childhood Care and Education.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A9	Healing Through Play: Exploring the Benefits of Sensory Play and Blocks When Processing Trauma	Jordan Gainey Khadam-Hir	3, 4, & K	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

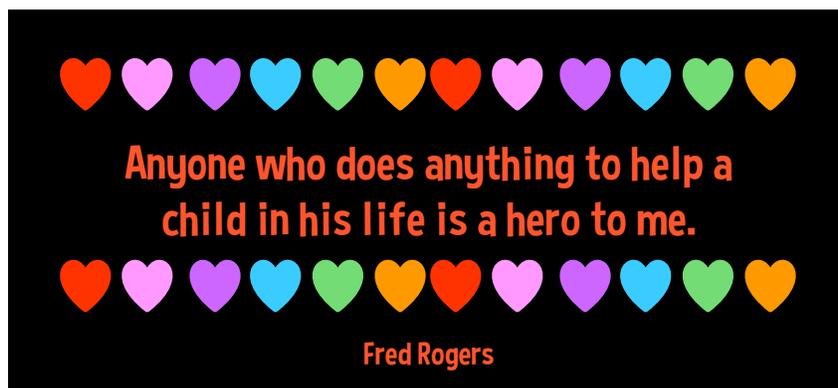
This highly interactive session will take a look at how block and sensory play supports the socio-emotional development of children in times of trauma. Specific ways to engage children in the block and sensory stations will be shared, with a specific focus on providing a safe and controlled environment for young children to process traumatic events. Participants will gather numerous ideas on how to incorporate a variety of everyday materials into these play-based areas of the classroom.

Jordan Gainey Khadam-Hir is the Associate Director of the Early Literacy Leadership Academy. Jordan graduated from Washington State University and became a Teach For America Houston corps member in 2007. Jordan taught at KIPP Dream Prep in Houston’s fifth ward in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classrooms. She served as the Response to Intervention coordinator for three years while also serving as the Dean of the Lower School and later as the Assistant Principal. Jordan was trained in School Literacy & Culture’s renowned Classroom Storytelling program in 2008, later becoming a mentor teacher for residents enrolled in the project. She joined the SLC team in November 2013 as the Assistant Director of Outreach & Education and now serves as Associate Director for the Early Literacy Leadership Academy. In addition to her involvement with SLC, Jordan graduated from the Rice University Jones Graduate School of Business with her MBA in 2013 and was a member of the fourth REEP (Rice Entrepreneurial Education Program) cohort.

#	Workshop	Presenters	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A10	Meaningful Motor Play	Wesley Gibson & Sarah Williams	T, 2, 3, & 4	Child Growth & Development

Play is vital for the development of fine motor and gross motor skills. With ample meaningful play, students have the opportunity to exercise the large muscles of the body and the small muscles of the hands. We will share a variety of engaging ways to help develop and strengthen the fine motor and gross motor muscles of your students.

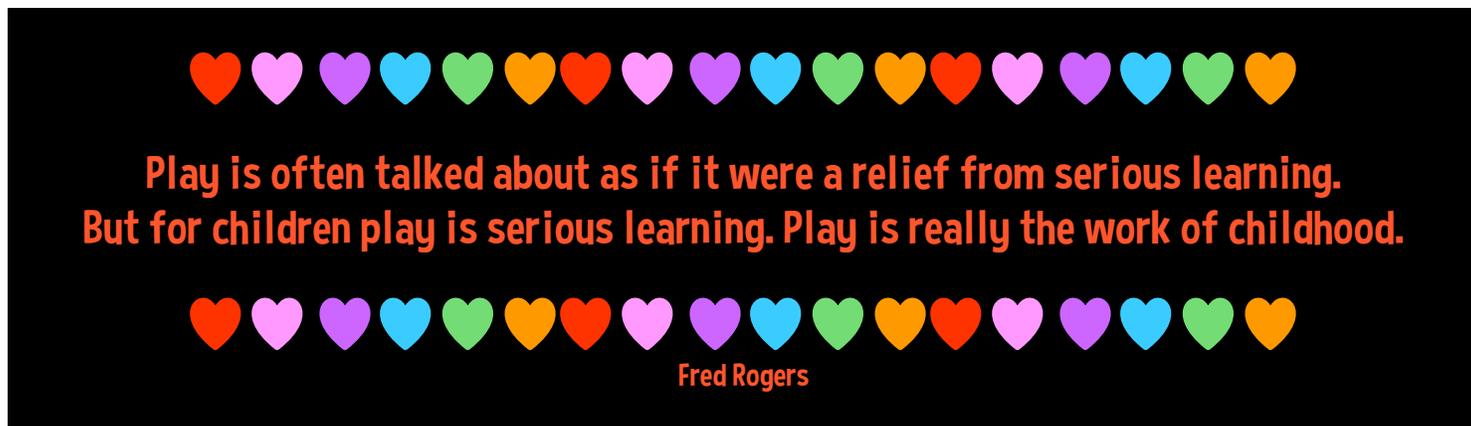
Wesley Gibson and **Sarah Williams** have a combined over twenty years of teaching experience in early childhood and elementary schools, as well as master degrees in education. Their passion of literacy led them to create Literacy Enrichment and Play, an enrichment program that aims to teach of love of literacy and learning in the early years. Wesley and Sarah continue to teach their literacy program throughout Houston schools, as well as train early childhood teachers using their multi-sensory/play methods.



#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A11	Full of Fun! Keeping Our Lessons Playful	Janine R. Groth, M. Ed.	T - K	Professionalism

Participants will examine why play is the most important and effective method of teaching. Activities need to be playful, purposeful and playful to reach our students on a daily basis. Research gives us the proof we need that learning happens for children through play, however teachers have an obligation to identify and create quality materials that teach. Research out of Eastern Connecticut State University has developed a toy study of TIMPANI (Toys That Inspire Mindful Play and Nurture Imagination) that gives teachers useful information to identify quality of play. Participants will leave understanding the stages and components to play in a hands-on, interactive environment.

Janine Groth has been in the early childhood field for over 30 years, starting as a teaching assistant and working up through the ranks to currently teaching college. She operated a large NAEYC accredited center for almost 5 years and then moved to the higher education arena in 2005. She's mentored teachers for a state research grant and worked in collaboration with many of the Houston and surrounding area school districts. Ms. Groth is an adjunct professor at the University of Houston-Downtown and LoneStar College. Janine was an active member of HAAEYC since 1997, finishing her tenure as V.P. of Programs in 2015. Since 1998, Janine has been a Master Level Registered Trainer through the state of Texas. She has trained nationally, regionally and locally for over 23 years. Her passion is to motivate teachers to be professional and intentional within their classrooms.



#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A12	Sing, Dance, & Play the Winkie Way	Winkie Ballas Jamail	T- K	Child Growth & Development

Let's Sing! Let's Dance! Let's Play! No time for snoozing, I'll keep you moving - FREE MP3's of the music we use in class. Also, be prepared to LAUGH, LAUGH, LAUGH!!!

Winkie Ballas Jamail taught pre-school music for 10 years. She is currently free lance teaching Classroom Management, Differentiated Instruction for K - 12 and Music and Movement for Pre School. (www.PrepareForClass.com) She is also currently working on certification for Arise Life Skills Program for the youth.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A13	Community Science: Construction vs. Demolition; Environmental Cleaners	Aileen Kirkham	3 - K	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

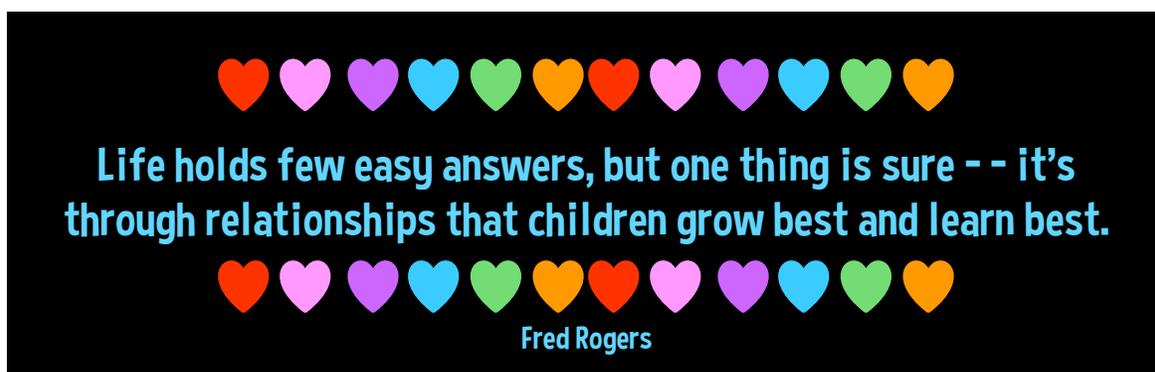
This make and take workshop includes lessons; recommended books and media, songs, simple storytelling strategies, and budget-friendly puppets.

Aileen Kirkham is an author, educator, and professional storyteller. She's written 4 professional books and numerous magazine articles. She has 30+ years teaching experience, presented 50+ staff development programs, and done 300+ storytelling programs.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A14	Communicating Effectively with Infants and Toddlers: The Why and How To!	Marlyn Kramer	I & T	Child Growth & Development

Have you ever experienced frustration in trying to understand the wants/needs of your infant or toddler student? Communication begins at birth and early childhood teachers play a critical role in successfully developing these communication skills. This fun and fast-paced workshop will explain the correlation between communication skills and brain development; provide ideas to help strengthen each stage of language development; and introduce ASL as an effective tool for communicating with infants and toddlers.

Marlyn Kramer is the Founder/CEO of ECE Training Dynamics, LLC and a Master Registered Trainer (#3620) with TECPDS. She holds a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Texas and an undergraduate degree in ECE from Southwest Texas State University. Ms. Kramer is passionate about young children and incorporating developmentally appropriate practices in the early childhood classroom.



#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A15	Circle Time Puppets: Enrich Literacy Skills with Puppetry in the Classroom	Jean Kuecher	ALL	Child Growth & Development

Get motivated, gain confidence and learn techniques for using puppets and stuffed animals, powerful teaching and learning tools! Enrich and nurture creative thinking, stretch the imagination, strengthen a love of language, motivate reading, and heighten visualization, critical thinking, listening, and communication skills. Incorporate art into literature's main character, goal, problem and solution.

Jean Kuecher, puppeteer and producer of the Marionette Playhouse, delights audiences with marionette, hand puppet and black light puppetry performances. Jean performs for schools, libraries, birthday parties, churches and corporate events. She is a performing and teaching artist with Young Audiences of Houston. Jean has a master's in education and is a Registered Trainer with the Texas Early Care and Education Career Development System. As a teacher she used puppetry to enhance her classroom curriculum. As a school counselor she developed weekly marionette shows on self-awareness themes. She is a charter member of the Greater Houston Puppetry Guild and a member of the National Puppeteers of America. Jean is the director of the annual Houston Puppetry Festival, providing quality performances and workshops for teachers, librarians, and puppetry enthusiasts. Jean's puppetry training workshops for educators are motivating and fun, while increasing literacy and science skills!



No matter how old or young we are, we learn best from people who care about us. That relationship grows when teachers are friendly, respectful, and interested in us as unique human beings.



Fred Rogers

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A16	What Would Jesus Eat?	Laura Laine	all	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

God made us with the need to eat daily, and God supplies us with the food to eat. The food God gives us is not only delicious, but also provides every nutrient required to live a healthy life. Come learn from the example of Jesus how and what to eat to maintain health in body, mind, and spirit for yourself, your family, and the children you teach.

Laura Laine is a spiritual director, registered dietitian and owner of the Sophia Grace Center for Nutrition, Health and Spirituality. A gifted retreat leader and speaker, she has a passion for nourishing the whole self – body, mind & spirit. Following 22 years at Texas Children’s Hospital, she served as Parish Administrator of St. Laurence Catholic Church for 8 years.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A17	STEAM Tools & Techniques	Susan MacHugh	T – K	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

Encourage children’s natural interest by providing opportunities to explore, identify, predict, investigate, and problem solve in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. See how to develop a variety of discovery centers inside the classroom and on the playground. Learn how to expand the curriculum by providing activities that encourage children to explore, take risks, and have a joyful experience.

Susan MacHugh has worked in the field of Early Childhood for over 30 years as a Preschool Founding Director/Head Teacher, Early Childhood Specialist, and Trainer with the Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System (TECPDS). She is the owner of The Singing Bag Solution and serves as a support group leader for the Kingwood/Humble/Atascocita Chapter of Attention Deficit Disorder-Southern Region (ADDA-SR).

Advanced Track

Designed for very experienced teachers, this is a 4 hour long workshop 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 Area
A18	Tip-Toe into STEAM with Infants, Toddlers, & Twos	Susan Meriwether	I, T, & 2	Child Growth & Development

STEAM is being implemented in many preschool classrooms but what does STEAM look like in an infant, toddler, or twos classroom? Gain an understanding of the significance and what it means to intentionally create a foundation of science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math education for our youngest learners. Tip-toe into STEAM with me!

Susan Meriwether, MA is a teacher of two/three year-olds at St. Francis Episcopal School. She recently graduated from the prestigious Early Literacy Leadership Academy (ELLA) at Rice University. Susan has over 25 years teaching in the classroom and over 10 years training teachers in the community.

Friday Advanced Track

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A19	Social Skills and Self-Esteem	Christine Smith	3, 4, & K	Child Growth & Development

If confidence is grounded in early social experiences, let's learn how to empower children with age appropriate social skills through literature, music, games and more, by encouraging and allowing the development of positive self-esteem. Let's gift our children with success!

Chris Smith is the Director of Early Childhood for Enid Public Schools, Enid Oklahoma. She has 40 plus years of teaching and administrative experience, Pre K thru college. She has presented nationally at SECA, NAEYC and across the country, and consults with school districts on Early Childhood topics. Chris shares her passion for educating young children with her audiences, hoping to ignite a fire in teachers to respect, empathize, encourage, and "just have fun" in their classrooms.

Make sure you come ready to do some shopping!
This year, the vendors will be in the
The Activity Center

Directors' Track

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

Friday Directors' Track

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A20 DT	Deep and Wide: Tapping into A Fountain of Powerful Learning through Meaningful Project Work with Young Children	Michelle Symonds	admin	Professionalism

It's easy to admire and appreciate the depth of learning possible through student-centered, inquiry-based project work. When teachers trust students to contribute their voice and choice to the learning process, a wide range of topics, skills and expressions of understanding unfold. The real challenge is supporting and encouraging teachers as they step out of their "comfort zone" and share ownership with their young students. This uneasiness and ambiguity is often what keeps teachers from tapping into the powerful and meaningful learning that is inherently present in project based learning. In this interactive session, you'll learn what makes a great project, steps that provide structure yet allow for collaboration between teacher and student, and techniques for supporting your teachers through the process.

Following lunch together, you will have an opportunity to "ask the experts." We've brought back by popular demand Anna Williamson (Infant/Toddler Team Leader and Assessment Coordinator, St. Luke's Day School), and Janie Gallagher (Human Resource Manager, St. Luke's United Methodist Church). This section of the workshop will be moderated by Michelle Symonds.

With 23 years of experience in teaching and leadership, Michelle Symonds has a successful record of supporting teachers in implementation of new practices within several different school communities. Mrs. Symonds has a BS from the University of Texas in Child Development, a M.Ed. from the University of Houston and an Educational Diagnostician certification from Houston Baptist University. Michelle's interest in Project Based Learning began in 2010 with a study tour of the schools of Reggio Emilia, Italy where she witnessed a child-initiated, interactive philosophy that encourages students to demonstrate creativity and take ownership of their learning, principles that have always formed the foundation of her educational philosophy. Continued study with Dr. Judy Harris Helm and participation in PBL World offered through the Buck Institute have also contributed to Michelle's understanding of Project Work.



**There are three ways to ultimate success:
The first way is to be kind.
The second way is to be kind.
The third way is to be kind.**



Fred Rogers