



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, 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



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.ecmhouston.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 B

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

Please notice that the 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
B1	Encourage Meant	Darla Baerg	all	Family & Community Relationships

All of us could use encouragement whether in our professional or personal life. During this session we will be discussing the importance of communication and how you can be an encourager to others. We will look at strategies for improving your relationships with parents, co workers, and even in your home. You'll leave feeling encouraged in your own life too.

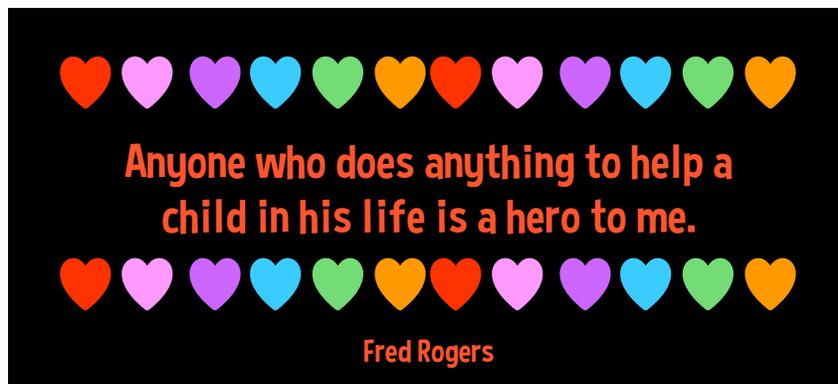
Darla Baerg is a master communicator and storyteller. She shares her real-life experiences (many of which are hilarious!), scripture and her love for the Lord into powerful messages for women. People are drawn to Darla's joyfulness, transparency and ability to honestly share God's word.

Darla holds a communication specialist degree from Baylor University and a master's degree in communication from the University of North Texas. In addition she has a master's degree in Human Resource Development from Vanderbilt University. Before starting her family Darla was the chief of staff for a United States congressman and the director of training for a Fortune 500 company. She has served as an adjunct faculty member at Houston Baptist University. She is a sought-after speaker and bible study teacher.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B2	Do This, Not That: Alphabet Knowledge	Stacy Benge	3, 4, & Admin	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

No flash cards? No worksheets? No letter of the week theme? How do children learn the letters then? Through this class, learn exciting alternatives to inappropriate letter knowledge instruction and leave ready to throw out all of your flash cards and worksheets! Discover developmentally appropriate approaches to letter recognition and knowledge that will lay strong foundations for literacy development.

Stacy Benge is a child development and early learning specialist who approaches early childhood education in a way that makes sense. In addition to holding a Master of Science degree in Human/ Child Development and Family Studies, she has spent 10 years in the early childhood classroom teaching children ages birth to five. Stacy also has 20 years' experience of sharing her passion for child and human development with fellow early learning professionals by designing and presenting continuing education courses.



#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B3	Connecting Motor to Math	Marilyn Bitsis	3, 4, & K	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

Come learn exciting new ways to encourage math skills through movement. Ms. Bitsis will demonstrate energetic movement and music-oriented ways to introduce math in the preschool classroom.

Marilyn Bitsis, a Master Registered Trainer in the Texas Early Care and Education Development System, has co-authored a book *Sensational Beginnings – Sensory and Motor Activities for Infants and Toddlers*. She is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and has a combined twenty-six years of business and teaching experience. She is the owner of the motor skills company Kidbuilders.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B4	Art and Literature	Mikki Bowers	T - K	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

Join me for this interactive workshop where you will learn to introduce art through your classroom literature and everyday classroom items. We will also explore the introduction of classically trained artist of the month and creative ideas for the children to interpret the featured artist work. A few make and take items will add to the excitement of this learning experience.

Mikki Bowers' career has spanned over thirty years in both the public and private school sectors and currently enjoys teaching art to students of all ages at Klein Weekday Ministries.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B5	Play a Song and Sing Along: The Power of Musical Play	Barbara Brandt	all	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

We all know that play is how children learn. Teacher led or child directed, musical play promotes learning in all the early childhood educational domains. It helps create a nurturing environment for students and guides them through their day at school. You don't need to be a music teacher--or sing well--to harness the power of musical play!

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 twelfth year at St. Luke's Day School: she began as a classroom teacher (3-year-olds and PreK), and is currently teaching music to everyone from infants through kindergarteners.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B6	Phonological Fun!	Ashley Davis	3, 4, & K	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

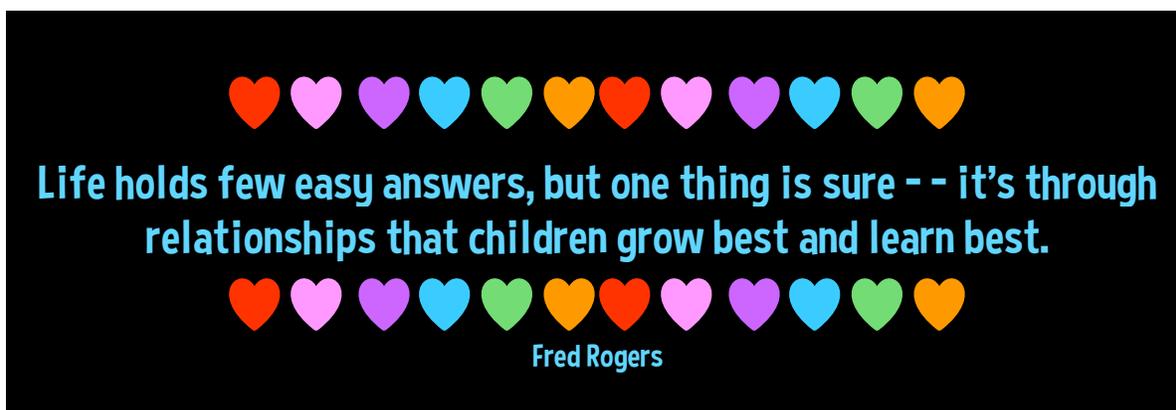
In this workshop you will learn different ways to support phonological awareness and leave with a better understanding of phonological awareness' function in creating readers and writers !

Ashley Davis has been an early childhood educator at St. Luke's Day school for 6 years working with students aged 3-5 years old. She is in her final year as a resident of Rice University's Early Literacy Leadership Academy and has completed numerous hours of professional development regarding guidance, classroom management, early literacy, and developmentally appropriate practice as a participant of Rice University's School Literacy and Culture programs (Classroom Storytelling, Summer Institute, numerous workshops and seminars). She is passionate about providing developmentally appropriate practices in the early childhood classroom.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B7	Consistency, Choices, & Consequences	Jan Flowers	4 & K	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

In this interactive session, we will be discussing how to use consistency, choices, and consequences in the classroom in a loving, intentional way.

Jan Flowers has always loved working with children. She has a degree in Health from The University of Houston and a masters in Early Childhood Education from The University of St. Thomas. After being a nanny for nine years, she began her teaching career at St. Luke’s Day School, where she taught 2s, Pre-K, and the Bridge class. She did private tutoring before starting at The Joy School, where she has taught Kindergarten through 3rd grade for the past 18 years. She also takes groups of children on trips to Colorado where they work on organization, confidence and social skills. She loves teaching children to read and helping them find the joy in learning.



#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B8	Understanding Toddlers Tears, Tantrums & Toddlers, Oh My!	Deborah Fry	T, 2, & 3	Guidance

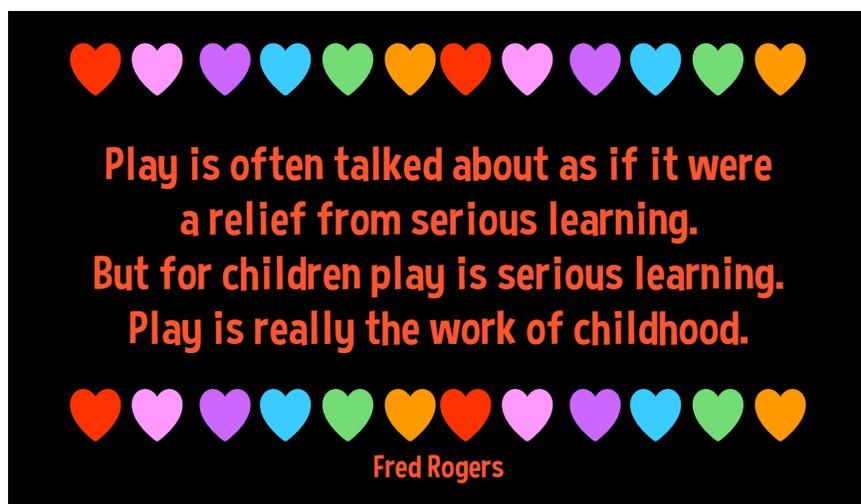
The “terrible twos” is the stage of a young child’s life that is most feared by teachers. It actually lasts from 18 months to four years of age. Learn why this age is so important for the child and so difficult for adults and how to make it easier on everyone. Hitting, biting, saying “No”, temper tantrums, sharing, whining and all the great hallmarks of this age will be covered.

Deborah Fry, Ph.D., has been leading workshops, conducting seminars and working with couples, parents and families as well as corporate American since 1990. A certified instructor for the International Network for Children and Families, much of her training is based on the work of Dr. Rudolf Dreikurs. Deborah’s graduate work at Southern Illinois University was in Child Language Acquisition and Human Communication. Her undergraduate work was in Elementary Education. A part-time teacher of “young 3’s” at Westminster Weekday School, she also teaches two six week parenting course, Redirecting Children’s Behavior and Common Ground, here in Houston and conducts parent support groups for graduates of the course.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B9	Fine Motor Skills...Write Out of the Box	Marianne Gibbs	3-K & Admin	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

An engaging hands-on presentation of the fine motor development of young children 3-6 years old. This session contains essential, rarely addressed, information for educators of all young children, which supports pencil grasp, pre-writing, and scissor skill development across the curriculum. Activities and techniques are ready to use in the classroom tomorrow!

Marianne Gibbs is an occupational therapist and dynamic, national early childhood educational speaker. She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1985 from Claremont McKenna College, Master of Occupational Therapy Degree in 2000 from Texas Woman’s University, and Doctorate in Educational Leadership with a Specialization in Curriculum and Instruction in 2010. In addition to being a contributing author to the Frog Street Press Pre-K curriculum and Benson Handwriting programs, Dr. Gibbs is also the owner of Gibbs Consulting, Incorporated. As an entrepreneurial educator since 2004, Dr. Gibbs supports the appropriate development of young children by providing “once in a lifetime workshops - every time” with the goal of elevating educational practices and life-long outcomes for children beyond expectations!



#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B10	Social Competence and Resilience	Amy Lerman, MA, CCC-SLP	3 & 4	Child Growth & Development

Resilience and social competence have been identified as the two critical abilities a child needs to be successful as an adult. However many children lack resilience due to communication delays, learning differences, social anxiety, and even overexposure to screen time. Therefore, these children may miss other people’s non-verbal cues, misread other’s intentions, or fail to think about their communication partner’s perspective. Developing social competence takes direct teaching and practice. Learn how you can help your students find better success in social situations.

Amy Lerman has had the pleasure of serving in the field of speech and language for the past 17 years. Her years of education were spent at The University of Texas at Austin (GO HORNS) where she received a Bachelor of Science degree, and at The George Washington University in D.C., where she received a master’s in Speech-Language Pathology. Amy’s journey as an SLP began in Plano Independent School District, where she served in early childhood schools for 7 years. Later, she moved to Houston and spent 4 years working in The Parish School’s Early Childhood program. Deciding to try something new, she moved to San Antonio, and went into private practice, mostly focusing on social groups and providing professional development and parent education at a variety of schools and organizations. Amy is thrilled to be back to Houston and to The Parish School in a new and exciting community outreach position.



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
B11	Revive Your Read-Alouds	Pat Miller	T – K, Admin	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

A well-done story time increases listening ability, grows language skills, breeds a love of books, bonds you and your students--and it's fun! This session will give you techniques to increase engagement with story time rituals, dynamic book selections, and ways to enhance your storytelling.

Pat Miller taught reading to grades pre-school through fifth over her 37-year career as a teacher and school librarian, and has published nine books for children.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B12	Math Provocations	Stephanie Mitchell	3 - K	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

We'll look at using provocations to help students develop a meaningful foundation in math. We will also look at literature to pair with these provocations.

Stephanie Mitchell spent 12 years teaching 1st grade and Kindergarten in public schools in the Houston area. There she served on mathematics leadership teams at both the school and district levels. She is currently in her fourth year of teaching Kindergarten at St. Luke's Day School.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B13	Move Over Time Out	Margaret Schafer	T - K	Guidance

Let's face it, we all try Time Out in the classroom, but does it really work? In this workshop you'll learn the original intent for the technique and how to use movement and the 14 Basic KidBuilders Skills as alternatives to traditional, often unsuccessful time-out.

Margaret Schafer is a Master Professional Registered Trainer with the Texas Early Care and Education Career Development System. She is a graduate of Converse College and has 25 years of early childhood experience as a director and preschool gymnastics instructor. Margaret has also co-authored a book *Sensational Beginnings – Sensory and Motor Activities for Infants and Toddlers*.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B14	Encouraging Creativity in Young Children Through Process Art Experiences	Donna Wheeler	T - K admin	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

During this session, we will explore and gain a deeper understanding of developmentally appropriate art practices. Through hands-on activities participants will be able to recognize the differences between “process art” and “product art.” Participants will have the opportunity to develop intentional curriculum that supports a child’s creativity, need for choice and exploration of materials at their own pace.

Donna Wheeler has been in the field of Early Childhood education for 27 years. She has been a preschool director, a nature educator, and CDA instructor. She is looking forward to sharing her research and classroom experiences of how children develop and start on their path to creativity.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B15	Handling the Hard to Handle	Tom Wilbeck	T - K admin	Child Growth & Development

Every human has needs. Our behavior is motivated by fulfilling these needs. This workshop will focus on the needs of humans and behaviors we use to have our needs met. Understanding the behavior we see will help us "handle the hard to handle" situations in our centers.

Tom Wilbeck has been a Licensed Professional Counselor and trainer for more than 20 years. You may also know Tom as "Mr. Tom" from Tom's Fun Band, a nationally ranked children's recording group. While on a stage or in a classroom, Tom brings humor and fun to audiences while teaching important lessons that will foster positive change in our lives.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B16	Bring it Outdoors!	Sharon Young	3, 4, & Admin	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

Plan learning centers for the outdoors. Dig in with butterfly and vegetable gardens. Examine teacher roles to expand the variety of ways children can experience the natural world.

Sharon Young is a licensed Early Childhood Educator, Healthy Child Care Consultant and Texas Master Naturalist. She was an Outdoor Classroom Coordinator for seven years in a preschool and consulted with 50 preschool and elementary schools on outdoor classrooms. She has conducted 180 Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS) preschool classroom assessments and is a CDA assessor.



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
B17	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, 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 the their classrooms.

Friday Advanced Track

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B18	Tip-Toe into STEAM with Infants, Toddlers, & Twos	Friday Advanced Track 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 two 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.


**Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning.
 But for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood.**

Fred Rogers

Directors' Track

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

Thursday Directors' Track

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B19	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.

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