



FHSA 2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPO FOR THE RECORD, HEAD START ROCKS!

Tuesday, December 10- Friday, December 13, 2024

(Agenda/Schedule subject to change www.FLHeadStart.org for the most up-to-date information)

December 10, Tuesday, Collaborative Learning Rooms 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

- **HS/EHS Directors Only:** Join Region 4 Regional Program Director, Samuel Dupervil for a Grantee and Delegate HS/EHS **Directors Only** conversation. This is a one-on-one opportunity for you to get answers to your questions
- **Disabilities:** This session will feature a robust panel of Head Start programs and partners to focus on the practical, day-to-day collaborative relationship needed to successfully work with the local educational agencies (LEA). Our goal is to ensure all children are receiving the required services and Head Start programs are meeting the standards. We will explore creating practical and successful processes around referrals and eligibility, successful interventions, and meaningful ways to support families. *Kim Singer, HSCO Director, Michelle Toral, Head Start Section Manager, Eurica Ketant, Disabilities, Nadeige Laleau, Disability Coordinator, DeArdra Rolle, Special Projects Administrator, Miami-Dade County CAHSD Head Start/Early Head Start; Anaeli Rodriguez-Borjas, MAE, LSP, School Psychology Chairperson for Pre-K Diagnostics and Dr. Kelli Hunter, Administrative Director of Exceptional Student Education Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Wendy Herrera, Senior Family Service Worker, Disability & Mental Health Coordinator, Dr. Rosally Bisbal Moreno: Senior Behavior and Inclusion Specialist, Disability & Mental Health Unit Supervisor and Silverio Becerra-Reyes, Orange County Public Schools*
- **ERSEA:** Join us for this engaging and interactive collaborative discussion led by professionals with extensive experience implementing and leading ERSEA (Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance) strategies. This session is designed for those passionate about optimizing ERSEA processes to better serve vulnerable families, including children in foster care and those experiencing homelessness. We will discuss the new final rule changes and the Full Enrollment Initiative while exploring innovative approaches and best practices to streamline recruitment, enhance family engagement, and ensure a comprehensive understanding of eligibility requirements. *Jennifer Amador, ERSEA Manager, and Elizabeth Glaid, HS/EHS Specialist, Broward County Public Schools; Natalie Colon, ERSEA Coordinator-Supervisor, Orange County Head Start, Jennifer Fowler, ERSEA Manager, You Thrive Florida, and Autumn Tomas, CEO, A Tomas Consulting, LLC*
- **Childcare Emergency Preparedness Training (CCEPT):** Childcare programs are often left out of emergency planning at the federal, state and local levels. Save the Children supports childcare recovery post disaster. CCEPT is designed to help childcare providers develop and implement an emergency plan in their childcare program in addition to identifying risks and preparing year-round for emergencies. Childcare providers will be able to create a written plan that addresses their emergency needs and continue to communicate, practice, and update their emergency plan on a regular basis. *Militza Mezquita, Senior Advisor for Education in Emergencies and Greta Wetzel, Senior Advisor, Psychosocial Support, Save the Children*

December 10, Tuesday, Breakout Sessions 4:00 PM – 5:15 PM

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| Passing the School Readiness Baton | LaTanya Wynn-Hall, Retired Head Start Director/President, CEO, Wynning Team LLC | Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, and Home Visitors |
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Preschool is where children learn to read, and K-3 is where children read to learn! In this session, participants will grasp the Four(4) Relay Legs of Passing a Baton to the Finish Line to End the Race and Transition to Kindergarten concept. Ready -Set -Go! First(1st) Leg - Prenatal/Pregnancy Care. Second(2nd) Leg

- Infant Learning. Third(3rd) Leg - Toddler Learning. Fourth (4th) Leg - Preschool Learning. In each Relay Leg, you will discover how Child Development and Learning prepare children to transition to Kindergarten and for School Success. Let the Relay Race Begin.

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| Mama Bear: Using Parent Narratives to Improve Engagement Practices Families of Young Children with Disabilities | El Brown, Ph.D. Founder and CEO, KinderJam | Family Support (Family Service Worker, Family Advocate, Family Engagement Specialist), Teachers: Experienced, and Home Visitors |
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This interactive session blends real-life stories with actionable strategies to cultivate substantial, trusting partnerships with families of children with disabilities. Learn essential engaging tools while exploring cultural humility's role in fostering strong partnerships. Elevate your practice and empower families!

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| Blooming Empathetic Leadership in Early Childhood | Dr. Jenny Sanchez, Quality Education Manager, Early Learning Coalition of Broward | Administrators (CEO, CFO, Executive Director, HR, Center Managers), Direct Service Providers (Education/Child Development, Disabilities, Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, ERSEA), Directors, Family Support (Family Service Worker, Family Advocate, Family Engagement Specialist), Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff, and Home Visitors |
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The concept of Blooming Empathetic Leadership in Early Childhood is crucial for creating a work environment where all employees, including you, can thrive and achieve their professional goals. In this session, the presenter will provide key points on how to learn and understand every team member's unique challenges. Whether you are the leader of a Head Start Program/ Early Head Start Program, a childcare center, or an Early Childhood facility, regardless of size, your management style and team members will need Blooming empathy to solve problems and create a harmonious and cooperative work environment.

December 10, Tuesday, Breakout Sessions 4:00 PM – 5:15 PM

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| Innovative Approaches for Fostering Social Equity: Empowering Latino Families in Kindergarten Readiness and Educational Success | Marisel Schweitzer, Doctor, Engaged Families, LLC | Administrators (CEO, CFO, Executive Director, HR, Center Managers), Direct Service Providers (Education/Child Development, Disabilities, Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, ERSEA), Directors, Family Support (Family Service Worker, Family Advocate, Family Engagement Specialist), Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff, Home Visitors |
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This presentation seeks to challenge and expand your understanding of equity in early childhood education, particularly by capitalizing on the cultural wealth of Latino parents to foster kindergarten readiness and academic success for their children. Participants will learn about innovative approaches and strategies for engaging Latino families in their children's education, potentially impacting student success significantly. You will gain insights into addressing systemic barriers and disparities to ensure equitable access to resources and opportunities for all students and families. Participants will be introduced to the Dual Capacity Framework, a research-based model for effective family engagement, and learn its key components and how to apply them to enhance family engagement practices and support student success in your program.

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| Elevating the Head Start Voice through Advocacy | Kymberly Cook, Executive V.P. / Chief of External Affairs, Children Home Society | Administrators (CEO, CFO, Executive Director, HR, Center Managers), Direct Service Providers (Education/Child Development, Disabilities, Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, ERSEA), Directors, Family Support (Family Service Worker, Family Advocate, Family Engagement Specialist), Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff, Home Visitors |
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Advocacy: What is it? How do I do it? Why is it important? This session will answer these questions and provide concrete examples and simple, practical strategies for advocating for Head Start/Early Head Start. We will review the difference between educating, advocating, and lobbying and equip you with the know-how to host an effective program visit with your local politicians.

December 10, Tuesday, 5:15 PM- 6:30 PM

**Sponsor, Exhibitor and Attendee Networking Social
South Lawn near Pool**

End Day 1

December 11, Wednesday

Experience Hall Open 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. *Universal B*
Conference Kick-Off 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. *Universal A*

December 11, Wednesday, Reflective Supervision Track 10:15 AM – 11:30 AM

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| FAIMH Reflective Supervision Track | Dr. Noemi Marquez, LCSW, IMH-E® | Child Development (Birth to 5) Education & Coaching, Family Engagement and Support Infant/Early Childhood Professionals who are planning to become Reflective Supervisors/Consultants |
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If you are a Head Start/Early Head Start professional in a supervisory role that aims to strengthen your skill in reflective supervision, you are invited to join FAIMH in a specialized training series that can provide half of the required training hours needed to become an Endorsed Reflective Supervisor in the state of Florida. Participants will engage in 7.5 hours of training in six 75-minute sessions throughout the conference. Participants who select this track must attend all of these sessions during the conference. Earning Endorsement as an Endorsed Reflective Supervisor is a distinction offered to supervisors with a foundation in training and experience with Reflective Supervision. The added benefit is that any Reflective Supervision hours provided by an Endorsed Reflective Supervisor will count towards that professional's application to earn Infant or Early Childhood Mental Health Endorsement® in the future.

December 11, Wednesday, Breakout Sessions 10:15 AM – 11:30 AM

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| You Are Their Safe Place: Overcoming Trauma Challenges | Elizabeth Fields, Director of Curriculum and Professional Development, Learning Beyond Paper | Directors, Family Support (Family Service Worker, Family Advocate, Family Engagement Specialist) Home Visitors, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced |
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This professional development session is designed to empower educators, administrators, and staff in early childhood settings by equipping them with essential tools to understand and respond to the effects of trauma on young children. Participants will explore different types of trauma and their potential impact on social, emotional, and cognitive development. The session will also introduce evidence-based strategies for cultivating trauma-informed environments. The goal is to provide practical skills that help young learners build resilience and thrive, even in challenging circumstances.

December 11, Wednesday, Breakout Sessions 10:15 AM – 11:30 AM

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| 5 Family Engagement Strategies for School Readiness Success | Claudia Casitollo-Magallanez, Professional Development Bilingual Specialist, Frog Street | Direct Service Providers (Education/Child Development, Disabilities, Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, ERSEA), Directors, Family Support (Family Service Worker, Family Advocate, Family Engagement Specialist), Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff, Home Visitors |
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Children develop in many environments, including their family, culture, and community. In this session, participants will understand the impact of building strong relationships with families, investigate strategies for family engagement to support children's learning and development, and reflect on their current practices and newly acquired knowledge, with consideration to building effective collaborative partnerships with families and the community.

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| Internal Monitoring a Definite Means to Continuous Quality Improvement | LaShawn Capes Huff, Director of Continuous Quality Improvement, and Tonica Mathis Williams, Quality Assurance Manager, Lutheran Services of Florida, LSF | Direct Service Providers (Education/Child Development, Disabilities, Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, ERSEA), Family Support (Family Service Worker, Family Advocate, Family Engagement Specialist), Teachers: Experienced |
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Internal and external monitoring play pivotal roles in the ongoing monitoring and continuous improvement process, ensuring the effective implementation of the Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS) and achieving program goals and objectives. In this session, participants will learn the importance of these monitoring methods and the effective use of data, which are essential for ensuring program compliance and success.

Bridging the Gap Between Banking and Low-Income Communities

Sandra Ruff, Fiscal/Program Manager, Orange County Head Start and Steve Martin, Vystar Credit Union

Administrators (CEO, CFO, Executive Director, HR, Center Managers), Direct Service Providers (Education/Child Development, Disabilities, Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, ERSEA), Directors, Family Support (Family Service Worker, Family Advocate, Family Engagement Specialist), Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Home Visitors

Seeking innovative ways to drive financial wellness in your Head Start Community? Join this session to discover historical banking challenges in low-income communities and to learn techniques for implementing successful financial literacy programs. Gain insights on building trust with Head Start Families to achieve financial growth and sustainability.

Childcare Emergency Preparedness Training (CCEPT)

Militza Mezquita, Senior Advisor for Education in Emergencies and Greta Wetzels, Senior Advisor, Psychosocial Support Save the Children

Direct Service Providers (Education/Child Development, Disabilities, Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, ERSEA), Family Support (Family Service Worker, Family Advocate, Family Engagement Specialist), Teachers: Experienced

Childcare programs are often left out of emergency planning at the federal, state and local levels. Save the Children supports childcare recovery post disaster. CCEPT is designed to help childcare providers develop and implement an emergency plan in their childcare program in addition to identifying risks and preparing year-round for emergencies. Childcare providers will be able to create a written plan that addresses their emergency needs and continue to communicate, practice, and update their emergency plan on a regular basis.

December 11, Wednesday

Experience Hall Open 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. *Universal B*
FHSA Annual Awards Luncheon 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. *Universal A*

December 11, Wednesday, Reflective Supervision Track 2:15 AM – 3:30 PM

FAIMH Reflective Supervision Track

Dr. Noemi Marquez, LCSW, IMH-E®

Child Development (Birth to 5) Education & Coaching, Family Engagement and Support Infant/Early Childhood Professionals who are planning to become Reflective Supervisors/Consultants

If you are a Head Start/Early Head Start professional in a supervisory role that aims to strengthen your skill in reflective supervision, you are invited to join FAIMH in a specialized training series that can provide half of the required training hours needed to become an Endorsed Reflective Supervisor in the state of Florida. Participants will engage in 7.5 hours of training in six 75-minute sessions throughout the conference. Participants who select this track must attend all of these sessions during the conference. Earning Endorsement as an Endorsed Reflective Supervisor is a distinction offered to supervisors with a foundation in training and experience with Reflective Supervision. The added benefit is that any Reflective Supervision hours provided by an Endorsed Reflective Supervisor will count towards that professional's application to earn Infant or Early Childhood Mental Health Endorsement® in the future.

December 11, Wednesday, Breakout Sessions 2:15 AM – 3:30 PM

Building Language and Literacy Skills through Meaningful and Purposeful Multisensory Activities

Lisa Blume, Instructional Designer, Nemours Children's Reading BrightStar!

Family Support (Family Service Worker, Family Advocate, Family Engagement Specialist), Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced

In this session, we will explore the benefits of using multisensory instruction to teach foundational reading skills to emergent readers. Using interactive strategies and group discussion, participants will learn about various learning preferences (visual, auditory, kinesthetic, and tactile). They will examine their own learning style and how that affects their teaching, as well as instructional strategies that educators can incorporate for each type of learner in the areas of letter knowledge, phonological awareness, phonemic awareness, and developmental writing. This session will provide hands-on learning by sharing examples of various multisensory literacy center activities that can be implemented in any preschool classroom to build kindergarten readiness. We will also provide free literacy resources that can be shared with your families to boost engagement and assist their child in learning to read, ensuring that every child's unique learning style is respected and catered to.

Calling All New Head Start Directors

LaTanya Wynn-Hall, Retired Head Start Executive Director/President, Wynning Team, LLC

Administrators (CEO, CFO, Executive Director, HR, Center Managers), Directors

Learn from an experienced and former Head Start/Early Head Start Executive Director on how to transform a Program of Concern into a Program of Quality. In this session, attendees will acquire knowledge on how to establish and build community partnerships and collaborations, create a leadership team, and understand the importance of having critical conversations that create a positive culture of teamwork.

Self-Care in a Snap

Wyletta Johnson, Well-being Coach, Be Well Care Well

Administrators (CEO, CFO, Executive Director, HR, Center Managers), Direct Service Providers (Education/Child Development, Disabilities, Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, ERSEA), Directors, Family Support (Family Service Worker, Family Advocate, Family Engagement Specialist), Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Home Visitors

Take a moment for yourself and join us for Self-Care in a Snap, an energizing session designed to help early childhood education staff prioritize their well-being. This training not only explores the impact of stress on health and defines what self-care truly means but also equips you with practical tools to manage stress and improve your well-being. You'll create an emergency self-care plan—an invaluable tool for navigating life's most challenging moments. Additionally, you'll learn how the Be Well Care Well program can comprehensively support your team's wellness journey. Let's build a brighter, healthier future—one snap of self-care at a time!

Leveling the Playing Field: Strategies for Equity in Early Education

Carolyn Heyliger-Graham, Senior Partnership Manager, Learning Genie

Directors, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

In this session, participants will gain awareness of equity needs in early education and learn practical tools like multilingual family engagement, dual language learning, and curriculum planning to be empowered to address biases and foster inclusivity in classrooms and communities.

Helping Caregiver Cope

Greta Wetzel, Senior Advisor, Psychosocial Support, Save the Children

Administrators (CEO, CFO, Executive Director, HR, Center Managers), Direct Service Providers (Education/Child Development, Disabilities, Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, ERSEA), Directors, Family Support (Family Service Worker, Family Advocate, Family Engagement Specialist), Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Home Visitors

December 11, Wednesday, Reflective Supervision Track 3:45 PM – 5:00 PM**FAIMH Reflective Supervision Track**

Dr. Noemi Marquez, LCSW, IMH-E®

Child Development (Birth to 5) Education & Coaching, Family Engagement and Support Infant/Early Childhood Professionals who are planning to become Reflective Supervisors/Consultants

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December 11, Wednesday, Breakout Sessions 3:45 PM- 5:00 PM**Keeping it Interesting: Planning for Interest Areas with a CLASS Lens**

Kimberly Singer Head Start Collaboration Director, UNF/DEL

Directors, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

Interest areas are among the most significant parts of the day and play a crucial role in learning. This session will use the CLASS Lens to explore how to effectively plan activities before, during, and after interest areas to foster high-quality interactions. It's important to note that interest areas are not just free play; you'll learn how to guide students toward advanced play while collaborating with other adults in the room to address content and standards using CLASS indicators. You will leave with practical takeaways that you can immediately implement in your classrooms or centers.

Collaborations that Shift Children and Family Outcomes: A Panel Presentation

Sonya Hill, Director Orange County Head Start Orlando Science Center, Orange Blossom Health Clinic, Nemours Health Clinic, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity

Direct Service Providers (Education/Child Development, Disabilities, Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, ERSEA), Directors, Family Support (Family Service Worker, Family Advocate, Family Engagement Specialist)

Effective collaborations play a crucial role in shaping positive outcomes for children and families in the ever-evolving field of early childhood education. This panel presentation emphasizes the importance of collaborative initiatives in early childhood settings, bringing together diverse stakeholders who contribute to the holistic development of young learners. Learn from the experiences of the Orlando Science Center, the Orange Blossom Health Clinic, the Nemours Health Clinic, and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity as they share their collaborative strategies and the challenges they faced in fostering a comprehensive approach to enhancing child and family well-being at Orange County Head Start.

Life-Changing Financial Strategies: Turn Your Dreams into Reality

Gary Freund, Author

Administrators (CEO, CFO, Executive Director, HR, Center Managers), Direct Service Providers (Education/Child Development, Disabilities, Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, ERSEA), Directors, Family Support (Family Service Worker, Family Advocate, Family Engagement Specialist), Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Home Visitors

This engaging session will empower you with actionable financial strategies to transform your mindset, inspire purposeful actions, and stretch your earnings—bringing your financial dreams closer to reality. Attendees will learn practical, easy-to-apply concepts that can also be shared with Head Start Families, amplifying the session's impact. Led by the author of *The Financial Compass: How to Navigate Money With Confidence*, a lifelong educator with a talent for simplifying complex financial topics, this session promises to equip you with the tools to create lasting financial success.

December 11, Wednesday, Breakout Sessions 3:45 PM – 5:00 PM

Enhancing Professional Growth: Exploring Peer Coaching and Reflective Practice Groups in Early Childhood Education

Paula Moujalli, VP, and Columba Yebaile, Center of Excellence, United Way Center for Excellence in Early Education

Direct Service Providers (Education/Child Development, Disabilities, Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, ERSEA), Directors, Teachers: New Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced

Join us for an empowering session where you will discover the incredible impact of peer coaching and professional learning groups on educators' continuous professional development. This is an opportunity to delve deep into the world of job-embedded professional development and witness firsthand its transformative effect on teaching practices. We will unlock the power of job-embedded professional development through compelling real-life examples and case studies. Additionally, we will explore potent adult learning principles to equip you with strategies and techniques that drive substantial growth among educators. Engage in riveting discussions and examples to gain valuable insights into implementing these approaches in your own educational settings.

Strategic Planning for Early Childhood Success: Leveraging Diverse Data Types for Continuous Improvement

Michele LaCoursiere-Ferrer, Managing Director of Strategic Partnerships, Children's Literacy Initiative (CLI)

Administrators (CEO, CFO, Executive Director, HR, Center Managers, Directors, Family Support (Family Service Worker, Family Advocate, Family Engagement Specialist)

This session empowers Early Childhood Program directors to harness the full potential of diverse data types—satellite, map, and street-level data—to drive strategic planning and continuous improvement. Participants will delve into how each data type offers unique insights into the educational landscape, from broad program-wide trends to granular, child-specific details. The training will guide directors in integrating these data sources into their decision-making processes, enabling them to set actionable goals, track progress with precision, and adapt strategies to meet the evolving needs of their learning communities. By grounding strategic planning actions and metrics in a comprehensive data framework, directors will learn to create informed, impactful plans that enhance program effectiveness and support the holistic development of every child in their care.

December 11, Wednesday

Experience Hall and Reception 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Universal B

December 12, Thursday

**Experience Hall Open 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m., *Universal B*
Keynote Speaker, Freddie Stevenson, 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m, *Universal A***

December 12, Thursday, Reflective Supervision Track 10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

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|---|---------------------------------|---|
| FAIMH Reflective Supervision Track | Dr. Noemi Marquez, LCSW, IMH-E® | Child Development (Birth to 5) Education & Coaching, Family Engagement and Support Infant/Early Childhood Professionals who are planning to become Reflective Supervisors/Consultants |
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December 12, Thursday, Breakout Sessions 10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

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| Behavior Blueprint: Supporting Social-Emotional Learning Throughout the Day | Ryan Woods, Educational Consultant, Teaching Strategies, LLC | Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced |
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In this session, participants will develop an understanding of Social-Emotional Development and its importance in supporting long-term educational growth for students. They will also discover how to use Daily Resources from The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool to promote social-emotional learning throughout the day and methods for including Social-Emotional Development in all aspects of life.

December 12, Thursday, Breakout Sessions 10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

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| Child Care and Development Fund Plan | Carrie Russie, School Readiness Program Specialist, and Courtne Wheelless, School Readiness Program Specialist, Department of Education, Division of Early Learning | Administrators (CEO, CFO, Executive Director, HR, Center Managers), Directors |
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The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) is the primary funding source allocated to the School Readiness (SR) program. The SR program helps low-income families who work or participate in education access high-quality care. Florida receives around \$610 million in federal funding annually to administer the SR program. As the lead agency for the administration of the CCDF, the Division of Early Learning (DEL) plays a pivotal role in managing and overseeing the program. DEL is responsible for reviewing and revising Florida's state plan for the CCDF program every three years per regulation. DEL will provide an overview of the plan and how DEL engages partners, demonstrating their commitment to transparency and collaboration.

December 12, Thursday, Breakout Sessions 10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

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| Staff Wellness: Less Stress, More Joy! Build Resilience and Find Joy Through Communities of Care | Erin Murray, Director of Education and Development, Becker's Schools Supplies | Administrators (CEO, CFO, Executive Director, HR, Center Managers), Direct Service Providers (Education/Child Development, Disabilities, Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, ERSEA), Directors, Family Support (Family Service Worker, Family Advocate, Family Engagement Specialist), Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff, Home Visitors |
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This session is devoted to your well-being. Participants will engage in wellness strategies and create a plan of action that incorporates practices for resourcing their mind, body, and spirit and strengthening their personal and collective well-being. By building self-care habits, you not only strengthen your coping mechanisms and resilience skills but also find more joy in your days. The research is on your side—self-care does make a difference. Let's get started and bring more joy into our lives.

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| Bring Cultural Fluency to Your Industry | Claudia Machado, Senior Public Information Specialist, AtkinsRéalis | Administrators (CEO, CFO, Executive Director, HR, Center Managers), Direct Service Providers (Education/Child Development, Disabilities, Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, ERSEA), Directors, Family Support (Family Service Worker, Family Advocate, Family Engagement Specialist), Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff, Home Visitors |
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Understanding and embracing cultural diversity is pivotal in advancing social equity and fostering innovative solutions in early childhood education. This session aims to empower the Florida Head Start community with effective strategies for culturally sensitive public relations campaigns targeting diverse communities. It will emphasize the importance of cultural fluency, ethical engagement, and leveraging diversity to drive inclusive and positive outcomes

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| Community Assessment Analysis, Efficiencies, and Going Beyond Collecting Data | Maya McElrath, Co-President, mano-Y-ola, LLC | Administrators (CEO, CFO, Executive Director, HR, Center Managers), Direct Service Providers (Education/Child Development, Disabilities, Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, ERSEA), Directors, Training & Technical Staff |
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Effective data analysis and strategic application of findings are part of the reason Head Start rocks! This training is designed to give participants the best tools and strategies to comply with standards and make strategic decisions to support parents and children. In this session, we will explore methods of collecting reliable data and how to make connections between data indicators that yield actionable conclusions. Effective data-driven decisions can only be made when the data sources and the methods of analyzing and interpreting the data are sound and comprehensive.

December 12, Thursday, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Policy Luncheon 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. *Universal A*
Experience Hall Open, 1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. *Universal B*

December 12, Thursday, Reflective Supervision Track 2:15 PM – 3:30 PM

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| FAIMH Reflective Supervision Track | Dr. Noemi Marquez, LCSW, IMH-E® | Child Development (Birth to 5) Education & Coaching, Family Engagement, and Support Infant/Early Childhood Professionals who are planning to become Reflective Supervisors/Consultants |
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December 12, Thursday, Breakout Sessions 2:15 PM – 3:30 PM

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| The Intersection of Sensory Motor Processing and Speech and Language Development | Diana Croom-Atkins, OTD, OTR/L NOW! Company & The Morris Center | Administrators (CEO, CFO, Executive Director, HR, Center Managers), Direct Service Providers (Education/Child Development, Disabilities, Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, ERSEA), Directors, Family Support (Family Service Worker, Family Advocate, Family Engagement Specialist), Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff, Home Visitors |
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This session will educate individuals on sensory-motor processing issues and integrate Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) and Occupational Therapy (OT) in a holistic program. It will provide research and anecdotal examples of improvements. Attendees will learn about early warning signs, including sensory overload, motor coordination difficulties, and evidence-based interventions. The lecture will emphasize the benefits of SLP/OT integration in addressing sensory-motor processing issues.

Stand to STEM: Igniting Wonder in Little Learners

Robin Cooke, Education Supervisor, LSF Head Start

Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

Dive into the dynamic world of STEM education for preschoolers! This session offers a treasure trove of hands-on activities spanning science, technology, engineering, and math. Learn inclusive teaching strategies to support all learners. Discover how to seamlessly integrate STEM concepts into daily routines, promoting curiosity and critical thinking from an early age.

Cultivating Mindfulness Every Day: Family Cafe

Wyletta Johnson, Well-being Coach, Be Well Care Well

Direct Service Providers (Education/Child Development, Disabilities, Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, ERSEA), Directors, Family Support (Family Service Worker, Family Advocate, Family Engagement Specialist), Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff, Home Visitors

Are you ready to transform your approach to providing family support in a powerful new format? Join us for Cultivating Mindfulness Every Day: Family Café, an interactive and empowering session designed specifically as a demonstration for early childhood education staff to learn about a new approach to supporting families with young children. We'll introduce the cafe model while discussing mindfulness.

December 12, Thursday, Breakout Session 2:15 PM – 3:30 PM**Coaching Through Challenging Behaviors: How Interactive Talk Supports Social-emotional Development**

Gina Gates Regional Partnerships Director, Southeast and Amy Marciniak, Director of Growth Operations, LENA

Administrators (CEO, CFO, Executive Director, HR, Center Managers), Directors, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff

Compared to pre-pandemic years, educators, researchers, and practitioners have noticed a significant increase in children with emotional, behavioral, and social communication difficulties. How can Head Start best support these needs? Children with challenging behaviors often do not receive equitable positive interactions with teachers. This training session aims to provide directors and educators with evidence-based strategies to effectively address challenging behaviors in young children through interactive communication in the classroom. The session will explore how increasing interactions can help in decreasing challenging behaviors. Participants will learn new strategies and receive resources designed to support social-emotional development.

AI Basics for Head Start: Transforming Administrative Practices

Carolyn Heyliger-Graham, Senior Partnership Manager, Learning Genie

Administrators (CEO, CFO, Executive Director, HR, Center Managers), Directors

This presentation is designed for beginners and will offer a thorough overview of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology and its potential applications in Head Start programs. Participants will gain insights into the basics of AI, dispelling common myths and misconceptions about the technology. The session will also cover the potential challenges and opportunities for Head Start Directors when implementing AI in their programs, providing practical strategies for engaging stakeholders and promoting a culture of innovation in Head Start. This will enable directors to effectively lead AI integration, thus enhancing their programs' quality and efficiency. To enhance your experience and participation in this session, we kindly request that you bring a device (such as a smartphone, tablet, or laptop) with internet access. This will allow you to fully engage with the interactive elements of the session.

December 12, Thursday, Reflective Supervision Track 3:45 PM 5:00 PM**FAIMH Reflective Supervision Track**

Dr. Noemi Marquez, LCSW, IMH-E®

Child Development (Birth to 5) Education & Coaching, Family Engagement and Support Infant/Early Childhood Professionals who are planning to become Reflective Supervisors/Consultants

If you are a Head Start/Early Head Start professional in a supervisory role that aims to strengthen your skill in reflective supervision, you are invited to join FAIMH in a specialized training series that can provide half of the required training hours needed to become an Endorsed Reflective Supervisor in the state of Florida. Participants will engage in 7.5 hours of training in six 75-minute sessions throughout the conference. Participants who select this track must attend all of these sessions during the conference. Earning Endorsement as an Endorsed Reflective Supervisor is a distinction offered to supervisors with a foundation in training and experience with Reflective Supervision. The added benefit is that any Reflective Supervision hours provided by an Endorsed Reflective Supervisor will count towards that professional's application to earn Infant or Early Childhood Mental Health Endorsement® in the future.

Unlocking the Power of Play: A Pathway to Creativity, Learning and Fun

Kendra Wolford, Head Start Instructional Coach, and Tarra Bertram, Head Start Instructional Coach, Brevard Public Schools

Direct Service Providers (Education/Child Development, Disabilities, Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, ERSEA), Directors, Family Support (Family Service Worker, Family Advocate, Family Engagement Specialist), Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced

Let's explore the transformative potential of play in early childhood education, focusing on preschoolers. This session will examine ways play enhances cognitive development, social-emotional skills, and well-being in young children. Attendees will understand how play-based learning enhances cognitive growth, language development, and problem-solving abilities and stimulates imagination and creativity. You will learn common misconceptions and barriers to implementing play-based approaches in preschool settings, offering guidance on overcoming resistance and fostering support from stakeholders, including parents, educators, and administrators. Attendees will be inspired and empowered to unlock play's full potential in preschool education and recognize it as a powerful tool for promoting learning, growth, and thriving in young children.

December 12, Thursday, Breakout Session 3:45 PM – 5:00 PM

Partnering with Families for Early Childhood Success: A Collaborative Approach Grounded in Continuous Improvement

Michele LaCoursiere-Ferrer, Managing Director of Strategic Partnerships, Children's Literacy Initiative (CLI)

Administrators (CEO, CFO, Executive Director, HR, Center Managers), Directors, Family Support (Family Service Worker, Family Advocate, Family Engagement Specialist)

In this session, Early Childhood Program directors will explore strategies for meaningful family engagement, aligned with the core principles of continuous improvement. Grounded in CLI's vision for family engagement, this training emphasizes the importance of families as integral partners in the educational journey of young children. Participants will learn how to foster authentic relationships, promote reciprocal communication, and create culturally sustaining practices that honor the diverse experiences and identities of families. Directors will engage in reflective practices to identify and remove barriers to participation, ensuring that all families can contribute to the co-creation of a supportive and inclusive learning environment. By the end of this session, directors will be equipped with actionable strategies to lead their programs in forming equitable partnerships with families, ultimately advancing the well-being and achievement of every child.

From the Womb: Nurturing A Love for Learning

Dr. LaQuetta Peoples, CDA Council PD Specialist, Pensacola State College Instructor, Rasmussen University Instructor

Administrators (CEO, CFO, Executive Director, HR, Center Managers), Direct Service Providers (Education/Child Development, Disabilities, Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, ERSEA), Directors, Family Support (Family Service Worker, Family Advocate, Family Engagement Specialist), Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Home Visitors

This session will provide reliable and valid information that ECE educators, professionals, advocates, and home visitors can use to educate expecting moms on the importance of receiving proper maternal and prenatal care. Proper maternal and prenatal care can have long-lasting and positive effects on the mother's wellness and, ultimately, baby development and later educational outcomes. The session will also help ECE professionals formulate strategies to properly support mothers in making informed decisions about their health and the health of their developing baby. Proper nutrition, exercise, and strategies such as reading to their baby while in the womb will promote later success for their baby's growth, development, and, ultimately, school readiness.

The WeVision EarlyEd Initiative

Demetria Joyce, Director of Early Childhood Strategy Implementation
Bainum Family Foundation

Administrators (CEO, CFO, Executive Director, HR, Center Managers), Direct Service Providers (Education/Child Development, Disabilities, Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, ERSEA), Directors, Family Support (Family Service Worker, Family Advocate, Family Engagement Specialist), Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Home Visitors

Join us for a session on the WeVision EarlyEd Initiative, a Bainum Family Foundation initiative aimed at reimagining child care and making the ideal real. This session is not just about us sharing our strategies but about us all, as a team, exploring innovative strategies for reimagining child care. Participants will engage in discussions around systemic change and collaboration with proximity experts, where your input is highly valued.

Life-Changing Financial Strategies: Turn Your Dreams into Reality

Gary Freund, Author

Administrators (CEO, CFO, Executive Director, HR, Center Managers), Direct Service Providers (Education/Child Development, Disabilities, Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, ERSEA), Directors, Family Support (Family Service Worker, Family Advocate, Family Engagement Specialist), Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Home Visitors

This engaging session will empower you with actionable financial strategies to transform your mindset, inspire purposeful actions, and stretch your earnings—bringing your financial dreams closer to reality. Attendees will learn practical, easy-to-apply concepts that can also be shared with Head Start Families, amplifying the session's impact. Led by the author of *The Financial Compass: How to Navigate Money With Confidence*, a lifelong educator with a talent for simplifying complex financial topics, this session promises to equip you with the tools to create lasting financial success.

December 12, Thursday 7:00 PM-10:30 PM 25th Anniversary Party Like it's 1999

Seminole CDE

*Bring your favorite 90s vibe and celebrate FHSA turning 25! We will have food and drinks, a DJ to help us "Party Like it's 1999," and a 360 Photo Booth for you to capture all your memories with your colleagues. This event is from our **Bronze Sponsors Lakeshore and Frogstreet***

December 13, Friday, Breakfast & Conference Wrap-Up 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Universal Center

We will conclude the conference with breakfast for your journey home, joyful music from our choir led by Lashawn Capers Huff, and a wrap-up from FHSA.