

Northwest Colorado Early Childhood Conference

October 11, 2024

8:00 - 3:30 pm
Registration 8:00 - 8:30

1295 W. 9th Street
Craig, CO 81625
Light breakfast & lunch

Cost: \$40 early bird
\$50 after September 13
Registration closes Oct. 4

Hotel block of rooms
Deer Park Inn
(970) 824-9282
Reserve by Sept 20

Breakout Sessions

- ◆ **Reflective Practice**
- ◆ **Strategies to Transform Stress**
- ◆ **Creating an Environment for Play-Based Learning**
- ◆ **Mentoring New Teachers**
- ◆ **Director's Tool Kit—Part 1**
- ◆ **Self Esteem/Self Worth**
- ◆ **Playing is Learning - Inf/Toddler**
- ◆ **Observations & Parent Teacher Conferences**
- ◆ **Outdoor Learning & Play**
- ◆ **Director's Tool Box - Part 2**
- ◆ **FLIP IT!**
- ◆ **Music & Movement**
- ◆ **Ready Start Grow - Kindergarten Readiness**



Keynote

“The Brilliance of Resilience”

Demands to provide higher quality experiences for children and families are increasing, as are current stressful circumstances that contribute to burnout, while for many professionals their capacity to respond is challenged, often at a very low point, leaving many early childhood professionals experiencing a lot of stress and burnout. This keynote will focus on the importance of reflective personal and professional practices to identify the cause of our stress, expand our capacity to be resilient, and make mindful decisions about our personal social/emotional well-being.

Supporting quality care for young children depends on the adults interacting with and responding to children, rather than being reactive. This keynote will provide early childhood professionals with an overview of 4 principles and practices to transform stress and strengthen their own resilience to better deal with the challenges and stress. Learn to sustain habits for managing your behaviors and attitudes even in the face of challenging circumstance, which is paramount for our professional success and the sustainability of our industry.

Constant Hine M.A., Early Childhood Consultant, Adult Educator, Coach Horizon's in Learning

Constant Hine has over 40 years' experience in early childhood as a classroom teacher, adult educator, coach, consultant, keynote speaker and author. She has an MA in Teaching/ECE from Nova University in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Constant is the President of Horizons In Learning LLC and currently lives in the Denver area. She specializes in transformational coaching and leadership, engaging adult learners and embedding reflective practices in life and at work. She is the author of Transformational Coaching for Early Childhood Educators (Redleaf Press, 2019) and her new book Daily Reflections for Educators, Coaches, Leaders and Life (Redleaf Press (2024).

Sponsored by:



(970)824-1081



SCAN ME





Northwest Colorado Early Childhood Conference

Breakout Sessions

10:00-11:30 am



Reflective Practice: The Why and the How - Maegan Lockteff, Ph.D. Director of Early Childhood Leadership Alliance

This session is especially designed for program leaders and will support gaining skills in understanding and using reflective practice as a tool for staff supervision and coaching. Reflective practice supports a more engaged and intentional approach for working with your team that can lead to lasting changes in behavior, reduces burnout, and promotes retention by shifting our perspective from supervision to reflection.

Strategies to Transform Stress - Constant Hine, M.A., Early Childhood Consultant, Adult Educator, Coach Horizon's in Learning

Learn to sustain habits for managing your behaviors and attitudes even in the face of challenging circumstance to strengthen and expand adaptive resiliency skills in themselves to better deal with stress and the uncertainty of change. This session will provide early childhood professionals with a variety of practical self-care and social-emotional prevention and intervention strategies, that correspond to the 4 principles introduced in the keynote. These include self-management strategies and habits in the four domains of our lives: physical, mental, emotional and spiritual. Learn practical strategies to reframe disempowering attitudes, focus on where we have control to transform stress, deal with change, avoid burnout, and to have positive professional interactions with children, families and colleagues, which is paramount for our professional success and the sustainability of our industry.

Creating an Environment for Play-based Learning - Kim Maneotis, ECE & SafeCare Supervisor, Carol Taylor, M.A. Early Childhood Education, SafeCare pro- vider & Tanya Ferguson, Early Care & Education Coordinator

The layout of a preschool classroom can have a big impact on learning, safety, and behavior. A well-organized classroom can encourage children to interact with each other and their environment, which can lead to more meaningful learning and creativity. It can also help children feel calm and secure, while still being engaged and inquisitive.

Expanding the Flock: Encouraging and empowering the next generation of Early Childhood Teachers. Jayme Goscha, M.A.

Recruiting new Early Childhood Teachers is an ongoing challenge for EC programs but getting them to become invested in the program can be even more difficult. What makes EC teachers stay? In this workshop we will explore strategies that veteran teachers and administrators can use to encourage new teachers and empower them to become compassionate, capable, and confident leaders in EC programs. We will focus on strategies to build relationships with

Sponsored by:



(970)824-1081





Northwest Colorado

Early Childhood Conference

Breakout Sessions

12:15 - 1:45 pm

**Director's Tool Box - Tips and Tools for Supporting Recruitment and Retention in Your Program
Maegan Lockteff, Ph.D., Director of Early Childhood Leadership Alliance**

During this interactive session, specifically for program leaders, tips and tools from the Director Tool Box series will be shared that focus on supporting recruitment and retention strategies. These tips and tools will help you to explore how the climate of your program can impact recruitment and retention and give you strategies that can be implemented with little resources but can result in big changes for your program climate.

Building Self Esteem in Children - Lynae Ellgen LCSW

Building and affirming self-esteem in each child is a crucial job for every parent and every teacher. According to Dorothy Briggs, author of *Your Child's Self Esteem*, "Self-esteem is the mainspring that slates every child for success or failure as a human being." That makes building a strong, healthy self-esteem critical for our children! Children need to believe they can learn skills and overcome challenges. And, they need to know the adults in their lives believe in them. This class will discuss techniques for building self-esteem in each child that walks through your classroom door.

**Playing is Learning for Infants & Toddlers - Jordan French, RN, BSN, Nurse
Family Partnership & Kim Mancoff, ECE, Safe Care Colorado Supervisor**

Within this session, attendees will receive an introduction about the brain development of an infant and toddler. We will discuss the foundation and importance of playing for an infant/toddler's development. The presenters will share different types of play and provide age-appropriate games to do with children ages 0-4 years. They will relate each game and toy to a targeted developmental domain. By the end of the session attendees will be able to iterate the importance of play for child health and development and identify toys and activities for a variety of age-ranges.

**A Keen Eye and a Quick Hand: Capturing meaningful moments in ECE -
Jayme Goscha, M.A.**

Jean Piaget said, "To know one child well is to know all children better." Observation and documentation in the EC classroom allow us to gain an understanding of each individual child, to demonstrate what children know and can do, and to use what we learn about each child to create opportunities for continued growth and development. In this workshop we will explore methods to capture and document meaningful moments in the EC classroom that don't require large amounts of time or effort. We will discuss the benefits and limitations of using progress reporting tools (such as TS GOLD) as well as strategies to build child portfolios that are meaningful and that authentically demonstrate each child's growth and development.

**Exploring Nature in Early Childhood - Getting Kids Outside
Yampatika - Sheryl Horton**

Research shows that mental health and curiosity are improved through outdoor exploration. Learn strategies to inspire outdoor learning and play for young children.

Spon-



(970)824-1081





Northwest Colorado Early Childhood Conference



Breakout Sessions

2:00 - 3:30 pm

Director's Toolbox—Part two

Tips and Tools for Supporting Recruitment and Retention in Your Program

Maegan Lockteff, Ph.D., Director of Early Childhood Leadership Alliance

During this interactive session, specifically for program leaders, tips and tools from the Director Tool Box series will be shared that focus on supporting recruitment and retention strategies. These tips and tools will help you to explore how the climate of your program can impact recruitment and retention and give you strategies that can be implemented with little resources but can result in big changes for your program climate.

FLIP IT! - Tanya Ferguson, Early Care & Education Coordinator

Don't FLIP OUT, use FLIP IT! Are you interested in finding a way to stay calm, be consistent and support children when they are challenging you? FLIP IT! is a strategy that offers a simple, kind, and commonsense process to address children's challenging behavior. The four steps of FLIP IT can be easily remembered using the mnemonic of FLIP, which stands for feelings, limits, inquiries, and prompts.

Shake It Up: Music in Your Classroom - Jordan Anderson

Is music a part of your class? Are your stories riveting with sound effects and song? Do your students clap and dance? In this session we'll explore the many benefits of music in the classroom. Whether you have musical talent or not this course is for you! We'll explore not only the 'why' but the 'how' with many tips and resources to equip you to get your students singing and dancing their way to learning!

Ready, Set, Grow: Navigating Kindergarten Readiness - Enola Garland, ECCLA

In this session, educators will gain tools and strategies to support children and families for a smooth transition to kindergarten. We will explore academic and behavioral expectations, along with practical tips to help build these important skills. The session will also provide strategies for working with families and schools to encourage communication, coordination, and positive outcomes for incoming kindergartners.

Let's Get Talking - Robyn Kitchen, M.A., CCC-SLP

Join us for an insightful session on integrating speech therapy within early childhood classrooms to support language development and communication skills for all children. Exploring different ways of communication, accommodations throughout the classroom, and a little fun to create a inviting learning environment.

Sponsored by:



(970)824-1081

