

Schedule of Elective Sessions

Sessions 1 and 2: 9AM & 10:30AM

Session 1 Only: Connecting with Infants.....Tanya Jenkins

Children begin learning from birth. Come explore how you can connect with the infants in your care to help them develop socially, emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually. We will explore ways to accomplish this using examples common in everyday activities.

Session 1 Only: Connecting with 2 Year Olds.....Debbie Stewart

Making strong connections with your 2 year olds is crucial to their development and can improve the overall class “personality”, improve behavior issues and promote quality learning. Join us as we discuss tips, pointers and plans to build strong connections with your 2 year olds.

Session 2 Only: Connecting with One Year Olds.....Tanya Jenkins

Enter into the world of a one year old and join us as we explore how we can connect with them to help them develop socially, emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually. We will explore how they learn, play and absorb the world around them.

Session 2 Only: Connections with 3 Year Olds.....Debbie Stewart

Making strong connections with your 3 year olds is crucial to their development and can improve the overall class “personality”, improve behavior issues and promote quality learning. Join us as we discuss tips, pointers and plans specific for this age and stage of development to build strong connections with your 3 year olds.

Brain ConnectionsDr. Tony Rankin

The brain develops more during the preschool years than in any other time of life. The brain serves as building blocks for physical and emotional health of the child. Learn how the brains of preschoolers develop under your care.

Kindergarten Connections: Using Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum in Your Pre-K Classroom...

Dr. Regina Surber

Ready or not the children in your Pre-K class will go to kindergarten. In this session we will look at what developmentally appropriate curriculum looks like and discuss how it will assist you in planning learning activities that will help the children be ready for their new adventure.

Schedules, Routines, and Transitions Oh My!.....Melissa Fleck

Have you ever found yourself in a classroom and you didn't know what or how to “fix” the challenging behaviors? If you answered yes, this session is for you! In this session you will learn how to take back the classroom through the intentional design of schedules, routines, and transitions. You will leave with ideas and activities that you can use in your classroom to focus on student learning while lessening challenging behaviors.

Preschoolers Connecting with Nature.....Kim Capps

Animals, plants, dirt, and water. These are just a few things preschoolers experience in the natural world. Discover how you can connect preschoolers with nature in fun and exciting ways.

Connecting Preschoolers to the Bible Throughout the Day.....Donna Blaydes

The Bible is a very special book, but not one that needs to sit on the shelf. Come discover fun ways to incorporate the Bible and its truths into your daily classroom activities.

Connecting to God through Spiritual Disciplines.....Jayne Simpson

During this session, we will look at practicing spiritual disciplines which connect us to God and prepare us for the classroom.

Connecting with Preschoolers with Special Needs.....Natalee Barbier

In this session we will discuss how to meet the needs of preschoolers with disabilities in the classroom setting. We will also explore tips on how to make the classroom experience enjoyable for all. We will leave the session with a few more tools in our toolboxes to best reach our special friends.

Director's Track: Session 1 at 9AM / Session 2 at 10:30AM

9AM:Monica Healer

Community and Church Connections

Can we reach millennial and Gen Z parents for the Kingdom through our early childhood programs? Absolutely! Many of today's young parents are choosing to forego weekend church attendance for various reasons. That doesn't mean they're not interested in faith for themselves and their children. When the faith-based early learning community and the local church partner together in ministry, the Kingdom benefits. This session includes research on current trends as well as practical tips for strengthening the relationship within ministry areas in order to reach generations for the gospel.

10:30AM:Monica Healer

Connecting with Staff in Meaningful Ways

We've grown accustomed to staying apart and isolated over the last two years, but so much research tells us that job satisfaction (aka staff retention) is dependent on strong relationships in the workplace. In this session, we'll cover the 5 Languages of Appreciation and find practical ways to implement them throughout the year within our programs. We will discuss the importance of fostering an environment that encourages and facilitates relationships in our early childhood environments – connecting first to God, then each other, and then our children and families.

Sessions 3 and 4: 1:45PM & 3:15PM

Boys in the Classroom.....Monica Healer

Boys are loud, rough, and super active! In a preschool environment, they can be rambunctious and, sometimes, even destructive. In this session, we'll discuss some general characteristics of preschool boys and come away with practical ideas to nurture their hearts and provide what their bodies need so they can thrive and grow in the classroom.

People Connections.....Dr. Tony Rankin

Preschoolers are learning about trust, respect, communication, behavior, intimacy, and expressing emotions from day one. Hear how you can be influential in helping preschoolers learn how to relate to others in healthy ways.

Ministry Connections to Preschool Parents.....Tanya Jenkins

During our session together, we will explore ways to minister to both the child in your classroom and their family in different life situations.

Supervision and Safety in the Preschool Classroom.....Jayne Simpson

During this session, we will explore ways to create a safe environment for play and learning; connecting practical strategies with important policies and procedures.

Connecting Preschoolers to Music.....Kim Capps

Music includes more than singing. Discover how to use instruments, movement, and sound effects as you connect preschoolers to music.

Connecting Your Pre-K Children with STEM Activities: It's Easier Than You Think!

Dr. Regina Surber

STEM activities are based on curiosity, questions, and play. In this session, we will discuss why STEM activities are important in a Pre-K classroom; and look at examples of activities that are quick and easy to incorporate into your learning centers.

The Power of Words.....Melissa Fleck

What we say matters. As Fred Rogers said, "The greatest thing we can do is let people know that they are loved and capable of loving." Using positive words creates an encouraging place and helps everyone feel the love. This session will share ideas focused on building relationships with children, families, and colleagues using the power of our words.

Making a Connection with Parents of Special Needs Children.....Natalie Barber

In this session we will discuss how we can best relate and communicate with parents of children with special needs. We will discover how we can better minister and love on parents with children with disabilities. We will also discover how to make our parents more comfortable entrusting us with their precious gifts from God.

Secrets to a Successful Circle Time.....Debbie Stewart

Circle time is a great time for preschoolers to enhance their social development, improve listening skills, and help prepare them for school. Join us as we discuss the secrets to developing a circle time that will enhance their overall learning experience and have fun doing it. We'll look at the purpose and benefits of circle time, what to include, suggested activities, tips on engaging children and much more.

Connecting with Preschoolers by Teaching Them the Way God Created Them to Learn

Donna Blaydes

Effective teaching occurs when teachers intentionally connect with their preschoolers through their preferred learning style. Come explore the different learning approaches and discover ways to use them as you connect with your preschoolers and help them learn the way they learn best.