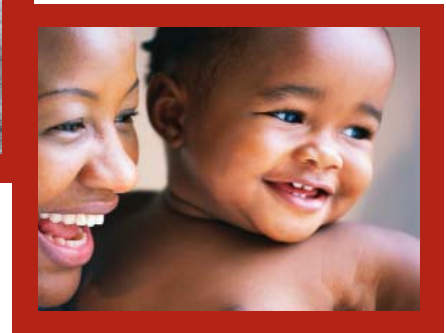
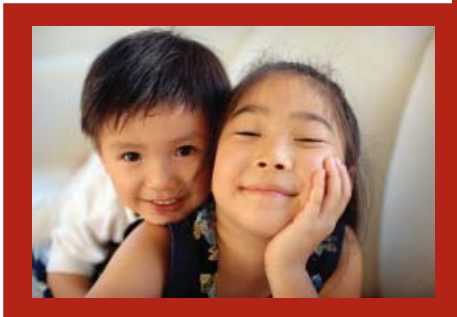




**EDUCATION
CONNECTION**

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EARLY CHILDHOOD Professional Development



On-site training, coaching, and consultation designed to meet your program and staff needs.

To learn more about how we can be a resource to your program, contact:

Orie Marrero at 860-567-0863 x185
or marrero@educationconnection.org

Information

EDUCATION CONNECTION can provide training at your center or another convenient location:

- **At a time that works for you**
- **On a topic customized to meet your needs**
- **Delivered by high quality trainers with expertise in the topic you select**

FAQs

How will I choose a topic?

Select a topic from our comprehensive training brochure. We can also customize a training based on your individual needs.

How many people can attend the training?

It's up to you! We can offer training to 5-50 participants. Feel free to invite staff or parents from other child care centers to participate (and share the cost, too).

How much will it cost?

Fees vary, please call for specific information.

How is recruitment and registration handled?

The host center handles these details. Once the date and time are established with us, you handle the recruitment, registration, and fee collection (if applicable). EDUCATION CONNECTION's trainer, with expertise in the topic you choose, will arrive with handouts, overheads, and/or PowerPoint, and present to the group you have assembled.

What type of space do I need?

A comfortable training location would include chairs for adults (and tables if possible), a TV/DVD player, blank wall or screen for overheads/PowerPoint, and an electrical outlet.

About Us

Our culturally competent early childhood staff is comprised of qualified, licensed, and certified specialists trained in many areas, including:

- Early Childhood Education
- Infant Toddler Development
- Special Education
- Speech Language Pathology
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Social Work
- Clinical Psychology
- Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA)
- Maternal and Child Health

EDUCATION CONNECTION does not discriminate in any of its programs, activities, or employment practices on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, religion, age, disability, veteran, marital, or familial status. To file a complaint of discrimination write: USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, DC 20250-9410.

Special Needs

Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

This presentation will cover the definition of ASD, dispel myths and uncover facts about ASD, and review characteristics and current treatment options. The presenter will share information about tools used to identify autism in young children and resources for families and providers.

Sensory Integration

Sensory integration is the ability to take in information through the senses (touch, movement, smell, taste, vision, and hearing), put it together with prior information, memories, and knowledge stored in the brain, and make a meaningful response. We will discuss ways of addressing sensory integrative problems within the context of family life and the child's normal activities.

Early Childhood Special Education: An Overview

This [two-part session](#) presents an overview of working with children with special needs in an early childhood setting. Participants will learn about family-centered practices, special education laws (such as IDEA, the referral and assessment process), and Individualized Education Plans (IEP)/Individual Family Service Plans (IFSP). *Completion of this [two-part series](#) meets the time requirement and professional development detailed in the NAEYC Teachers Standard, Criteria 6.A.12.*

How to Support Children with Autism in Your Child Care Center

We will explore ways to enhance the success of young children with Autism Spectrum Disorders in your program. Learn valuable strategies that incorporate Birth to Three or special education goals, family involvement, visual supports, and social skills building.

Inclusion: What It Can Look Like in a Preschool Classroom

For kids with disabilities, the classroom can be an intimidating place. Using exercises from nationally acclaimed special educator Rick Lavoie, we will explore what children living with disabilities go through that can cause Frustration, Anxiety, and Tension (*F.A.T. City Workshop*). Participants will also develop effective strategies that encourage success for children with special needs in an early childhood classroom.

Infant/Toddler

Red Flags for Early Development

If a child in your care exhibits atypical development, this workshop will provide an overview of disabilities and information needed to make referrals and locate resources. We will explore what is appropriate, the referral process, and how to share sensitive information with families.

Inclusion of Infants & Toddlers with Special Needs in Childcare

Everyone has questions when thinking about how to best meet the needs of infants and toddlers with significant disabilities, including child care center directors, infant/toddler caregivers, parents, and early intervention providers. This workshop will focus on strategies to promote inclusion practices and collaborative relationships.



Infant/Toddler Language Development

Participants will receive information on how infants and toddlers acquire language skills, the components of language, and strategies on how to enhance the development of communication in very young children. The session will also focus on the typical developmental milestones of this age group related to communication and will outline some of the red flags that may indicate the need for further evaluation.

Infant/Toddler

Understanding Temperament

Each infant comes into the world with their own unique "wiring." We will address the three distinct temperament traits of infants and toddlers, and discuss how providers can learn the approaches that work best with each child's style.

State of CT Early Learning Guidelines 0-3

This workshop is designed to introduce you to a new resource developed to support the healthy development of children under age three! The *Early Learning Guide* highlights:

- What you can expect to see in each age range
- Suggestions on toys, materials, and space
- Ways adults can support the healthy growth and development of infants and toddlers
- Current research and best practice
- Exciting, reproducible parent handouts

Growth & Development of Infants and Toddlers

An introduction to the care and teaching of infants and toddlers, which emphasizes the interrelationship between social, emotional, cognitive, physical, and language development. Age appropriate curriculum strategies will be based on developmental theories. Components of a high quality program will be explored.

Infant & Toddler Environments

Choice of equipment and room arrangement is critical to the success of programs for infants and toddlers. This workshop will connect environment to curriculum and provide caregivers with strategies to assess their current environments and implement changes.

Infant Brain Development

Does it really help to play Mozart to infants? Current research on how babies learn, the significance of early relationships on brain development, and best practices to encourage learning and exploration in infants will be discussed.

Screening of Infants & Toddlers Using the ASQ & ASQ: SE

The Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ), a comprehensive developmental screening system designed for use with children from 4 months to 5 years, is a convenient and economical tool to screen and monitor progress in young children. The questionnaires, which can be easily completed and scored by both professionals and parents, can be used to enhance curriculum development and to identify children in your program who may benefit from further assessment of their developmental skills. This training session will address the benefits of screening and early identification, suggestions on how to share screening information with families, and the steps to setting up and implementing a developmental screening system in your program.

Motor Skill Development

This workshop will provide step-by-step information on infant to toddler motor development, along with strategies to enhance all of these phases. Typical development will be discussed, including red flags as children move through gross and fine motor milestones.

Guiding Behavior

Infants and toddlers certainly can have some challenging behaviors! We will examine the developmental stages of infancy (including young, mobile, and older infants) and discuss how each stage affects behavior. We will identify strategies that support positive behaviors and help to create a "yes" environment in your center.



Curriculum

Building Your Block Corner

Participants will learn strategies for expanding block play to incorporate many curriculum areas, including literacy and math. In this workshop, we will explore creating an exciting block center, learning opportunities provided through block play, the stages of block building, and the relationship to all areas of curriculum.



A Look at Dramatic Play

During this interactive workshop, participants will explore why dramatic play is important in the curriculum, the teacher's role as facilitator, suggestions for creating an effective dramatic play area, and the connection to language and literacy.

Puppetry and Finger Plays

Could you use a fresh look at these two "foundations" of the early childhood classroom? We will look at the role of finger plays and puppets in supporting emerging literacy. Bring samples of your favorites to share!

Preschool Art: Celebrating the Process

Is your preschool classroom filled with child-centered art or teacher-directed projects? What is the difference anyway? What are the responsibilities of a teacher when offering art opportunities? What items are a "must" in an art corner? How do you connect art and reading? We will delve into these questions, review the developmental stages of art in young children, and share art activities that create excitement and exploration.

Assessment of Young Children in Early Childhood Settings

This two-part training focuses on assessing children's progress and program quality. Participants will learn how to effectively observe young children, document their progress, and use this information to help plan appropriate experiences. In addition, participants will learn about tools to assess the quality of programming. You must plan to attend both portions of the training. *Completion of this two-part series meets the time requirement and professional development detailed in the NAEYC Teachers Standard, Criteria 6.A.11.*

Celebrate Science

Do you shy away from science because you think you aren't knowledgeable enough about this topic? This workshop is designed to help participants view science as much more than content or facts. It is a process that actively engages young children to question, observe, predict, experiment, reflect, and record. Young children are born scientists who just need the right adults to help them channel their endless curiosity and innate drive to make sense of their world. Come prepared to engage in some hands-on activities and gain a new sense of courage to infuse more science into your early childhood curriculum.

Integrating Children's Literature in Math

This workshop demonstrates the connection between mathematical concepts and quality children's literature. Examples of books and their significance to math are highlighted.

Math Fun in the Preschool Classroom

"In a typical preschool class, children do very little math. They may practice counting, and occasionally look at books about numbers, but that is about it. Many classes devote mere minutes a day to math instruction or no time at all, recent studies have found - and far less than most children can handle, and not nearly enough to prepare those who, deprived of math-related games at home, quickly fall behind in kindergarten."

(Studying Young Math Minds and How to Teach Them, New York Times, 12.21.09)

This training will help teachers will feel comfortable and competent with:

- Recognizing CT state standards and expectations
- Understanding math thinking and content topics
- Planning appropriate preschool math experiences
- Designing individualization strategies
- Creating board games that link literature with math

Storytelling

This workshop will provide an overview of the role of storytelling in the early childhood classroom. We will explore the importance of storytelling, strategies for learning and using stories in teaching, and the role of storytelling in young children's literacy development. Be sure to bring your favorite children's book.

Curriculum

Making Learning Standards Come Alive

Human development research indicates that there are universal predictable sequences of growth and change that occur in children during the first nine years of life. These predictable changes happen in all domains of development – physical, emotional, social, and cognitive. This knowledge of typical development in children provides a framework from which teachers can prepare the learning environment and plan appropriate experiences. Using the *CT Preschool Curriculum Framework*, we explore intentional teaching, strategies to incorporate the PCF into daily teaching practices, and communication with families, teachers, and the community.

Lesson Plans: Connecting Experiences to Standards

Components needed to build great lesson plans will be explored. Participants will gain an understanding of the many facets of curriculum, appreciate the early childhood paradigm shift, create a calendar of study topics, learn how to ask the right questions to critical thinkers, develop strategies to help turn activities into experiences, and design several weeks of lesson plans.

Going Green: Making Games/ Materials from Everyday Items

Learn some great ideas for how you can use recycled materials collected from home as toys in your program or child care center. Please bring your own recycled materials (i.e. tissue boxes, egg cartons, plastic containers, soda bottles, etc.) and ideas! Help save the environment and your budget.

Photography for Your Classroom

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. Would you like a way to document your student's progress throughout the school year? This workshop will enable you to build a sample work portfolio using photography. Hands-on activities will allow us to experiment with this medium.



The Art of Observation and Documentation: Putting the CT Preschool Assessment Framework into Practice

Participants will learn how to effectively observe young children, document their progress, and use this information to help plan appropriate experiences. A second focus of this workshop will be to help teachers use observation to help them reflect and assess program quality.

Understanding the Preschool English Language Learner (ELL) and their Language Acquisition

This course will cover information about the stages of language acquisition and the most effective ways to teach English Language Learner (ELL) children, including methods for encouraging learning and family involvement.

What Do We Share With Kindergarten Teachers?

Every community struggles to design a form that has pertinent and helpful information to share with Kindergarten teachers. In this workshop, we will create a Child Portfolio that meets the needs of the community. Participants will learn how to collect children's work and languages samples, complete the Child Profile from the *CT Preschool Assessment Framework* (and other assessments used by the community), and create a form that aligns with the town's Grade Level Expectations.

Throw Out the Themes and Try Some Topics of Study

Topics of Study are wonderful ways to support a child becoming immersed in a subject that is of interest, and at the same time, have the child gain information through direct observation/experimentation, use/practice learning they already know, and challenge them to engage in higher levels of thinking. We will discover how we can leave the shallow land of themes and move to the rich exploration of the world around us.

Curriculum

Embracing Diversity

Our work as early childhood professionals puts us in contact with families that are diverse in many different ways. As we look at their parenting styles, we can ask ourselves: Is there only one "right way" to raise children or are there many "right ways" to raise children? This workshop helps participants appreciate differences and suspend judgments of the families with whom we work.

Starting Small: Teaching Diversity with Young Children

What do discrimination, anti-bias practice, and diversity mean? We will work together to define these terms and develop an understanding of what encourages tolerance. We will explore our assumptions and prejudices as we come to understand how and why we see the world as we do. Our goal will be to create positive strategies that foster empathy, tolerance, and an appreciation of variety in an early childhood setting.

Moving Those Muscles: Preschool Motor Skills

Balance, body awareness, crossing of the mid-line, laterality, major muscle coordination, and spatial orientation are what children practice when they are learning to move. But what does all that mean? What does it look like? What are developmental expectations for preschoolers? What activities can we offer to encourage learning and build competence? We will explore the answers to these questions and try out some crazy, fun movement activities!

Why Children Need to Play in School

Early Childhood educators may be feeling pressured to offer more and more "academic" experiences for young children. Come ready to discuss the many reasons why "play" is a vital piece of the learning process for young children.

Taking the Curriculum Outside: Play and Active Learning

We are all accustomed to creative, stimulating indoor learning environments and experiences...now let's get ready to do the same with outdoor environments. Often, the young child's total daily outdoor play experience is provided by the child care center. What opportunities for discovery and learning take place in your out-of-door play area? Examine your space as we explore a variety of play experiences, materials to support them, and the outdoor environment.

Babbles to Conversation: How to Encourage Pre-Literacy Knowledge and Skills

Coos and babbles become sentences, scribbles become conventional writing, and enjoying books and stories gradually leads to independent reading and comprehension and increasingly complex material. None of this happens by chance. The preschool teacher has a huge responsibility in building a firm foundation for the development of language and literacy. The goal of this workshop is to promote an understanding of pre-literacy and engage teachers in planning effective literacy strategies for all children. We will use the CT State Department of Education's *Preschool Experiences in Language and Literacy* DVD. The workshop will explore the four main topics in pre-literacy: the environment, listening/ speaking, reading, and writing. Two 2-hour sessions.



...Also Available



Kindergarten: Helping Your Child Make the Move

This Kindergarten readiness guide is designed to help children and their families prepare for Kindergarten by creating a solid foundation for success in the school setting. This guide provides basic information and practical suggestions for parents/guardians as they help their children "make the move." Now available in English and Spanish. **For pricing information or to order, please contact Janet Sebastiano, Marketing and Communications Coordinator, at 860.567.0863 x194 or visit us online at: www.educationconnection.org/new/publications/publications.php**

Behavior/Social Emotional

Nurturing Children's Self Esteem

This workshop looks at all the ways the people in a child's environment impact their ability to develop security and self esteem. We will discuss how children learn to trust, and gain independence and self esteem in environments that foster these qualities.

Biting, Kicking, & Screaming: A Survival Guide for Toddler Caregivers

Provides practical ideas for those working on these "toddler hot spots" with children in the childcare setting. Strategies and supports will be provided to encourage development of children's autonomy.

Helping Children Cope With Loss

In this workshop, participants will explore a developmental framework for children's understanding of death. In addition, various methods of coping with loss will be reviewed, as well as techniques for communicating with children about the difficult subjects of death, dying, divorce, and loss.

Teaching Social Emotional Skills

Using the work of Dan Gartrell, "The Power of Guidance," we will explore helpful techniques for addressing challenging behaviors, while supporting the preschool child's development of life skills. We will look at discipline and guidance, misbehavior and mistaken behavior, and challenging behaviors as opportunities.



Positive Mental Health in Young Children: What Does it Look Like? How Can We Support it?

In this workshop, participants will explore mental health for young children. We will also try out some activities that help children to regulate their emotions, recognize social cues from their peers, and feel good about themselves. Participants will explore some children's literature that fits well with this topic.

Dealing with Stress in Young Children

This workshop will explore the root causes of stress in children and families. Participants will learn ways to identify and manage stress in young children. We will discuss the benefits of creating an early childhood center that is stress-free for staff, parents, and children.

Social Autopsies: A Tool to Help Young Children Understand Social Skills

We will discuss possible reasons for social incompetence in young children and explore Rick Lavioe's strategy of using "Social Autopsies" to improve social interaction.

Classroom/Teacher Supports

Observing Young Children: Connecting to the CT Framework

Observation is key to our understanding of what children know and are able to do. The “teacher as observer” role is increasingly important. Why and how do we need to observe? Are we observing objectively? What will we do with the information gleaned from what we see? How will observation make us better teachers? These questions and ideas will be discussed within the context of the CT Preschool Curriculum Framework.

Building Classroom Community: The Early Childhood Teacher’s Role

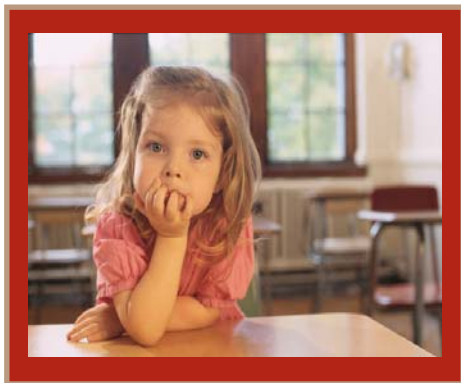
What kinds of experiences will our young children have as we educate and care for them? Will each child feel valued and competent? How do we shape classroom life to reflect a spirit of social equality, justice, tolerance, and respect? Will children leave us with the ability to participate in caring communities as lifelong learners? Learn what we, as teachers, can do.

Growing Rich Child-Teacher Interactions

Why do we need language? Language not only serves the function of communication with others, but it also provides the framework to help us think about and understand the world around us. During preschool, children develop concepts and logical structures that help them organize what they see, hear, smell, taste, and feel. Concepts are abstract. Children need many hands-on experiences and language opportunities to understand and use these newly formed abstract ideas. Rich child-teacher interactions help cultivate a child’s excitement with the world around them and the communication skills necessary to be successful in that world.

Parent Involvement in Child Care Settings

Ever wish you had more parent participation in the activities of your center? Learn new and exciting ways to engage and involve parents in every aspect of your programs. This workshop will give you the skills and tips you need to establish a parent advisory board and create an inviting atmosphere at your center that will have parents “lining up” to get involved.



Intentional Teaching

Participants will develop an understanding of, comfort with, and have time to practice *The Cycle of Intentional Teaching* model. An overview of the tools used in this model, the *CT Preschool Curriculum and Assessment Frameworks*, will also be presented.

Developmentally Appropriate Practice: What Does It Look Like?

We will explore the basic tenets of DAP and discuss five key aspects of good teaching that enact DAP principles within the preschool setting. We’ll talk about curriculum development and teaching to enhance development and learning, and end with FAQs. Bring your questions, ideas, and stories.

The Stages of Play

This workshop will familiarize participants with the developmental stages of play based upon Piaget’s theories. We will discuss the concept of play-based learning and the role of the teacher in supporting a child’s growth and development during play.

Supervision:

Effective Partnerships with Staff

Want your head teachers, supervisors, and directors to be confident, capable, and competent leaders? This workshop covers supervisory responsibilities, leadership qualities and skills, leadership styles, and feedback strategies. The how-to of staff performance assessments and tools for gathering information about your program will be shared.

Communicating with Families About Difficult Issues

Professionals working with young children have the challenging task of talking with parents about sensitive topics such as a child’s health issue, potential developmental delay, or specific child behavior. Participants in this workshop will have the opportunity to reflect on the important role they play in families’ lives and will gain new skills for effective communication about difficult issues.

What You Always Wanted to Know About ECERS, But Were Afraid to Ask

The Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS) is a comprehensive, field tested observation tool designed to measure the quality of early childhood classrooms. This process includes interviews and observations concentrating on seven indicators. These indicators include:

- Space and Furnishings
- Personal Care Routines
- Language and Reasoning
- Activities
- Interactions
- Program Structure
- Parents and Staff

Participants will explore the “ins and outs” of the scale and how teachers and directors can use the results of the ECERS for program improvement.

Administrative Supports

Reflective Supervision

Participants will use systematic reflection to set goals, direct personal learning strategies, and create change in their professional setting.

Conflict Resolution

Learn strategies and communication skills that will make you successful in dealing with conflicts with staff, parents, and board members.

Construction 101: Building a Team

Before a preschool program can set goals or tackle problem issues, teachers must possess a shared vision, recognize personal communication styles, understand the program's decision making process, create a way to share power, and be able to design system that will lead to achievable action plans. Come along and we will get started!

Early Childhood Budgets

What is your break even point? Is it worth adding another class to your program? What is the cost of an Infant/Toddler program versus a preschool or school age class? How do you figure out start-up costs, overhead, FICA, unemployment, etc.? This is a basic course for new directors on setting up a budget. Samples of budgets and formulas will be discussed.

Planning Strategically

What is a strategic plan? How can it help your program reach its goals and potential? How can a child care program make a difference in the lives of children and families in their communities? What activities are worth undertaking and committing to over the next 3-5 years? Learn about this important and valuable planning process.

Making the Most of Staff Meetings

The logistics of arranging a meeting – making it convenient and meaningful for all child care stakeholders – is often daunting. Let's look at the types of meetings, steps to planning and facilitating a successful meeting, and characteristics of an effective meeting. We will examine the work of Paula Jorde Bloom.

The Right Fit: Recruiting, Selecting, and Orienting Staff

If you want to increase the pool of qualified candidates for positions at your center, reduce the incidence of poor hiring decisions, and decrease staff turnover...this workshop can help make it happen!

Managing and Growing Staff

How do you manage staff? How do you coach your staff? What is the difference? Do staff have opportunities to explore interests, take risks, and grow professionally? How do you encourage and nurture your staff? Bring your stories.

Advocacy in Early Childhood Education

Did you ever wonder? What is the best way to get your legislator's attention? What are the protocols when going to Hartford to testify? Do you want to start some local advocacy on early childhood in your community? Then this workshop is for you. We will discuss local and state protocols, advocacy efforts, and groups that you may be interested in joining.

Follow the Leader: What Makes a Strong Leader?

A good leader earns respect for good character and trustworthiness. But those are just two qualities of a good leader. What are the others? We will explore what leadership looks like in an early childhood setting and how to empower all team members to take a piece of the "leadership pie." To jump start to this shared responsibility, participants will work together to identify a issue at their school they would like to improve, analyze the situation, generate solutions, and complete an action plan.

Circle of Influence: Shared Decision Making

This workshop provides participants with Paula Jorde Bloom's framework for analyzing different types of decisions in child care center management and suggests way that directors can move to a more participative process in achieving program goals. The two-session workshop covers the following topics:

- Session I What Is Participative Management?
Perceptions of Power and Influence
- Session II A Framework for Shared Decision Making
Getting Started: Creating a Supportive Environment

Leadership in Action: How Effective Leaders Get Things Done

This workshop will help you:

- Assess your leadership style
- Understand the values and beliefs that shape your leadership
- Increase shared commitment to your center's goals
- Make action plans that get implemented
- Instill leadership capacity at all levels
- Solve organizational issues in a collegial and non-confrontational way
- Ensure a smooth transition for your successor

If you think your program and staff can benefit from our quality early childhood professional development workshops, please complete the section below and return this form. We will contact you to discuss your particular needs.

Mail or fax this form to: EDUCATION CONNECTION, Attn: Orié Marrero, P.O. Box 909, 355 Goshen Road, Litchfield, CT 06759 / Fax: 860-567-3381

Date of Request _____

Program/Center _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Topic(s) of Interest _____

Preferred Day(s)/Time(s) for Training _____

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**Orié Marrero at 860-567-0863 x185
or marrero@educationconnection.org**

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