

Learn to Play,



Play to Learn

Arkansas Early
Childhood Association
61ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE
October 11-14, 2023



We're launching
an education-based
Salary Supplement Program
for staff who work with
children birth to 5 years old.



Am I eligible?

- Are you a *teacher, assistant, floater, or director* in a licensed center or family child care home?
- Do you work at least 10 hours a week?
- Do you make less than \$23 an hour?
- Do you have a CDA or at least 12 credit hours of Birth-5 coursework?

If the answer is yes to all questions, you are eligible.

How much will I receive?

Your supplement will depend on your level of education, starting with a CDA.

The more education you have, the more money you receive.

How do I apply?

Interested educators must complete an application and provide verification of:

- current employment in a licensed child care program.
- current wages.
- education earned via official transcript/ National CDA certificate.

Exciting News!



**Step Up to
WAGES
Arkansas**

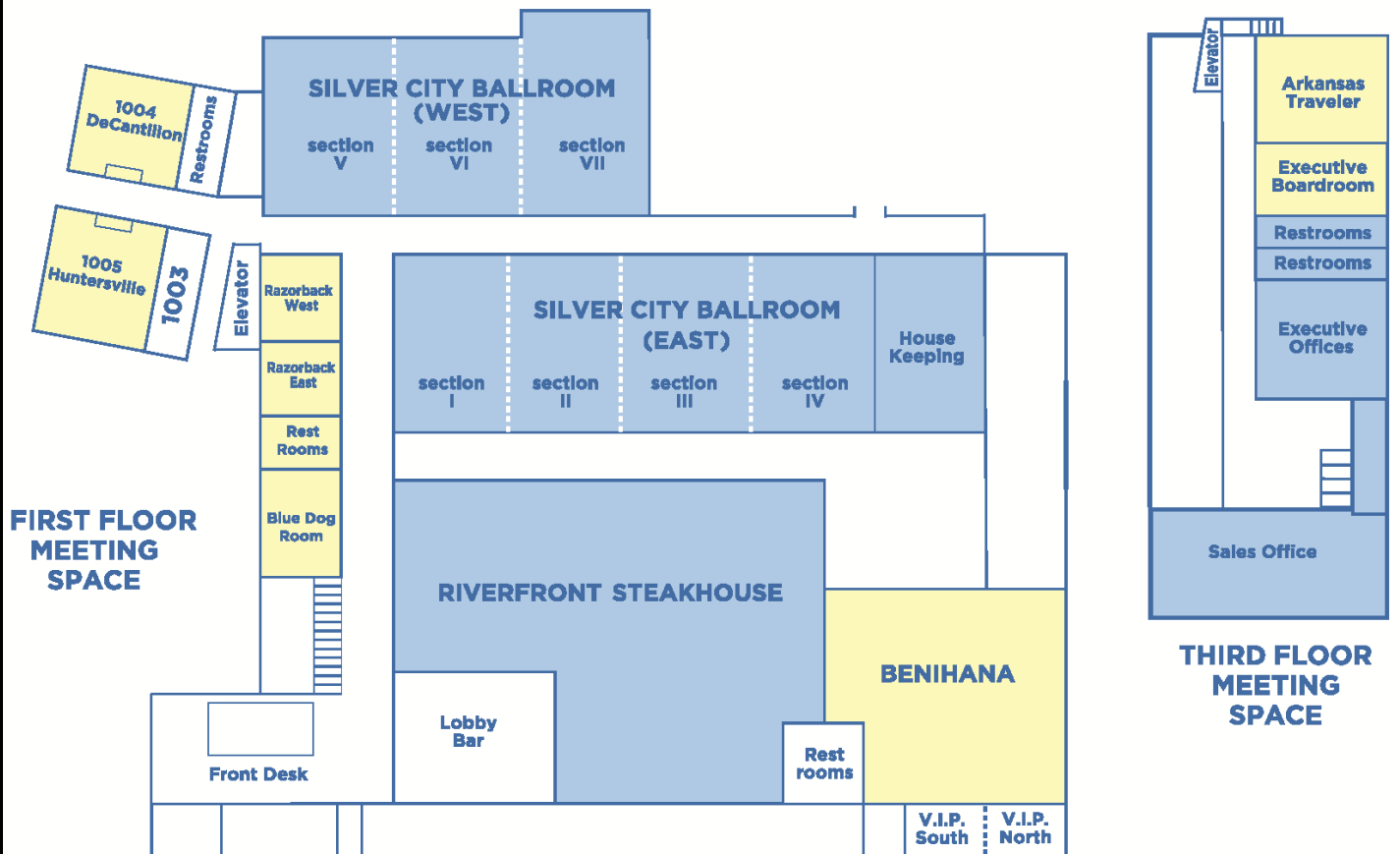
For more info contact

479-802-8342
wages@ArkansasEarlyChildhood.org

Step Up to WAGES Arkansas
P.O. Box 2520
Bentonville, AR 72712

ArkansasEarlyChildhood.org

Welcome to the Wyndham Riverfront!





Early Care & Education Projects

FAMILY CHILD CARE NETWORK



SOME OF THE RESOURCES AND SERVICES WE OFFER:

- Review and help update policy handbooks and parent contracts
- Environmental set-up support
- Marketing strategies that support keeping programs full
- Propose business practices
- Support shared services for family child care businesses
- Access to expertise around early childhood education, quality, policy, advocacy, and finance
- Free professional development that will help grow knowledge and skills
- ZOOM monthly meeting on the 4th Tuesday of each month

The Family Child Care Network works with providers to build relationships, expand knowledge, and share resources that enrich, develop, and promote family child care in Arkansas.

» Our goals are to:

1. Increase the number of licensed and registered homes,
2. Increase the number of infant and toddler slots, and
3. Increase the level of quality in family child care across the state.

CONNECT WITH US

 @ecepinfo
 @UA_ECEP



» Reach out and let's visit about these opportunities!

Jackie Couture, FCCN Manager | (479) 841-6404 | jcouture@uark.edu



Welcome to our 61st Annual Conference! We are gathered to connect, collaborate, and learn together. Our 2023 focus is all about play; how children learn about the world and themselves. **“Learn to Play, Play to Learn”** is to remind of us the importance of play-based learning and how it fulfills a fundamental role in child development.

Early education professionals appreciate the value and necessity of lifelong learning. Our conference offers many avenues to help us maintain quality practices. While you’re here, take in the valuable information that will be shared by our keynote speaker, Lisa Murphy, the Office of Early Childhood panel discussion, and the many sessions. Don’t forget to visit the exhibit hall with a wide

variety of vendors offering books, learning materials, and other products for your programs.

It has been an honor to serve as president of AECA. When you come to the end of any experience, there is always a mixture of emotions - relief that responsibilities are coming to an end, and a sense of gratitude for all the lessons you’ve learned. The #1 lesson for me has been you, the people! I can’t begin to count the number of people I have worked with, met, and mostly, learned from. During my term, I have been so impressed with Paul Lazenby, our Executive Director, and the AECA staff’s daily work to ensure that our association is run with excellence. Our AECA board of directors and affiliates, membership, and colleagues are “boots on the ground” across our great state. Each of you has enriched my life over the last two years. Thank you!

I live life with three G’s in mind: Give, Gain, and Grow. I have achieved all of these while serving as your president these past two years. I’m excited to see the work that will further advance the mission of AECA. Enjoy the conference - **“Learn to Play, Play to Learn!”**

Best Regards,

Curricula Concepts focuses on building relationships with early childhood educators and families. Our team provides support and training in family engagement, staff well-being and healthy lifestyle practices, through small but sustainable changes. Interested in these services?

Contact us!



facebook.com/curriculaconcepts



[@curriculaconcepts](https://www.instagram.com/curriculaconcepts)



[jamie-morrison-ward](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jamie-morrison-ward)



October 11, 2023

Welcome to the 61st Annual AECA Conference. We are so glad you're here and hope that the energy, knowledge, and camaraderie that are always part of this conference will refine or even transform your vision for how to educate young children. The theme is "Learn to Play... Play to Learn." It's easy to understand how children love to play. This conference is about play being how young children develop the skills needed for success. Children just know they're playing; adults must understand they're also learning! This is our message. In 2016, Arkansas introduced revised early learning standards for children 0-60 months (CDELS). While these standards have been in use for seven

years, there are still those who are unaware of what they are and how to use them in the classroom. Our goal is that the sessions you attend and conversations you have here will help you connect the dots between play and learning across all development domains that are part of our state standards—*social-emotional, physical, cognitive, language, literacy, math, science, social studies, and creative arts*. When you leave here, you will have some powerful tools to take back to your programs that children will enjoy and when implemented, you can be confident your classroom is helping build their future.

At AECA, we have a singular focus of seeing our workforce become one of the most educated and effective group of early childhood professionals in the country. All our initiatives are dedicated to helping YOU be successful working with young children. The **T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood[®] ARKANSAS** scholarship has exceeded all expectations—now helping over 370 teachers, directors, family child care educators and other staff go back to school to get their formal education in Birth to 5 development. The education pathways have expanded beyond just CDA, associate and bachelor's degrees, now offering scholarships for non-degree coursework and teacher licensure in early childhood. If you have been thinking about going back to school, there is no better time than now. Come by the AECA table in the hallway and talk with the T.E.A.C.H. staff about how you can do this. Several of our participating colleges are represented here so you can also visit with them about what program would be right for you.

AECA is also continuing to focus on compensation, assisting direct care staff financially with **Step Up to WAGE\$** supplements which reward education and commitment to a child care employer. Just this fall, we launched our **Early Educator Apprenticeship** for existing T.E.A.C.H. scholars to enhance their college coursework, adding a two-year hands-on partnership with an expert mentor. Finally, we are piloting programs leading to **concurrent enrollment in credit-bearing CDA coursework** while students are still in high school. What a great way to grow our workforce!

Thank you for your support for everything we do at AECA. This is YOUR association. The Board and staff are dedicated to your well-being, your continued knowledge and your fulfillment in this amazing profession called **early childhood education**.

Committed to you,

Paul Lazenby

Executive Director

Are you interested in going back to school to get your early childhood degree?
Are you working at least 30 hours per week in a licensed child care program as a teacher, assistant teacher or director?



Apply for a
T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® ARKANSAS scholarship

Approved Scholars receive...

- ** 90% scholarship for tuition and books ****
- ** \$110 per semester travel allowance ****
- ** Stipend to purchase computer ****
- ** Bonus payment upon completion of courses and work commitment ****

Sponsoring Employers receive...

- ** Reimbursement for up to 6 hours of weekly release time ****
- ** Commitment from scholar to stay at least one year after completion ****

Participating Degree Programs in Early Childhood include...

Certificate of Proficiency, Technical Certificate, Associate Degree, Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree, Pre-K Teacher License Endorsement

**STOP BY THE AECA TABLE IN THE VENDOR HALL TO VISIT WITH A
T.E.A.C.H. COUNSELOR ABOUT HOW TO APPLY.**

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood ARKANSAS
<https://arkansasearlychildhood.org/teach>
teach@arkansasearlychildhood.org
501-680-1930



Exhibit Hall

Vendors, Food & Fun!



Thursday, October 12 7:30-8:00am
SILVER CITY V-VII

**WIN AN
IPAD PRO
FROM AECA**

THURSDAY 7:30 AM TO 5:30 PM
FRIDAY 7:30 AM TO 5:30 PM
SATURDAY 7:30 AM TO 12:00 PM

You will receive a vendor "BINGO" card that you will have to get stamped by each vendor to be eligible to win.

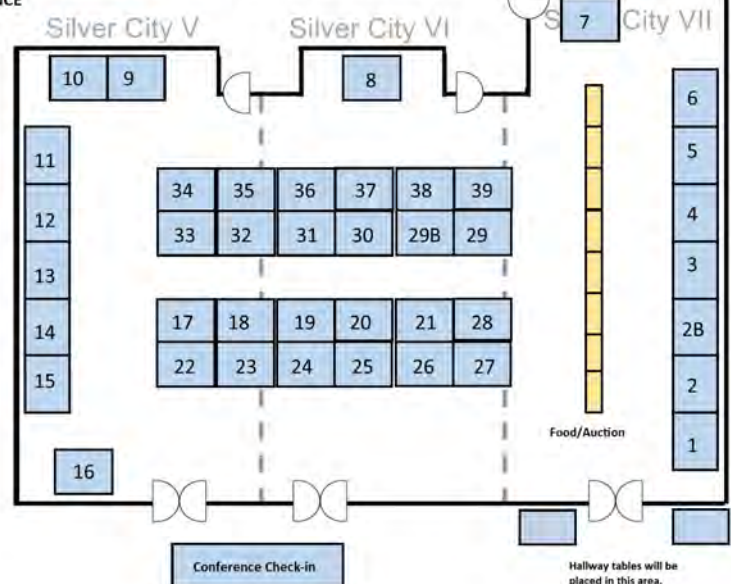
Once you have that, you will need to turn in the card by Saturday at noon to be entered into a drawing for an iPad Pro from AECA.

Please make sure that your phone number and email address is on the card. The winner will be notified after the conference.

AECA
2023
CONFERENCE



WYNDHAM RIVERFRONT
2 Riverfront Place, North Little Rock, AR 72114 (501) 371-9000



List of Vendors in the Exhibit Hall!

Booths	
1-2	Lakeshore Learning
2B	T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood/Step Up to WAGE\$
3-6	Child Care Aware
7	Hoops and Denim
8	SECA
9-15	UA Early Care and Education Projects
16	Discount School Supply
17-18	ADE Office of Early Childhood
19-21, 24-28	A-State Childhood Services
22	Book Vine for Children
23	LENA
29	PaperPie Learning
29B	Arkansas State University Dept. of Teacher Education
30	University of Arkansas Fort Smith
31	Early Childhood Solutions
32-33	Curricula Concepts
34	Church Mutual
35	UAMS-Engage
36	Arkansas Tobacco Education Initiative
37	Dawson Education Service Cooperative
38	Arkansas Game and Fish
39	Buddy Pegs
Non-profit Tables	
UA Partners for Inclusive Communities	
UA Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension	

You are AECA! The AECA Conference is designed to meet your professional development needs in a variety of ways. When looking at the schedule, please use these helpful guides to inform you of special events and training sessions designed with you in mind!



For more information or assistance, contact Arkansas Community Action Agencies Association at 501-372-0807 or ARKids2College@acaaa.org.



What is a Child Savings Account?

A Child Savings Account (CSA) allows families to start saving for their children to attend college, trade school or technical school. Children with a CSA are four times more likely to complete a degree.

How does it work?

Enroll in a free Kids to College my529 account and start watching your savings grow. Once the beneficiary reaches 18 years of age, the money can be used for tuition and other qualified expenses.

How do I enroll?

Visit entergy.com/kids to verify eligibility and create a my529 account. Entergy will contribute \$50 to get you started.

2023 AECA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President:
Shaneil "PJ" Yarbrough

President-Elect:
Natasha Kile

**Vice President,
Communications:**
Jennifer Bowman

**Vice President,
Membership:**
Dee Cox

Secretary:
Joanna Grymes

Treasurer:
Ronnette Haynes

SECA Representative:
Jamie Ward

Members-At-Large:
Renee Philpot
Shamanda Nelson
Sherry Jones
Tomekia Moore

FOOD NOTES

Everyone staying at the hotel will get a ticket each morning for the breakfast buffet.

Complimentary snacks and beverages are available during break times, while supplies last. Morning break from 9:30 am to 10:00 am and afternoon break from 2:30 pm to 3:00 pm.

A lunch buffet will be open for you to purchase during the lunch break in the Riverfront Steakhouse on Thursday, Friday, & Saturday, it is \$12.95 plus tax.



FEATURED PRESENTERS



In years past, AECA has hosted a wide variety of keynote speakers. This year will be no different in the talent provided to energize and motivate you! "Featured Presenters" will be hosting sessions all throughout the conference and in several different locations. Just look for the "Featured Presenter" icon!

EVALUATION

Be sure to check your email after the conference to complete the evaluation. Please tell us how you enjoyed the conference and what we can do to improve! We LOVE to hear your feedback each year!



RECEIVING PDR CREDIT

Each session will have a sign-in sheet (including general sessions and Directors Luncheons). You will receive labels with your PDR number on it when you check in at Registration. Facilitators will hand out the sign-in sheets near the end of each session. Be sure to include your label or name and PDR number on the sign-in sheet for each session attended.

Setting up your classroom is as easy as 1 2 3 !

FREE Design, Delivery & Installation!*

- 1** Meet with our experts.
- 2** Design your room.
- 3** Leave the rest to us.

**Complete Classrooms service is provided for orders of \$10,000 or more that ship to a single location in the contiguous United States. Depending on delivery location, additional charges may apply.*



Items in stock
& ready to ship



Lifetime warranty
on premium-quality furniture



Our guarantee
of customer satisfaction

Blake Stansbery, Regional Manager
(501) 607-5054
bstansbery@lakeshorelearning.com

Lakeshore®
LakeshoreLearning.com



WEDNESDAY



Free to anyone who wants to attend and lunch is provided. You will need to register for this session when you register for the conference!

NAEYC Accreditation 101: A How-To Guide (Including Funding!)

Leigh Keener

Leigh S. Keener is a native of Little Rock. She is a graduate of both Little Rock Central High (1999), and the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville (2004), and she earned her Certificate in Early Education Leadership from Harvard Graduate School of Education (2021). Most recently, she graduated in the inaugural class of the Civility Leadership Institute (2022) and led her school through NAEYC accreditation. She has worked in both the public and private sectors before founding Joyfully Engaged Learning.

Keener is a life-long learner as evident through multiple certifications, including Little Rock School District/ University of Arkansas Cyber Teacher (2006), National Board Certification (2007), Google Certified Trainer (2018), Verifier and Influence Training Certificate (2022), and Crucial Conversations Certificate (2022).

Keener was named Forest Park PTA Teacher of the Year (2008), received the Central Arkansas Safety Town's Key to the City (2019), was named the Jackson T. Stephens Outstanding Faculty Member (2020), was named the first education honoree of Inviting Arkansas's Women in STEAM (2021), and was inducted into the Secretary Rodney Slater Leadership Society by Renew America Together (2023).

Keener lives and works in Little Rock with her husband, Justin, and their 3 children - Laura Beth and Harrison (twins), and Luke.



EARLY CHILDHOOD SOLUTIONS

Hello There! Let's be social!

LIKE. FOLLOW. SHARE



earlychildhoodsolutions.net
(479)462-6370
ecsfortoday@gmail.com



Scan this QR Code
to read about the
ECS Crew
Subscription!

PRECONFERENCE SESSIONS

Wednesday, October 11, 2023					
	Silver City I	Silver City II	Foyer West	Riverfront Steakhouse	DeCantillon 1004
9:00-12:00	LETRS Training: Foundational Literacy - Playing with Sounds from Beginning to End <i>Arkansas Department of Education Division of Elementary and Secondary Education</i>	True Colors <i>UA Early Care and Education Projects</i> <i>Shawna Lynch and Faith Hurd</i>			(10:30-12:00) NAEYC Accreditation 101: The How-To Guide <i>Leigh Keener</i>
12:00-1:00	Lunch Break			Lunch Buffet Provided for Preconference Attendees	
1:00-4:00	Remembering to Remember: Closing the Gap Between Knowing and Doing (A Faith-Based Approach) <i>Leslie Dudley Corbell and Diane Doucet Matthews</i>	Introduction to Coaching Skills <i>UA Early Care and Education Projects</i> <i>Jessica Fox</i>	(12:00—4:30) REGISTRATION BAG PICK-UP		

Please Note:

Lunch will be provided at the Wyndham Riverfront from 12:00–1:00 p.m. for all preconference attendees.

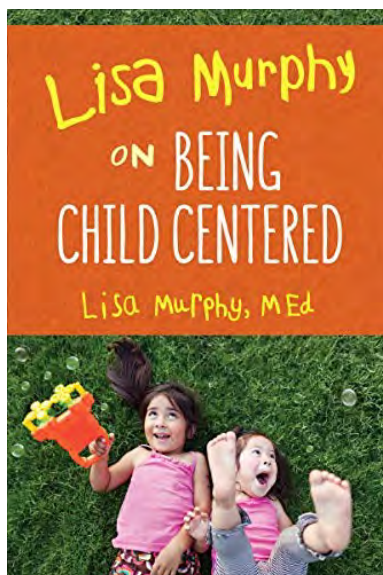
Sessions are \$30 for half day or \$60 for full day.

9:00-12:00		Location
<p>LETRS Training: Foundational Literacy - Playing with Sounds from Beginning to End <i>Arkansas Dept. of Education Division of Elementary and Secondary Education</i></p> <p>Did you know that ninety percent of brain growth happens before kindergarten? The most rapid time of brain development in a child's life happens in the first five years.</p> <p>During this session, participants will hear an overview of the Pre-K RISE initiative and the early intervention efforts the Arkansas Department of Education is making to provide foundational literacy support for early childhood students and educators, in a developmentally appropriate way.</p> <p>Our team is looking forward to speaking at the preconference day at the AECA Conference in October. The 3-hour session, Playing with Sounds from Beginning to End, will be a great opportunity for early childhood educators interested in taking the entire 35.5 hour LETRS EC Course to preview the content and understand all the course requirements. During this session at the preconference, we will give out the link to register for the entire 35.5 hour professional development course but we would also love to get the word out to other educators that might be interested and did not have the opportunity to attend the preconference. If anyone should ask, please let them know that all information can be found online at the PreK RISE Website under the Phase 2: LETRS EC Tab found on the left-hand side of the page. The course is free and participants that successfully complete the course will receive a \$500 stipend.</p>		Silver City I
<p>True Colors UA Early Care and Education Projects—Shawna Lynch and Faith Hurd</p> <p>True Colors® is a temperament and personality typing program. This enjoyable and insightful training helps Early Care and Education professionals with personal and professional development skills. Using the colors – Orange, Gold, Green, and Blue to describe basic personality types, participants will positively improve teamwork skills by recognizing differences and developing solutions to communicate and collaborate more effectively.</p>		Silver City II
10:30-12:00		Location
<p>NAEYC Accreditation 101: A How-To Guide (Including Funding!) Leigh Keener</p> <p>Interested in learning more about NAEYC Accreditation? Join Leigh Keener from Joyfully Engaged Learning Arkansas for a lunch session. We'll talk about timelines, resources, finances, and how Joyfully Engaged will walk you through the process from start to finish. From on-site and virtual support that includes mentoring and coaching to portfolio and classroom support to funding for fees and training, we can work together to designate your program as one of excellence. Whether you're looking to distinguish yourself from other programs or you're seeking a proven path to improvement, accreditation with NAEYC is sure to move your program ahead.</p>		DeCantillon 1004
1:00-4:00		Location
<p>Remembering to Remember: Closing the Gap Between Knowing and Doing (A Faith-Based Approach) Leslie Dudley Corbell and Diane Doucet Matthews</p> <p>"Remember the former things; remember the days of old; remember the words of the Lord Jesus Christ; the memory of the righteous is a blessing; bless the Lord, oh my soul and forget not all his benefits; do this in remembrance of Me; remember the Sabbath." (Isaiah 46:9, Deut. 32:7, Acts 20:35, Proverbs 10:7, Psalm 103:2, 1 Cor. 11:24, Exodus 20:8) The word "remember" is found 240 times in the Old and New Testament. God has communicated to us His high value on remembering! Are there roadblocks to remembering as we work with early childhood children or even as we live in this world as adults? Have you ever thought, "This child knows better," and wondered why the child isn't doing it? The Mind of a Child podcast hosts Leslie Corbell and Diane Matthews will facilitate this session where participants will dive into ten familiar bible verses. These verses will present keys to unlock the wisdom we desire in our daily moments in the classroom and at home, guiding us to helpful tips and strategies to use. Together, we will explore the why and how of closing the gap between knowing and doing — for us and for the children in our care.</p>		Silver City I
<p>Introduction to Coaching Skills UA Early Care and Education Projects—Jessica Fox</p> <p>In this interactive training program, participants will overview the benefits of coaching and learn about the skills and mindset needed for coaching to be successful. Through a series of information and hands-on activities, participants will practice active listening, asking high-quality questions, and the GROW coaching model, putting them on the path to turn work-experienced challenges into learning situations.</p>		Silver City II



**Lisa Murphy, M.Ed., Early Childhood Specialist
Founder and CEO of Ooey Gooley, Inc.**

Lisa Murphy has been involved in early childhood education for over 30 years. She has written five books, produced numerous training DVDs, serves on many early childhood advisory boards, is an international speaker and trainer, is co-host of the podcast *Child Care Bar and Grill* and is the founder and CEO of **Ooey Gooley, Inc.** As an outspoken advocate, Lisa is known for her commitment to creating child-centered, play-based early childhood environments and her fierce protection of childhood. In 2013, she received her Masters in Early Childhood Education from Champlain College, in 2018, she received the Patricia Monighan Nourot Award for Exemplary Leadership and Play Advocacy from NAEYC's Play Policy and Practice Interest Forum, and in 2020, her latest book, *Lisa Murphy On...Being Child Centered* was nominated for "Best in Education" by Midwest Books Awards. Her seminars have been called humorous, energetic, content-rich and inspiring. She currently resides in Central Florida.



University of Arkansas' Early Care and Education Projects will be providing Lisa's book *Lisa Murphy on Being Child Centered* to the first 120 participants in the General Session. Please make sure to stop by the ECEP booth to get your book signed!



THURSDAY

Leadership Track:
Sponsored by A-State Childhood Services
Location: Razorback East and West

The leader of the early learning program is the person who provides the program with a clear vision and motivates people to see it through. Administrators have learned that one of the most powerful leadership elements within their control is how they choose to engage in relationships. We invite you to join us as we think together about the importance and role of relationships between all staff and quality programming.

8:00 am—9:30 am
Beginning with an End in Mind
Sue Remfrey, Leadership Development Coordinator

1:00 pm—2:30 pm
Leadership is NOT a Thing
Diana Courson, Associate Director

3:00 pm—4:30 pm
Coaching is a Culture
Julie Yarberry, Supporting Arkansas Coaches and Mentors

Early Childhood Advocacy Track
Advancing Early Childhood Education in Arkansas
Sponsored by AECA Public Policy Committee
Location: Arkansas Traveler

Why don't people understand that early educators are brain builders and not babysitters? Join us in one, two, or three discussions (this track fits together but can be taken individually) to hone our skills and inform our communications with grown-ups in Arkansas. Let's clear this misunderstanding up, once and for all!


8:00 am—9:30 am
Moving Forward with Mind in the Making and 7 Essential Skills
Dr. Joanna Grymes

1:00 pm—2:30 pm
Lessons from "The Little Engine that Could" for Young and Old Alike
Geania Dickey and friends




3:00 pm—4:30 pm
Action Steps for Advancing EC Education in Arkansas
Zephonia Avant, Cara Maxwell and PPC friends

*To read descriptions of these sessions, please see the next few pages.

Thursday, October 12, 2023

	Silver City I	Silver City II	Silver City III	Silver City IV	Razorback East and West
7:30-8:00					A-State Leadership Track
8:00-9:30	Fun Math Safari: Activities for Infants & Toddlers as they Play <i>Dr. Timothy Leggett, Jackie Paxton, & David Bell</i>	Tools and Resources from AR Resource Connections <i>Robin Jones and Dr. Deniece Honeycutt</i>	Using Yoga in Your Classroom... and for You! <i>Stacy Moore</i>	Don't Be a Blockhead! Making Blocks Fun <i>Gregg Cooper and Danielle Brewer</i>	Beginning with an End in Mind <i>Sue Remfrey</i>
9:30-10:00	Break (Complimentary snacks/drinks while supplies last)				
10:00-11:30	 <p>Welcome - AECA President PJ Yarbrough Remarks from Arkansas Secretary of Education Jacob Oliva "Different Kinds of Smart" - Lisa Murphy</p>				
11:30-1:00	Lunch Break				Directors Luncheon, Sponsored by A-State Childhood Services Speaker: Gaynell Jamison
1:00-2:30	Fun Math Safari: Activities for Preschoolers as they Play <i>Kathleen Myers, David Bell, Jackie Paxton, & Dr. Timothy Leggett</i>	Literacy at Play <i>Dr. Deniece Honeycutt and Savanna Gragg</i>	What's New with Better Beginnings? <i>Donna Kirkwood, Kelli Hilburn, & Brenda Suarez</i>	Cultivating a Fun and Positive Work Environment <i>Amy Eddy and Terri Teters</i>	Leadership is NOT a Thing <i>Diana Courson</i>
2:30-3:00	Break (Complimentary snacks/drinks while supplies last)				
3:00-4:30	Setting the Stage for Positive Reading Experiences <i>Angie Murrey and Lori Loggains</i>	Play and Explore Through Art <i>Hope Mason and Kathryn Linch</i>	Leaning Into Social Emotional Learning Teachable Moments <i>Savanna Gragg</i>	Supporting Resilience in Mental Health Through the Science of Play <i>Jennifer Bowman and Jenny Dura</i>	Coaching is a Culture <i>Julie Yarberry</i>

Thursday, October 12, 2023

Blue Dog	Arkansas Traveler	Huntersville 1005	DeCantillon 1004	Riverfront Steakhouse	Silver City V-VII
	Early Childhood Advocacy Track				Exhibits
How to Find Quality Early Childhood Educators and Keep Them <i>Amy Pinkston</i>	 Moving Forward with Mind in the Making and 7 Essential Skills <i>Dr. Joanna Grymes</i>	The Two-Step of Attunement Including Baby Doll Circle Time <i>Carol Evans</i>	What's New with PAS-3? <i>Donna Kirkwood</i>		Exhibits
Break (Complimentary snacks/drinks while supplies last)					
					Exhibits
Lunch Break		Affiliate Representatives Box Lunch Meeting	AECA Diamonds Past Presidents Luncheon	Lunch Buffet (Available to Purchase) Full Buffet \$12.95	Lunch Break
Legos and Trains and Books, Oh My! How Play Supports Understanding of the World <i>Kellie Rine</i>	 Lessons from "The Little Engine that Could" for Young and Old Alike <i>Geania Dickey and Friends</i>	Six Critical Areas in Licensing <i>Kathleen Brown</i>	SPAN: Infant & Child Physical Activity <i>Jessica Moreland</i>		Exhibits
Break (Complimentary snacks/drinks while supplies last)					
Every Interaction Counts: Improving Language Environments Equitably in Early Childhood Education <i>Ginger Galban</i>	 Action Steps for Advancing EC Education in Arkansas <i>Zephonia Avant, Cara Maxwell, & PPC Friends</i>	Reset, Refuel, Recharge <i>Susanna Creed</i>	Leaders are Readers: Joining a Leadership Book Club to Improve Practice <i>Dr. Kathy Pillow-Price and Annie Zay</i>		Exhibits

THURSDAY

8:00-9:30

Location

Fun Math Safari: Activities for Infants and Toddlers as they Play in the Classroom
Dr. Timothy Legget, Jackie Paxton, and David Bell

Join us for the journey of discovery as we go on a Math Safari! The Practitioners attending this conference session will discover powerful ways to promote intellectual development through purposeful, math classroom activities. We will guide the practitioners as they help infants and toddlers (Birth to Age 2 plus) explore and make connections with MATH and science in the classroom.

Silver City
I

Tools and Resources from AR Resource Connections *Robin Jones and Dr. Deniece Honeycutt*

Arkansas Resource Connections is a free, comprehensive online resource for early childhood professionals offering over 2500 resources to assist working with children and families. It's a one-stop location for national and state tools and resources regarding early childhood in Arkansas. Two new tools will be introduced. The Licensing Best Practices Toolkit is an extensive crosswalk of resources and tools with the Minimum Licensing requirements for Child Care Centers and for Licensed Child Care Family Homes. The other tool to be discussed is a new job board called Arkansas Early Childhood Jobs.

Silver City
II

Using Yoga in your classroom... and for you! *Stacy Moore*

Learn some fun poses to use with your children, also learn some tension and stress relieving poses for yourself.

Silver City
III

Don't be a blockhead! Making blocks fun. *Gregg Cooper and Danielle Brewer*

Learning how to use blocks to enhance learning in multiple areas. Students learn when playing through many opportunities. Come have fun and learn.

Silver City
IV

Leadership Track: Sponsored by A-State Childhood Services

Beginning with an End in Mind *Sue Remfrey*

You have probably heard the saying, "Beginning with the end in mind", but how does it relate to coaching in an early childhood setting? Drop in for our conversation as we identify some "ends" and think together about how to support teachers on the path to the end you have in mind.

Razorback
East & West

How to Find Quality Early Childhood Educators and Keep Them

Amy Pinkston

Help, I can't find any employees and can't keep them from quitting! If this sounds like you, then you've come to the right place. Come learn tips and tricks on how to recruit early childhood educators and retain top employees. We will examine principles to recruit, interview, hire, and onboard new staff members along with key practices to implement that will help you retain your best staff members. We will discuss ways to stop the dreaded "turnover" in early childhood education by motivating, recognizing and rewarding your employees.

Blue Dog

Advocacy Track: Sponsored by the AECA Public Policy Committee

Moving Forward with Mind in the Making and 7 Essential Skills *Dr. Joanna Grymes*

Mind in the Making describes 7 essential skills every child (and adult) needs: focus and self-control, perspective taking, communicating, making connections, critical thinking, taking on challenges, and self directed/engaged learning. How do these 7 essential skills align with best practices, the CDELS, and positive guidance? How might you use Mind in the Making's perspective in your classroom and program and share these practices with colleagues and families?

Arkansas
Traveler

The Two-Step of Attunement including Baby Doll Circle Time *Carol Evans*

It takes two to create the dance of any relationship. Attunement is learning about your partner and moving together using serve and return experiences. This dance with very young children is building their templates for all their future relationships. Come experience Conscious Discipline's Baby Doll Circle Time and see how it can help you attune to your students individually and in a group.

Huntersville
1005

THURSDAY

8:00-9:30	Location
What's New with PAS-3? <i>Donna Kirkwood</i> The Program Administration Scale (PAS) has been updated. Better Beginnings applicants will transition to using the PAS-3 over the next year. Join us to learn about this new tool and the resources available to support Better Beginnings applicants.	DeCantillon 1004
10:00-11:30	Location
Keynote: Welcome - AECA President PJ Yarbrough Remarks from Arkansas Secretary of Education Jacob Oliva "Different Kinds of Smart" - Lisa Murphy Think you are good at your job because you love children? What about the ones that challenge you? Using these powerful questions as a framework, Lisa puts her own spin on Howard Gardner's classic theory. This session is a far cry from simply listing various personality characteristics, needs and preferences. By providing easy to implement, yet possibly challenging, "comfort zone stretchers," Lisa challenges teachers to make sure they are celebrating all of the children in the classroom, not just the ones they like.	Silver City I—IV
11:30-1:00	Location
Lunch Buffet from 11:30-1:00 The lunch buffet is \$12.95 plus tax.	Riverfront Steakhouse
Director's Luncheon: Sponsored by A-State Childhood Services Never Too Old to Play <i>Gaynell Jamison</i> We know about play in the early years but what are the benefits across the life span? Come and pick a card, roll the dice, and maybe even skip a turn as we negotiate and laugh and think together about the benefits of play. You are never too old to play! Pre-registration for Director's Luncheon was required.	Razorback East & West
Affiliate Representatives Box Lunch Meeting All affiliate presidents or officer representatives of each AECA Affiliate is invited to a box lunch session with Dee Cox, our Vice President of Membership, to discuss affiliate business and network with each other.	Huntersville 1005
1:00-2:30	Location
Fun Math Safari: Activities for Preschoolers as they Play in the Classroom <i>Kathleen Myers, David Bell, Jackie Paxton, and Dr. Timothy Leggett</i> Join us for the journey of discovery as we go on a Math Safari! The Practitioners attending this conference session will discover powerful ways to promote intellectual development through purposeful, math classroom activities. We will guide the practitioners as they help Preschoolers (Ages 3 to 5) explore and make connections with MATH and science in the classroom.	Silver City I
Literacy at Play <i>Dr. Deniece Honeycutt and Savanna Gragg</i> Looking for ways to add literacy to your classroom? This session will explore what it looks like to put literacy into play throughout your early childhood environment. Participants will explore literacy provocations, consider the ways play builds literacy skills, and develop a	Silver City II

THURSDAY

1:00-2:30		Location
What's New with Better Beginnings? <i>Donna Kirkwood, Kelli Hilburn, and Brenda Suarez</i> Join the Better Beginnings teams from the Office of Early Childhood and A-State Childhood Services to learn about the new Better Beginnings rules and requirements. We will also share lots of resources to help you through the process.		Silver City III
Cultivating a Fun and Positive Work Environment <i>Amy Eddy and Terri Teters</i> When determining your program's climate would you say there are sunny skies or thunderstorms developing? Join us as we collaborate and share team building strategies to assist you in developing the program climate and culture you strive for and wish to maintain.		Silver City IV
Leadership Track: Sponsored by A-State Childhood Services Leadership is NOT a Thing <i>Diana Courson</i> "I can't say what leadership is exactly but I know it when I see it." Different leadership styles and approaches have been described and theorized but are there some core elements that seem to inspire followers to follow? Let's find out!		Razorback East & West
Legos and Trains and Books, Oh My! How Play Supports Understanding of the World <i>Kellie Rine</i> This course is designed to provide childcare providers and early educators with information and hands-on activities to engage children in play that supports language growth for later literacy development. It will address strategies for children who have special needs, and autism, or are typically developing. Topics include encouraging interactions with toys, books, pretend play, and social skills in ways that help them understand the world around them in a way that supports reading comprehension as they grow.		Blue Dog
Advocacy Track: Sponsored by the AECA Public Policy Committee Lessons from "The Little Engine that Could" for Young and Old Alike <i>Geania Dickey and Friends</i> Join us to examine the lessons shared in Wattay Piper's 1930 classic "The Little Engine That Could" as well as other children's books published in recent years. We will discuss the importance of the message delivered by the little engine and determine its relevance in the present day. We will also consider our roles and responsibilities to share, and live, that message with the children and families we serve.		Arkansas Traveler
Six Critical Areas in Licensing <i>Kathleen Brown</i> Talk about the six critical areas in childcare licensing with time for questions at the end of the session.		Huntersville 1005
SPAN: Infant & Child Physical Activity <i>Jessica Moreland</i> This session focuses on the benefits of physical activity, different types of physical activity in the classroom, and practical ways to add more physical activity into your childcare program.		DeCantillon 1004
3:00-4:30		Location
Setting the Stage for Positive Reading Experiences <i>Angie Murrey and Lori Loggains</i> Helping preschoolers develop an enjoyable relationship with books is an important step toward literacy. An appropriate environment in which books are offered is vital. This session will explore ways to arrange and equip your book center as well as key elements needed for providing an effective read aloud.		Silver City I
Play and Explore Through Art <i>Hope Mason and Kathryn Linch</i> Learn how to encourage and inspire our children to let their creativity and imagination run free as they play and learn. We will also talk about the benefits of letting children experience hands-on learning by exploring the world around them during art time.		Silver City II

THURSDAY

3:00-4:30	Location
Leaning into Social Emotional Learning Teachable Moments <i>Savanna Gragg</i> If you have ever wondered, “How do I actually do that” after a training in social-emotional learning (SEL), this session is for you. Together we will define teachable moments, explore when and how to use your SEL knowledge, and practice using real-life classroom scenarios. This collaborative session will prepare you to mobilize your SEL knowledge to support the children you are currently working with.	Silver City III
Supporting Resilience and Mental Health through the Science of Play <i>Jennifer Bowman and Jenny Dura</i> What is the role of play in supporting resilience and mental health in infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and beyond? In this session, discover ways play builds new circuits in the brain, helps navigate everyday complex social interactions, problem solve, regulate, and identify emotions. Have fun exploring playful learning experiences that help minimize disruptive behaviors and facilitate brain development while helping children and adults develop resilience and cope with stress through playful interactions.	Silver City IV
Leadership Track: Sponsored by A-State Childhood Services Coaching is a Culture <i>Julie Yarberry</i> Coaching is not an extra thing to add to your plate, it is woven into every part of your day. A leader that focuses on connection, remains curious, is willing to learn from others, and sees staff as decision-makers can create a coaching culture within the program.	Razorback East & West
Every Interaction Counts: Improving Language Environments Equitably in Early Childhood Education <i>Ginger Galban</i> It is well established that educator-child interactions are essential for child care quality, with a large and growing body of research connecting early language environments with childhood outcomes. After analyzing daylong audio data from a sample of more than 24,000 children, the national nonprofit LENA has a clearer picture of adult-child interaction in home and early education settings than ever thought possible. This unprecedented database establishes the first-ever benchmarks across care settings, revealing a stark picture of inequity between and within classrooms and providing robust evidence for improving support for the early childhood workforce.	Blue Dog
Advocacy Track: Sponsored by the AECA Public Policy Committee Action Steps for Advancing EC Education in Arkansas. <i>Zephonia Avant, Cara Maxwell, and PPC Friends</i> Join us as we explore simple strategies, including storytelling to advance early childhood education in Arkansas. It may not be as hard as you think.	Arkansas Traveler
Reset, Refuel, Recharge <i>Susanna Creed</i> Are you feeling stressed and overwhelmed? When is the last time you truly recharged? Looking for ways to increase staff well-being and decrease burnout? This is a fun, interactive session where we will look at our current stress levels and identify small, manageable action steps to start improving our overall well-being right away!	Huntersville 1005
Leaders are Readers: Joining a Leadership Book Club to Improve Practice <i>Dr. Kathy Pillow-Price and Annie Zay</i> When a leader gets better, everyone gets better. That's why leadership book clubs can be vital to improving professional practice. This interactive session will overview how and why to start a leadership book club and outline how you can improve professional practice by learning from books and from other book club members fostering an environment of personal and professional development. Join us as we recommend leadership books and use inquisitive minds for robust leadership discussions!	DeCantillon 1004



Resource Connections

**Come see
us in the
exhibit hall!**

**Join. Discover.
Educate. Share.**

get connected. get support.

This **FREE** online hub provides early childhood providers and professionals with easy access to the best information sourced from across the state.

Get Started Now

STEP 1 Scan the QR Code or visit areceresources.org to register.

STEP 2 Check your email.

STEP 3 Complete your profile.

STEP 4 Explore over **2500** resources!



Family Child Care Providers are invited to attend

Family Child Care 2023 Recognition Dinner

Friday, October 13th at Silver City 1

5:30 to 7:30 PM

Pre-registration is required

Lunch for Family Child Care Providers

Saturday, October 14th

11:30 AM to 1 PM

Lunch buffet tickets provided by the Family Child Care Network

Contact Jackie Couture to RSVP for dinner or pickup your lunch ticket.

jcoutur@uark.edu | (479) 841-6404

**Early Care &
Education Projects**
FAMILY CHILD CARE NETWORK



FRIDAY

Leadership Track:
Sponsored by A-State Childhood Services
Location: Razorback East and West

The leader of the early learning program is the person who provides the program with a clear vision and motivates people to see it through. Administrators have learned that one of the most powerful leadership elements within their control is how they choose to engage in relationships. We invite you to join us as we think together about the importance and role of relationships between all staff and quality programming.

8:00 am—9:30 am

Relationship-Based Coaching

Kairi Elmore, Project Program Specialist

Mollie Menton-Ipsen, Project Specialist

1:00 pm—2:30 pm

Influencing Quality and Child Outcomes: What Leaders Do

Sue Remfrey, Leadership Development Coordinator

3:00 pm—4:30 pm

Coaching from the Start

Gaynell Jamison, Project Program Specialist

AAIMH Infant Mental Health Track:
Sponsored by Arkansas Association of Infant Mental Health
Location: Arkansas Traveler

8:00 am—9:30 am

Three Core Concepts in Early Brain Development

Tosha Smith, Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant - UAMS Project PLAY

1:00 pm—2:30 pm

Supporting Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health – Part 1

Teri Patrick, Research Program Manager, UAMS - RED


3:00 pm—4:30 pm

Supporting Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health – Part 2

Michelle Trulsrud, Online Content Manager, UAMS - RED

*To read descriptions of these sessions, please see the next few pages.

Friday, October 13, 2023

	Silver City I	Silver City II	Silver City III	Silver City IV	Razorback East and West
7:30-8:00					A-State Leadership Track
8:00-9:30	The Value of Play and Interactions for Infant Toddler Social Emotional Learning <i>Jenny Dura and Annie Zay</i>	Finding Joy in our Day - Observing Children as they Learn Through Play <i>Angie Franks and Dana Hightower</i>	Intro to Family Engagement: The Engage Continuum <i>Danielle Thomas</i>	The Stress-Buster Framework <i>Jessica Fox</i>	Relationship-based Coaching <i>Kairi Elmore and Mollie Menton-Ipsen</i>
9:30-10:00	Break (Complimentary snacks/drinks while supplies last)				
10:00-11:30	 <p style="text-align: center;">Welcome - PJ Yarbrough Remarks from SECA President Judy Whitesell Welcome from the Office of Early Childhood Director Tonya Williams Panel from ADE Office of Early Childhood</p>				
11:30-1:00	Lunch Break				<i>Lakeshore Learning Director's Luncheon</i>
1:00-2:30	Let Me Play, Don't Tell Me How to Play <i>Katayoun Zadeh</i>	REACH: Promoting Key Life Skills in the Classroom <i>Katie Kirkland</i>	You're Invited: Cultivating Supportive, Inclusive Environments in Classrooms <i>Tomekia Moore</i>	Playing with Child Assessment <i>Brooke Atkinson and Angie Franks</i>	Influencing Quality and Child Outcomes: What Leaders Do <i>Sue Remfrey</i>
2:30-3:00	Break (Complimentary snacks/drinks while supplies last)				
3:00-4:30	Let's Read: The Best New Children's Books on SEL, Diversity and More <i>Amy Vandament</i>	The Play Experience <i>Clarissa Wallace</i>	Move It: Yoga in the Classroom <i>Robbie Belew</i>	Sensory Processing & Play: Intentional Integration of Powerful Sensations Into Play Routines of Young Children <i>Karan Burnette</i>	Coaching from the Start <i>Gaynell Jamison</i>

Friday, October 13, 2023

Blue Dog	Arkansas Traveler	Huntersville 1005	DeCantillon 1004	Riverfront Steakhouse	Silver City V-VII
	AAIMH Track				Exhibits
Playing with Questioning and Questioning for Playing <i>Dr. Joanna Grymes and Michele Johnson</i>	Three Core Concepts in Early Brain Development <i>Tosha Smith</i>	Fathers are KEY to Family Engagement <i>Sarah Paul</i>	Supporting and Extending Children's Mathematical Learning Through Exploration and Dramatic Play <i>Brian Mowry</i>		Exhibits
Break (Complimentary snacks/drinks while supplies last)					
					Exhibits
Lunch Break			<i>T.E.A.C.H. Scholar Networking Lunch</i>	Lunch Buffet (Available to Purchase) Full Buffet \$12.95	Lunch Break
Circle Time and Small Group Success <i>Carol Crockett</i>	Supporting Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health – Part 1 <i>Teri Patrick</i>	Navigating Stress Using Your Personality Style <i>Mollie Menton-Ipsen and Julie Yarberry</i>	Professionalism in the Early Childhood Setting <i>Stacey Pipkins</i>		Exhibits
Break (Complimentary snacks/drinks while supplies last)					
Teaching Important Parenting Skills (TIPS) <i>Kim Drake and Sherri Jo Mclemore</i>	Supporting Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health – Part 2 <i>Michelle Trulsvud</i>	Supporting Military Families <i>Lauren Hall</i>	Using the TEACH Scholarship to Meet Your Staffing Needs <i>Kawai Mullen and Elizabeth Miller</i>		Exhibits

FRIDAY

8:00-9:30		Location
The Value of Play and Interactions for Infant Toddler Social-Emotional Learning <i>Jenny Dura and Annie Zay</i> Play is the vehicle for children to learn about themselves, others, and the world around them. This session will focus on the power of play and positive interactions on infants' and toddlers' social-emotional learning and development. How can educators provide experiences to help infants and toddlers gain skills to express themselves and cope with feelings and challenges? This engaging session will give you a fresh perspective on how play and positive interactions can help.		Silver City I
Finding Joy in Our Day - Observing Children As They Learn Through Play <i>Angie Franks and Dana Hightower</i> Discover the joy of observing children throughout the day. Joy can be chosen everyday and is contagious! We will share some tips and strategies on implementing best practices for accessing throughout the day. We want to help you create a meaningful record of your day as we look at daily schedules and transitions for both spontaneous and planned opportunities for observations as children are learning through play.		Silver City II
Intro to Family Engagement: The Engage Continuum <i>Danielle Thomas</i> This training is designed to give educators an understanding of family engagement and how it differentiates from family involvement. It also highlights the barriers that can sometimes prevent family engagement and give guidance on how to remove those barriers. Participants will also learn about a more intensive professional development series, called the Engage Continuum, and how they can involve their entire early childhood center in learning more about family engagement.		Silver City III
The Stress-Buster Framework <i>Jessica Fox</i> Stress is an inescapable element in our lives and, for too many providers, chronic. Unregulated stress impacts everything, affecting our health, mood, relationships, and even our students. With a simple framework of tips and techniques, you will learn to reduce your stress and design a personal stress-buster action plan you can use when you need it the most.		Silver City IV
Leadership Track: Sponsored by A-State Childhood Services Relationship-Based Coaching <i>Kairi Elmore and Mollie Menton-Ipsen</i> Relationship-based coaching is a powerful tool that is learner-driven with individualized support. Come and learn more about relationship-based coaching and how it can provide the support people need to learn, grow, and change.		Razorback East & West
Playing with Questioning and Questioning for Playing <i>Dr. Joanna Grymes and Michele Johnson</i> Have you questioned the questions you use in your classroom? Is there a time when questions might not be the way to go? Does context influence the kinds of questions you pose? Do the children in your classroom ask good questions? Do your questions enhance or inhibit play? Are you not sure of your answers to any of these questions? Let's spend some time pondering what good questioning can look like (sound like?) and what it can do for your children and for you.		Blue Dog
AAIMH Track: Sponsored by Arkansas Association of Infant Mental Health Three Core Concepts in Early Brain Development <i>Tosha Smith</i> Early Brain Development is important to know when working with children. In this session we will discuss three core concepts of brain development in collaboration with the Harvard Center on the Developing Child. These concepts are Building the Brain Architecture, and Toxic Stress.		Arkansas Traveler

FRIDAY

8:00-9:30		Location
Fathers are KEY to Family Engagement <i>Sarah Paul</i> In this session you will learn how your early childcare program can involve fathers in meaningful ways. We begin by acknowledging stereotypes that sometimes exist around fathers and their involvement in early education. This includes recognizing biases we have based on our own personal experiences. Participants will explore ways to break down barriers some fathers face and together we will explore how to equip fathers with the tools they need to be successful.		Huntersville 1005
Supporting and Extending Children's Mathematical Learning through Exploration and Dramatic Play <i>Brian Mowry</i> Play provides an authentic and engaging context for children to accomplish important cognitive and linguistic milestones at their own developmental pace. As children play, they also engage in mathematical standards, such as number and operations, algebraic thinking, measurement, and geometric and spatial reasoning. This session reviews empirical research and theory informed through a Vygotskian lens focusing on how children develop mathematical thinking through play. Participants will learn ways to scaffold and guide children in productive, self-selected exploratory and pretend play scenarios that integrate literature and games with mathematical knowledge and skills.		DeCantillon 1004
10:00-11:30		Location
Keynote: Welcome - PJ Yarbrough Remarks from SECA President Judy Whitesell Welcome from the Office of Early Childhood Director Tonya Williams Panel from ADE Office of Early Childhood Staff from the new Office of Early Childhood will be here to answer YOUR questions about how the new LEARNS Act will affect early childhood education in our state.		Silver City I—IV
11:30-1:00		Location
Director's Luncheon: Sponsored by Lakeshore Learning <i>Blake Stansbery</i> Lakeshore Learning wants to express its appreciation to directors for supporting our effort in Arkansas to equip programs with the best materials for young children. At the luncheon, Regional Manager Blake Stansbery will give directors a preview of the newest items and what is on the horizon. Pre-registration for Director's Luncheon was required.		Razorback East & West
Lunch Buffet from 11:30-1:00 The lunch buffet is \$12.95 plus tax.		Riverfront Steakhouse
T.E.A.C.H. Scholar Networking Lunch All those participating in the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® ARKANSAS scholarship program are invited to join us for lunch to mingle and connect with other scholars and the T.E.A.C.H. staff.		DeCantillon 1004



always low prices
always 110% guaranteed

Simon McIntyre
Account Manager
Phone: 203-395-2914
SMcIntyre@DiscountSchoolSupply.com



beautiful & innovative
classroom furniture

shop our
full line



FRIDAY

1:00-2:30	Location
Let Me Play, Don't Tell Me How to Play! <i>Katayoun Zadeh</i> This session provides an in-depth conversation and examples for improving the quality of interactive exchanges between the teacher and infant/toddler in the classroom setting.	Silver City I
REACH: Promoting Key Life Skills in the Classroom <i>Katie Kirkland</i> This session introduces the UAMS REACH program. In partnership with Curricula Concepts, REACH is being implemented in early childcare centers across Arkansas. We will discuss the Pyramid Model and its effectiveness in reducing challenging behaviors to lead to more school success. Participants will leave understanding the importance of fostering nurturing relationships with each child. Through training, coaching, and observation, the REACH program equips staff with strategies to promote key life skills in the classroom.	Silver City II
You're Invited: Cultivating Supportive, Inclusive Environments in Classrooms <i>Tomekia Moore</i> The session will target elements of inclusion, prompting educators to explore strategies to maximize opportunities to engage every child in the learning process - essentially, no child left behind regardless of salient identity.	Silver City III
Playing With Child Assessment <i>Brooke Atkinson and Angie Franks</i> There are so many ways to assess children in a play based classroom! Assessment can be playful and really helps us to know our children and what they need. Let's explore different ways to observe and document our students all throughout the day by playing with them, watching them play with others, and interacting with materials.	Silver City IV
Leadership Track: Sponsored by A-State Childhood Services Influencing Quality and Child Outcomes: What Leaders Do <i>Sue Remfrey</i> What do leaders do to influence quality and positive outcomes in early childhood programs? Some of the answers might surprise you! Join us as we dive in and explore who leaders are, what they bring to the table, and how they can support quality and child outcomes.	Razorback East & West
Circle Time and Small Group Success <i>Carol Crockett</i> Explore strategies to have engaging, connecting and joyful experiences during circle time and small group activities throughout the day.	Blue Dog
AAIMH Track: Sponsored by Arkansas Association of Infant Mental Health Supporting Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health – Part 1 <i>Teri Patrick</i> Mental health is just as important for babies and young children as for adults. Learn what helps and hurts children's mental health. Your work in the early childhood classroom can help set a child on a path towards optimal mental health!	Arkansas Traveler
Navigating Stress Using Your Personality Style <i>Mollie Menton-Ipsen and Julie Yarberry</i> Stress often results from a perceived values violation. Individuals with different personalities value different things. Participants will learn to anticipate and navigate stressful events by understanding personality styles and the core values that drive them.	Huntersville 1005
Professionalism in the Early Childhood Setting <i>Stacey Pipkins</i> Participants will discuss ways in which professionalism in the ECE setting can impact a program. (Sub topics include - communication, appearance, teaching strategies, teamwork, etc ...)	DeCantillon 1004

FRIDAY

3:00-4:30		Location
Let's Read: The Best New Children's Books on SEL, DEI and More! <i>Amy Vandament</i> The relationship between an adult, a young child and a good book creates a safe space and a bond, and it fuels a passion for learning and literacy. This presentation for all learning levels will review some of the best new picture books of the year, incorporating read-aloud techniques and strategies. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) titles will receive special emphasis. Other subjects (stories, STEAM, Basic Concepts) will be covered as well. The joy of reading is a fundamental part of the experience!		Silver City I
The Play Experience <i>Clarissa Wallace</i> Explore a variety of loose parts while thinking together on the value of learning through play.		Silver City II
Move It: Yoga in the Classroom <i>Robbie Belew</i> Move It! - Yoga teaches preschool educators about the benefits of yoga in the classroom, strategies for implementing yoga activities in the classroom and sharing with families, and how yoga activities align with the Arkansas Child Development and Early Learning Standards: Birth through 60 months.		Silver City III
Sensory Processing & Play: Intentional Integration of Powerful Sensations into Play Routines of Young Children <i>Karan Burnette</i> This session will identify the types of sensory input that have the most significant impact on neural processing and regulation for young children. Common sensory processing disorders will be discussed including the red flags for identification and ways these patterns are misread as behavioral symptoms. Sensory toys and materials will be available for participants to see and experience with suggestions provided for how to integrate them into play routines. Tips for using sensory materials/ input to help children regulate their emotions/behaviors will be discussed with multiple case examples provided.		Silver City IV
Leadership Track: Sponsored by A-State Childhood Services Coaching from the Start <i>Gaynell Jamison</i> Staffing challenges? Stop the revolving door by engaging in job coaching from the start. Onboarding is the perfect place to build relationships and introduce your program's coaching culture.		Razorback East & West
Teaching Important Parenting Skills (TIPS) <i>Kim Drake and Sherri Jo Mclemore</i> Teaching Important Parenting Skills (TIPS) is an exciting way of educating teachers and parents on a wide variety of early childhood topics. TIPS trained staff will have access to best-practice parenting information immediately at their fingertips via the TIPS website. This training emphasizes parent partnerships in the context of promoting positive child outcomes.		Blue Dog
AIMH Track: Sponsored by Arkansas Association of Infant Mental Health Supporting Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health – Part 2 <i>Michelle Trulsrud</i> Mental health is just as important for babies and young children as for adults. Learn how to support all children's mental health and steps to take when you are concerned about a particular child. Your early action can help a child for life!		Arkansas Traveler
Supporting Military Families <i>Lauren Hall</i> Come learn how to support military families and the unique challenges that they face.		Huntersville 1005
Using the TEACH Scholarship to Meet Your Staffing Needs <i>Kawai Mullen and Elizabeth Miller</i> In its fourth year of implementation, the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood scholarship now serves almost 400 teachers, directors and other staff who decided to return to school for their degree or certificate. During this period of incredible growth, T.E.A.C.H. has focused on creating individualized paths towards education goals for our recipients. We know our workforce is diverse and not everyone can take the same path to getting their education. That's why we have introduced many new scholarship models for our participants. Come and learn about the opportunities available to you and how T.E.A.C.H. can help design an individual plan for you to complete your education while keeping your full-time job.		DeCantillon 1004



Serving Clark, Dallas, Garland, Grant, Hot Spring, Howard, Jefferson, Montgomery, Perry, Pike, Polk, Saline and Sevier counties

- **Professional Development for Early Childhood Educators**

Pre-licensing, Family Engagement, HR for Directors, Safe Baby, Supervision, Curriculum & Lesson Plans, CDELS, Nutrition & Physical Activity, Professionalism, Emergency Preparedness, Pediatric First Aid & CPR, and Social Emotional/ Self Care Workshops

- **STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math)**

Annual Early Childhood STEAM Conference and workshops

- **CDA Gold Standard Professional Education**

120 clock hours of formal early childhood education, portfolio development, and preparation for assessment

- **Technical Assistance/ Advising**



Scan me!





**DOWNLOADING
OUR APP IS EASY**

- Visit the App Store or Google Play Store on your phone
- Search "Child Care Aware WCA"

CONNECT WITH US
@ChildCareAwareWCA

NP.EDU/CHILDCARE-AWARE

Contact us for more information:

childcare.aware@np.edu • 501.760.6588 • www.np.edu/childcare-aware



SATURDAY

Family Child Care Track:
Sponsored by the Family Child Care Network
Contact: Jackie Couture at jcoutur@uark.edu
Location: Arkansas Traveler

8:00 am—9:30 am
GuideNotes™: Songs for Teaching & Guiding
Kathryn Para

10:00 am—11:30 am
Brigance Early Childhood Screens III Developmental Screening Tool
Jackie Couture

*To read descriptions of these sessions, please see the next few pages.

Fun Fair:
Sponsored by Central Arkansas Early Childhood Association and Friends
Location: Silver City I—IV
1:00 pm—3:00 pm

This session will feature several hands-on activities for teachers to explore along with information about planning your own fun fair event for teachers and families.

The poster for the AECA Fun Fair features a blue background with yellow and pink accents. At the top left, there are colorful triangular flags. The AECA logo, which includes a stylized figure holding hands, is positioned above the text "arkansas early childhood association". The main title "AECA FUN FAIR" is prominently displayed in large, bold, white and yellow letters. Below the title, the text "Get ready for a hands-on play experience!" is written in white. To the right, a circular inset shows a map of Arkansas with the words "Learn to Play" and "Play to Learn" written around it. Further down, another circular inset shows several hands with colorful paint on them. The event details are listed in a white box: "SATURDAY OCTOBER 14" with a calendar icon, "OPEN 1-3PM" with a clock icon, "SILVER CITY BALLROOMS 1-4" with a location pin icon, and "Don't miss out on the fun!". At the bottom, a white box says "JOIN US AT OUR CONFERENCE!" and the website "arkansasearlychildhood.org" is listed with a globe icon.

arkansas early childhood association

AECA FUN FAIR

Get ready for a hands-on play experience!

SATURDAY OCTOBER 14 OPEN 1-3PM

SILVER CITY BALLROOMS 1-4

Don't miss out on the fun!

JOIN US AT OUR CONFERENCE!

arkansasearlychildhood.org

Saturday, October 14, 2023									
	Silver City I	Silver City II	Silver City III	Silver City IV	Razorback East and West	Blue Dog	Arkansas Traveler	Riverfront Steakhouse	Silver City V-VII
7:30-8:00							Family Child Care Track		Exhibits
8:00-9:30	"Sounds Like It Might Be Dry...but, Not When You Are Getting All Wet" <i>Alesa Lambert</i>	Sensory Play <i>Tina Nabors</i>		Building Language During Play <i>Marceinia Peoples</i>	Bridging Transitions <i>Dee Cox</i>	Plan B: Strategies to Get through the Difficult Days <i>Dana Cockrum</i>	GuideNotes™: Songs for Teaching & Guiding <i>Kathryn Para</i>		Exhibits
9:30-10:00	Break (Complimentary snacks/drinks while supplies last)								
10:00-11:30	From Mother Goose to Junie B. Jones: How to Make Storytime Fun <i>Mary Spears Polk</i>	Teasing Mr. Alligator! Finger Plays and Action Rhymes <i>Rhonda Witt</i>	Strategies for Supporting Dual Language Learners <i>Tanya Miller-Witsell and Brenda Reynolds</i>	Hands on Learning: Not Just for Montessori - A Make and Take Session <i>Samantha Gardner and Kelly Pruitt</i>	"I Love Being a Kid" said the Teacher! <i>Dee Cox</i>		Brigance Early Childhood Screens III Developmental Screening Tool <i>Jackie Couture</i>		Exhibits
11:30-1:00	Lunch Break								
1:00-3:00	Sponsored by Central Arkansas Early Childhood Association and Friends							Lunch Buffet (Available to Purchase) Full Buffet \$12.95	Exhibits

SATURDAY

8:00-9:30		Location
"Sounds Like It Might Be Dry...but, Not When You Are Getting All Wet" Recommended Practices Are Play! Alesa Lambert The Division for Early Childhood's Recommended Practices and the suite of tools by Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center guide family's support of young children who have or are at-risk for, developmental delays or disabilities across a variety of early childhood settings. "Sounds like it might be dry... not when you are getting wet!"		Silver City I
Sensory Play Tina Nabors Talk about the importance of sensory play. Ideas of sensory activities. Take home activity.		Silver City II
Building Language During Play Marceinia Peoples Using descriptive words and higher level questioning during conversation in play to develop vocabulary.		Silver City IV
Bridging Transitions Dee Cox Transitions are tough, especially for young children who may not fully understand what teachers expect of them or why they have to stop doing their game or activity. There are a number of things that can be implemented to make moving from one activity to another smoother and minimize disruptions and outbursts. This session will discuss various options, strategies, and activities that may enhance successful transitioning. Each participant will receive free materials to enhance classroom transitioning.		Razorback East & West
Plan B: Strategies to Get Through the Difficult Days Dana Cockrum Join us for a road trip as we travel from Plan A to Plan B. We'll make some important stops along the way that are going to make your days a lot smoother. We will learn how to navigate some of the bumps in the road and also how to handle those massive potholes. By the time we reach our destination you will have strategies to help you get through those difficult days.		Blue Dog
Family Child Care Track: Sponsored by the Family Child Care Network GuideNotes™: Songs for Teaching & Guiding Kathryn Para Song is a powerful tool to support transitions, daily rhythm, mindset, and identity while reaching diverse minds and creating group culture. Attendees will leave with original songs by Kathryn in their hearts, hands, and cell phones and know how and why to "Song Solving" to find original "Guide Notes" to help them through their day. Song Solving is Kathryn Para's method for identifying daily rhythm and finding songs to help with each "transition cycle".		Arkansas Traveler
10:00-11:30		Location
From Mother Goose to Junie B. Jones: How to Make Storytime Fun Mary Spears Polk We will discuss what engaging & developmentally appropriate storytelling can look like from infancy to early elementary. From songs & rhymes during the infant/toddler years to simple stories that preschoolers can actively engage with during the story, to ways to keep early elementary children interested in read alouds. This session will also focus on how your local public library can be a resource for materials for educators and family engagement. Participants will be encouraged to stand, move, & sing in addition to going home with resources and as many hands-on items as this presenter can pull together.		Silver City I

SATURDAY

10:00-11:30		Location
Teasing Mr. Alligator! Fingerplays and Action Rhymes <i>Rhonda Witt</i> Clap, tap, snap, wiggle, stomp and even jump! This training will be loads of fun and very interactive. Learn how to support executive function and transition times with some all-time favorites that have been enjoyed for generations.		Silver City II
Strategies for Supporting Dual Language Learners <i>Tanya Miller-Witsell and Brenda Reynolds</i> Arkansas residents share over 128 home languages! Which languages are represented in your program? Let's come together to discuss what has worked for you and to discover new strategies for welcoming and supporting Dual Language Learners and their families. We can help all children succeed!		Silver City III
Hands on learning: Not Just for Montessori - A Make and Take Session <i>Samantha Gardner and Kelly Pruitt</i> Montessori has been guiding children of all ages to explore with their hands to learn more about the world around them. Using real world tools children develop independence and autonomy over their learning, leading to an in-depth understanding of the work. This session will focus on how you can take a more hands on approach with your children developing their natural curiosity and grow their knowledge. Come prepared to learn and take back ready made lessons.		Silver City IV
"I Love Being A Kid," Said the Teacher! <i>Dee Cox</i> Early Childhood teachers must possess many traits to be a great teacher. Besides smiles, hugs, and adoration from your little fans, you can touch the future with the wisdom you impart and the great example you set. A teacher that loves being a kid requires patience, passion, and love of children. This session will focus on communication and creativity through a visual concept of being a kid in the early childhood classroom.		Razorback East & West
Family Child Care Track: Sponsored by the Family Child Care Network Brigance Early Childhood Screens III Developmental Screening Tool <i>Jackie Couture</i> Brigance Early Childhood Screens III are used to accurately screen skills that are critical predictors of school success, including physical development, language, academic/ cognitive, self-help, and social-emotional skills. Hearing and vision observation surveys are also included. The assessments are aligned with early learning standards for children from birth to age 6. Results are supported by reliability research and provide both norm and criterion-referenced outcomes. Licensed and Registered Homes will receive the Brigance Early Childhood Screens III kit to take back and implement in their program.		Arkansas Traveler
11:30-1:00		Location
Lunch Buffet from 11:30-1:00 The lunch buffet is \$12.95 plus tax.		Riverfront Steakhouse
1:00-3:00		Location
Fun Fair: Sponsored by Central Arkansas Early Childhood Association and Friends This session will feature several hands-on activities for teachers to explore along with information about planning your own fun fair event for teachers and families.		Silver City I-IV

2023 PRESENTER INDEX

Atkinson, Brooke broth@astate.edu	Hall, Lauren lauren.teachar@gmail.com	Paxton, Jackie jpaxton@atu.edu
Belew, Robbie robbie@curriculaconcepts.com	Hightower, Dana dhightower@astate.edu	Peoples, Marceinia marceinia.peoples@pinebluffschoos.org
Bell, David dbell@atu.edu	Hilburn, Kelli Kelli.Hilburn@dhs.arkansas.gov	Pillow-Price, Kathy kathyp@uark.edu
Bowman, Jennifer jbowman@uark.edu	Honeycutt, Deniece dhoneyc@uark.edu	Pinkston, Amy apinkston@wrpdd.org
Brewer, Danielle dbrewer@nea.k12.ar.us	Ipsen, Mollie mmentonipsen@astate.edu	Pipkins, Stacey staceyphillips@hotmail.com
Brown, Kathleen kathleen.brown@dhs.arkansas.gov	Jones, Robin robjones@uark.edu	Pruitt, Kelly Kelly@anhmontessori.com
Burnette, Karan kbburnet@uark.edu	Kirkland, Katie katie@curriculaconcepts.com	Reynolds, Brenda bkreynol@uark.edu
Cockrum, Dana danacockrum5@gmail.com	Kirkwood, Donna dkirkwood@astate.edu	Rich, Dani Drich@faulkner.edu
Cooper, Gregg gwcooper70@hotmail.com	Lambert, Alesa alesa.lambert@ade.arkansas.gov	Rine, Kellie krine@faulkner.edu
Cox, Dee dee.cox53@yahoo.com	Leggett, Timothy tleggett@atu.edu	Spears Polk, Mary mary@fcl.org
Creed, Susanna susanna@curriculaconcepts.com	Loggains, Lori lloggains@astate.edu	Suarez, Brenda Brenda.Suarez@dhs.arkansas.gov
Crockett, Carol Carolcrockett5@gmail.com	Mason, Hope hope.mason@np.edu	Teters, Terri tteters@astate.edu
Drake, Kim kddrake@uams.edu	Mclemore, Sherri Jo SJMcmemore@uams.edu	Thomas, Danielle dmthomas@uams.edu
Dura, Jenny jheyer@uark.edu	Miller-Witsell, Tanya tmillerw@uark.edu	Vandament, Amy amy@bookvine.com
Eddy, Amy aedly@astate.edu	Moore, Tomekia tmoore@acaaa.org	Wallace, Clarissa cwallace@astate.edu
Evans, Carol Carevans@astate.edu	Moore, Stacy stmoore@astate.edu	Witt, Rhonda wal.childcaretraining@gmail.com
Fox, Jessica jf055@uark.edu	Moreland, Jessica jessica@curriculaconcepts.com	Yarberry, Julie julie.yarberry@gmail.com
Franks, Angie afranks@astate.edu	Mowry, Brian bmowry@frogstreet.com	Zadeh, Katayoun khosseinzadeh@astate.edu
Galban, Ginger gingergalban@lena.org	Murrey, Angie amurrey@astate.edu	Zay, Annie zay@uark.edu
Gardner, Samantha Samantha@anhmontessori.com	Myers, Kathleen kmyers3@atu.edu	
Gragg, Savanna slgragg@uark.edu	Nabors, Tina tinanabors@yahoo.com	
Grymes, Joanna grymesj@astate.edu	Paul, Sarah sarah@curriculaconcepts.com	

AECA

Past Presidents

2022-Current Shaneil "PJ" Yarbrough El Dorado	2008-2009 Barbara Gilkey Little Rock	1996-1997 Joanna Grymes Jonesboro	1985-1986 Sue Martin Fayetteville	1974-1975 Lloyd Schuh Fort Smith
2020-2021 Gregg Cooper Walnut Ridge	2007-2008 Traci Johnston Conway	1995-1996 Jacqualine Dedman Little Rock	1984-1985 Beverly Boals Gilbert Jonesboro	1973-1974 Mildred Vance (deceased)
2018-2019 Debbie Mays Siloam Springs	2006-2007 Vicky Shelby Paragould	1994-1995 Diana Cunningham Harrison	1983-1984 C. Morell Jones Monticello	1972-1973 James T. Wright Arkadelphia
2017-2018 Dawn Jeffrey Southside	2005-2006 Janet Perkins Bentonville	1993-1994 Diane Lawler Jonesboro	1982-1983 Linda Reasoner Pottsville	1971-1972 Jo Ann Braddy Williams Russellville
2016-2017 Elizabeth Scudder Alma	2003-2005 Trude Puckett Little Rock	1992-1993 Wanda Mullino Marrero, Louisiana	1981-1982 Michele Malham French Cabot	1970-1971 Virginia Manor Little Rock
2015-2016 Janice Carter Jonesboro	2002-2003 Diana Courson Magnolia	1991-1992 Sharen Crockett Searcy	1980-1981 Marietta Jerome Blytheville	1969-1970 Floy Lafferty (deceased)
2014-2015 Jamie Morrison Ward Greenbrier	2001-2002 Vicki Stearns Jonesboro	1990-1991 Carolyn Bowers Jonesboro	1979-1980 JoAnn Nalley Jonesboro	1968-1969 Gay Gattis (deceased)
2013-2014 Elaine Davis (deceased)	2000-2001 Vicky Shelby Paragould	1989-1990 Carol Snelson Little Rock	1978-1979 Judy Franks Doeblor Tulsa, Oklahoma	1967-1968 Betty Pagan (deceased)
2012-2013 Deniece Honeycutt Fayetteville	1999-2000 Clara Caroll Searcy	1988-1989 Kathy Stegall Little Rock	1977-1978 Eva Lee Graves Blytheville	1966-1967 Genevieve Kelly Little Rock
2010-2012 Robin Jones Fayetteville	1998-1999 Nonnie Vance Lowell	1987-1988 Nancy Bacot (deceased)	1976-1977 Dot Brown Hot Springs	1964-1966 Virginia Wilmoth Arkadelphia
2010 Tina Ross Little Rock	1997-1998 Sue Ann Walker Searcy	1986-1987 Dot Beck Searcy	1975-1976 Ruth Steinsiek Jonesboro	1963-1964 Sue Adams Conway

Special Thanks to Dot Brown and Early Childhood Services, Inc. for sponsoring this year's Diamonds Lunch.

GET INVOLVED!

Join your local AECA Affiliate and enjoy all of the benefits of being a member of a professional organization! For more information visit: <http://www.arkansasearlychildhood.org> and click on "Membership".

Arkansas Family Child Care Association (AFCCA)

Statewide

Contact: Carol Crockett

carolcrockett5@gmail.com

Early Childhood Association of Central Arkansas (ECA-CA)

Little Rock Area

Contact: Julie Yarberry

jyarberry@astate.edu

Hot Springs Early Childhood Association (HS-ECA)

Hot Springs/West Central Arkansas

Contact: Kathryn Linch

kathryn.linch@np.edu

Northwest Arkansas Early Childhood Association (NWAECA)

Benton County/Washington County

Contact: Rebecca Dunahoo

nwaeca@gmail.com

Pine Bluff Early Childhood Association (PBECA)

Pine Bluff and Surrounding Counties

Contact: Jacqueline Riley

jacqueline.riley@np.edu

River Valley Early Childhood Association (RV-ECA)

Sebastian, Crawford, Scott, Johnson, Franklin Counties

Contact: Ashley Napurano

anapurano17@gmail.com

Southeast Arkansas Early Childhood Association (SEAECA)

Southeast Arkansas Counties

Contact: Elaine Hargraves

hargraves@uamont.edu

Acknowledgements

2023 Sponsors

A special “thank you” from the members of the Arkansas Early Childhood Association goes to the sponsors who have made the 61st Annual AECA Conference a success:

Diamond Sponsor



Ruby Sponsor



Sapphire Sponsor



Pearl Sponsor

EARLY CHILDHOOD
SERVICES, INC.



Arkansas Early Childhood Association

Certificate of Attendance

61st Annual AECA Conference

October 11-14, 2023

Little Rock, AR

____ Hours Attended



Shaneil "PJ" Yarbrough

Shaneil "PJ" Yarbrough, AECA President

Early Care & Education Projects

**FREE
PDR
Credit!**



SCAN HERE TO:

- Get detailed course descriptions
- Register for courses
- See a current list of online courses
- Access helpful links



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

College of Education
& Health Professions

Our Mission

We educate, connect, and equip early childhood professionals.

Our Vision

Enhancing the quality of care and education for young children throughout Arkansas.

We **EDUCATE** early childhood professionals via high-quality, easily accessible courses.

We **CONNECT** early childhood professionals to each other and experts in the field.

We **EQUIP** early childhood **PROFESSIONALS** through coaching and resources to put learning into practice.

CONNECT WITH US  @ecepinfo  @UA_ECEP

1641 W 15th Street, Suite 11 • Fayetteville, AR 72701 • (800) 632-8754 • ecep.uark.edu

Helping YOU Grow

**Because You Help
Children Grow**



Childhood Services

**More than 40 Years
of Excellence**

Workshops and classes
Mentoring and coaching
Leadership development
Technical assistance
And more!

*Partnering with you
every inch of the way!*

(888) 429-1585
chs@astate.edu

