



# THE CONFERENCE THAT TAKES YOU TO NEW HEIGHTS



**ECE PILOT OFFICIAL GUIDE**

**WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND**

**MAY 7<sup>TH</sup> - 10<sup>TH</sup> 2026**

# WELCOME TO THE CONFERENCE THAT TAKES YOU TO NEW HEIGHTS!

We are so excited to officially welcome you to the Early Education Empowerment Conference, where over the next three days we'll be taking off, leveling up, and charting a bold course for the future of early childhood education.

Over the next few days, you can expect powerful keynote sessions, inspiring workshops, meaningful conversations, and real take-home strategies you can use immediately in your programs. From leadership and advocacy to team culture, retention, business growth, and innovation—you'll hear from incredible speakers, connect with passionate educators from all over the country, and be reminded why the work you do truly matters.

This conference is designed to refuel your passion, strengthen your leadership, and surround you with a community that gets it. Whether this is your first time or you're flying with us again, we hope you lean in, ask questions, make connections, and fully enjoy the experience.

Thank you for being part of something truly special. Now buckle up because this is going to be an amazing ride.

With altitude and excitement,

XOXO  
Erica and Chris

# ABOUT YOUR CAPTAINS



**Christine Alexander** brings nearly three decades of hands-on expertise in school-age and youth programs. As a multi-site owner, designer, and visionary event planner, Christine knows how to craft meaningful experiences that inspire educators, build community, and leave a lasting impression. She has a unique ability to identify opportunities for growth and implement systems that create sustainable success across multiple sites. Christine's passion for mentorship and leadership development empowers staff to reach their full potential while elevating program quality. Her innovative approach ensures that every program she touches is engaging, impactful, and aligned with best practices in early childhood and after-school education.



**Erica Saccoccio**, the co-owner of Family Tree Child Care, three thriving childcare centers, each with its own dedicated team, this powerhouse leader manages a large-scale operation known for excellence in early education and impactful leadership. She's also the dynamic host of the Childcare Director's Chair Podcast, where she shares invaluable insights and expert guidance with directors nationwide. A sought-after keynote speaker, she energizes audiences with workshops and professional development sessions designed to inspire and empower teachers and leaders at every level. With unparalleled energy and expertise, Erica guides childcare professionals toward success at every level!

# WHY IS THIS CONFERENCE CLEARED FOR TAKEOFF?

## **BUILT BY REAL ECE LEADERS, FOR REAL ECE LEADERS**

This conference is created by people who actively run programs, lead teams, and navigate the same challenges you do every single day. Nothing is theoretical—everything shared is practical, relevant, and grounded in real-life experience.

## **ACTIONABLE CONTENT YOU CAN USE IMMEDIATELY**

Every session is designed with implementation in mind, not just inspiration. Attendees leave with tools, strategies, and conversations they can bring straight back to their programs on Monday morning.

## **A COMMUNITY THAT ACTUALLY GETS IT**

This isn't a room full of strangers—it's a network of educators, directors, owners, and leaders who understand the pressures and passion of this field. The connections made here last long after the conference ends.

## **ELEVATING ECE AS THE PROFESSIONAL INDUSTRY IT IS**

The Early Education Empowerment Conference unapologetically raises the bar for how early childhood education is viewed, valued, and supported. This is about leadership, advocacy, and treating ECE like the essential, professional industry it truly is.

# YOUR IN-FLIGHT EXPERIENCE AT EEEEC

- 1. Meaningful Connections with Fellow Educators**

Build relationships with leaders, directors, and teachers from across the country who understand the challenges—and triumphs—of early childhood education. Share experiences, swap ideas, and expand your professional circle.
- 2. 8–21 Hours of CELP-Approved PD**

Earn valuable continuing education hours while learning practical strategies you can apply immediately in your programs. This is professional growth cleared for takeoff!
- 3. Fun and Stress Relief**

Step away from the day-to-day pressures of the trade and recharge your energy. Engaging sessions, interactive activities, and a lively atmosphere will help you land feeling inspired and refreshed.
- 4. Networking with Business-Boosting Companies**

Connect with vendors and companies that provide tools, products, and resources to help grow your business, strengthen your core values, and elevate your program to new heights.
- 5. Recognition for Your Hard Work**

Celebrate your dedication at our awards ceremony, acknowledging the passion, perseverance, and impact you bring to the early childhood field. Take a bow—you've earned it!



# EARLY EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE – THURSDAY, MAY 7<sup>TH</sup>

7:45am

VIP Entry

8:00-8:30am

Registration

8:30-9:00am

Welcome/ Erica Saccoccio

9:00-10:00am

Joe Pinsonneault

10:00-11:00am

Dr Jamine Lewis

11:00-11:15am Break

11:15am-12:15pm

Mark Davilus

12:15-2:00pm Lunch  
Networking/ Keynote

Kate Woodward Young  
& Carrie Rogers

2:00-2:15pm Break

2:15-3:15pm

Dr Cheryl Hovey

3:15-4:15pm

David Encarnacion

4:15-4:30

Break

4:30-5:00pm

Q&A Panel

## LEADERSHIP MASTERMIND – TIVERTON

**8:30-9:00 AM WELCOME GUESTS & Erica Saccoccio**

**SESSION I**

**9:00-10:00AM**

Charting Your Course: Strategic Planning for a Stronger Tomorrow

**Joe Pinsonneault**

**SESSION II**

**10:00-11:00AM**

Staying in the Pilot's Seat

**Dr. Jamie Lewis**

**11:00-11:15**

**BREAK**

**SESSION III**

**11:15-12:15**

Flying Your Childcare Enrollments to New Heights

**Mark Davilus**

**12:15-2:00PM**

**LUNCH & NETWORKING**

**KEYNOTES: Kate Woodward Young and Carrie Casey**

**2:00-2:30 PM**

**Family Lunch Sponsors & Break**

**SESSION IV**

**2:45-3:45PM**

Fill Your Cup: Protect Your Peace, Find Your Joy

**Dr. Cheryl Hovey**

**SESSION V**

**3:45-4:45PM**

Flying in the Green: Navigating Profit, Overhead, and Smart Tax Strategies

**David Encarnacion**

**4:45-5:00 Wrap Up**



# EARLY EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE – FRIDAY, MAY 8<sup>TH</sup>

**7:30am**

VIP Entrance

**8:00-8:30am**

Registration

**8:30-9:00am**

Welcome Erica Saccoccio

**9:00-10:00am**

Holly Elisa Bruno

**10:00-11:00am**

Noelle D'Intino & Isa Price

**11:00-11:15am** Break

**11:15am-12:15pm**

Erica Saccoccio

**12:15-2:00pm** Lunch

**Networking/ Keynote**

Reshaun Webb

**2:00-2:15pm** Break

**2:15-3:15pm**

Holly Bruno & Dr. Cheryl Hovey

**3:15-4:15pm**

Dr Kenna Rush Mosley

**4:15-5:15pm**

Bryanne Adler

## LEADERSHIP MASTERMIND – TIVERTON

**8:30-9:00AM WELCOME GUESTS & Erica Saccoccio**

**SESSION I  
9:00-10:00AM**

Navigating Power Dynamics in an All-Female Flight Deck  
**Holly Bruno**

**SESSION II  
10:00-11:00AM**

Take Back Your Day: Control Tower Systems for Directors  
**Noelle D'Intino**

**11:00-11:15**

**BREAK**

**SESSION III  
11:15-12:15**

Shelley Rouser and Dr. Danna Orisamolade  
**Delaware State University**

**12:15-2:00PM**

**LUNCH & NETWORKING**  
**Keynote: Reshaun Webb**

**2:00-2:15PM**

**BREAK**

**SESSION IV  
2:15-3:15PM**

Emotionally Intelligent Early Childhood Administration  
**Dr. Cheryl Hovey and Holly Bruno**

**SESSION V  
3:15-4:15PM**

The Captain's Flight Plan: Establishing and Elevating Your Leadership Presence  
**Dr. Keena Rush Mosley**

**SESSION VI  
4:15-5:15PM**

Creating a Positive School Culture  
**Bryanne Adler**



# EARLY EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE – SATURDAY, MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>

**SKY LOUNGE**

**FLIGHT LAB**

**THE MAVERICK**

7:30-8:00am VIP Entry

8:00-9:00am Registration

8:45-9:30am Keynotes Dr  
Kimberly & Coach Stacy B

9:30-9:40am Break

9:40-10:40am Session I

10:40-10:50am Break

10:50-11:50am Session II

11:50-1:40pm Lunch/  
Networking/ Vendors

1:40-2:40pm Session III

2:40-2:50pm Break

2:50-3:50 Session IV

3:50-4:00pm Break

4:00-5:00pm Session V

7:00-9:30pm Altitude Award  
Ceremony

**7:30-8:45am Registration and Vist Vendors**

**8:45-9:30 Welcoming Keynotes Kimberly Krzanowski  
and Coach Stacey B.**

**SESSION I  
9:40-10:40am**

**From the Classroom to  
the Command Center**  
Dr. Keena Rush Mosley

**Kidversation**  
Jeremy Sturdivant

**Delaware State  
University**

**SESSION II  
10:50-11:50am**

**Harmony in The  
Classroom**  
Brenda Limialdi

**Behavior Brainstorm**  
Noelle D'Intino &  
Isa Price

**Wellness Advocacy  
& Resilience**  
Annette Eberhart

**11:50-1:40pm**

**LUNCH & NETWORKING  
VENDOR FAIR**

**SESSION III  
1:40-2:40pm**

**Pecha Kucha**  
*Various*

**Different Lens**  
Shannon Estrin

**C is for  
Collaboration**  
Raeyna Woodside

**SESSION IV  
2:50-3:50pm**

**Co-Pilots for  
Success!**  
Kate & Carrie

**Designing an  
Eclectic Curriculum!**  
Dr. Susan Zoll

**Caring for the  
Caregiver**  
Ruth Baugh

**SESSION V  
4:00-5:00pm**

**Pecha Kucha**  
*Various*

**Flight Plan for  
Positive Behavior**  
Yolanda Richey

**Ignite the Spark**  
Jonathan Breindial  
*Jolting Jonathan*



# EARLY EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE – SATURDAY, MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>

## THE JETSETTER

## CONTROL TOWER

7:30-8:00am VIP Entry

8:00-8:45 Registration

9:00-9:30am Keynotes Dr  
Kimberly & Coach Stacy B

9:30-9:40am Break

9:40-10:40am Session I

10:40-10:50am Break

10:50-11:50am Session II

11:50-1:40pm Lunch/  
Networking/ Vendors

1:40-2:40pm Session III

2:40-2:50pm Break

2:50-3:50 Session IV

3:50-4:00pm Break

4:00-5:00pm Session V

7:00-9:30pm Altitude Award  
Ceremony

**7:30am-8:45 am Registration and Visit Vendors**

**8:45-9:30 Welcoming Keynotes Kimberly Krzanowski and Coach  
Stacey B.**

**SESSION I  
9:40-10:40AM**

**The Power of  
Connections**  
Carla Ward

**The Magic Bag**  
Dr. Nichole Rich-Byrne

**SESSION II  
10:50-  
11:50am**

**Child Care, Federal Funding,  
Policy & Advocacy**  
Jerletha McDonald

**Clear Skies, Clear Vision**  
ReShaun Webb

**11:50-1:40pm**

**LUNCH & NETWORKING AND VENDOR FAIR**

**SESSION III  
1:40-2:40pm**

**From Coos to  
Conversations**  
Tracy Cheney

**Tiny Humans, Big Feelings**  
Dr. Mahri Wrightington

**SESSION IV  
2:50-3:50pm**

**Show Up, Not Out**  
Coach Stacey B.

**Soaring to New Heights**  
Tangee Peek

**SESSION V  
4:00-5:00pm**

**Keep Your Teeth on Your  
Own Body**  
Tracy Cheney

**Hidden Literacy**  
Laura Shea & Ade  
Hofman



# Conference Lineup

**Infant & Toddler**

**Pre-K &  
School Age**

**Leadership**

**Opening Keynote – Kimberly Krzanowski, Ed.D and Coach Stacey B.**

**Harmony in The Classroom**

Brenda Limialdi

**Designing YES Spaces**  
Carla Ward

**Kidversations**  
Mr. Jay

**From the Classroom to the Command Center:  
How to Elevate Your Career as a Future Leader**  
Dr. Keena Mosley

**Keep Your Teeth on Your Own Body**  
Tracy Cheney

**Magic Bag**  
Dr. Nichole Riche-Byrne

**Behavior Brainstorm**  
Noelle D'Intino & Isa Price

**Clear Skies, Clear Vision- How leaders Set the Course for their Organization**  
Reshaun Webb, M.Ed.

**Wellness and Resilience for Educators – Annette Eberhart**

**Tiny Humans Big Feelings**  
Mahri Wrighton

**Flight Plan for the Positive Behavior Guidance**  
Yolanda Richey

**Childcare Federal Funding Policy & Advocacy**  
Jerletha McDonald

**Pecha Kucha** Speakers: Renee Carbone Fleming, Jamie Wagler, Adva Hanan, Susie Beghin, Falasha Campbell

**C is for Collaboration** – Coach Rae

**Seeing the World Through a Different Lens** – Shannon Estrin



# Conference Lineup

## Infant & Toddler

## Pre-K & School Age

## Leadership

**From Coos to Conversations:  
Growing Language  
and Literacy Through  
Responsive  
Caregiving**  
Tracy Cheney

**Caring for the  
Caregiver**  
Ruth Baugh

**Co-Pilots for  
Success!**

Katie Woodward  
Young & Carrie  
Casey

**Show Up, Not Out**  
Coach Stacey B.

**Soaring to New Heights in  
ECE education: A data driven  
approach to small group  
instruction**  
Tangee Peak

**Designing an  
Eclectic**

**Curriculum**  
Dr. Susan Zoll

**Ignite The Spark**  
Jonathan Breindial  
*Jolting Jonathan Mad  
Science*

**Discovering the Unexpected  
Paths to Reading and Writing**  
Laura Shea & Ade Hofman

**Pecha Kucha** Speakers: Cynthia Gallagher, Patrick Singler, Paul Buckley, Susan Racette, and Ken Thompson

# DAY 1

THURSDAY, MAY 7<sup>TH</sup>



## WELCOME TO EEEC, TAKING YOU TO NEW HEIGHTS



## THURSDAY, MAY 7<sup>TH</sup> 2026

**7:45am** VIP Entry

**8:00-8:30am** Registration

**8:30-9:00am** Welcome/ Erica Saccoccio

**9:00-10:00am** Joe Pinsonneault

**10:00-11:00am** Dr Jamie Lewis

**11:00-11:15am** Break

**11:15am-12:15pm** Mark Davilus

**12:15-2:00pm** Lunch- Networking  
Keynotes Kate Woodward Young  
and Carrie Casey

**2:00-2:30 pm** Family Lunch Sponsor

**2:30-2:45** Break

**2:45-3:45pm** Dr Cheryl Hovey

**3:45-4:45pm** David Encarnacion

**4:45-5:00** Wrap Up

**7:00-9:00pm** Trailblazer VIP Dinner



# TRAILBLAZER

*VIP Dinner*



THURSDAY, MAY 7<sup>TH</sup> 7-9PM

An exclusive evening reserved for our ECE Trailblazers—leaders charting the course for the future of early education.

**Join the Trailblazer Program today  
for cleared access to this VIP  
experience.**



# DAY 2

FRIDAY, MAY 8<sup>TH</sup>



**FEATURING  
RESHAUN WEBB  
& ERICA  
SACCOCCIO**



**FRIDAY, MAY 8<sup>TH</sup> 2026**

**7:45am** VIP Entrance

**8:00-8:30am** Registration

**8:30-9:00am** Welcome Erica Saccoccio

**9:00-10:00am** Holly Elisa Bruno

**10:00-11:00am** Noelle DIntino

**11:00-11:15am** Break

**11:15am-12:15pm** Shelley Rouser and Dr. Danna Orisamolade with Delaware State University  
Lunch Sponsors

**12:15-2:00pm** **Lunch - Networking**  
**Keynote Reshaun Webb**

**2:00-2:15pm** Break

**2:15-3:15pm** Holly Elisa Bruno & Dr Cheryl Hovey

**3:15-4:15pm** Dr. Kenna Rush Mosley

**4:15-5:15pm** Bryanne Adler

*Dinner on your own*

**Paint & Pour Party (Tickets available online)**



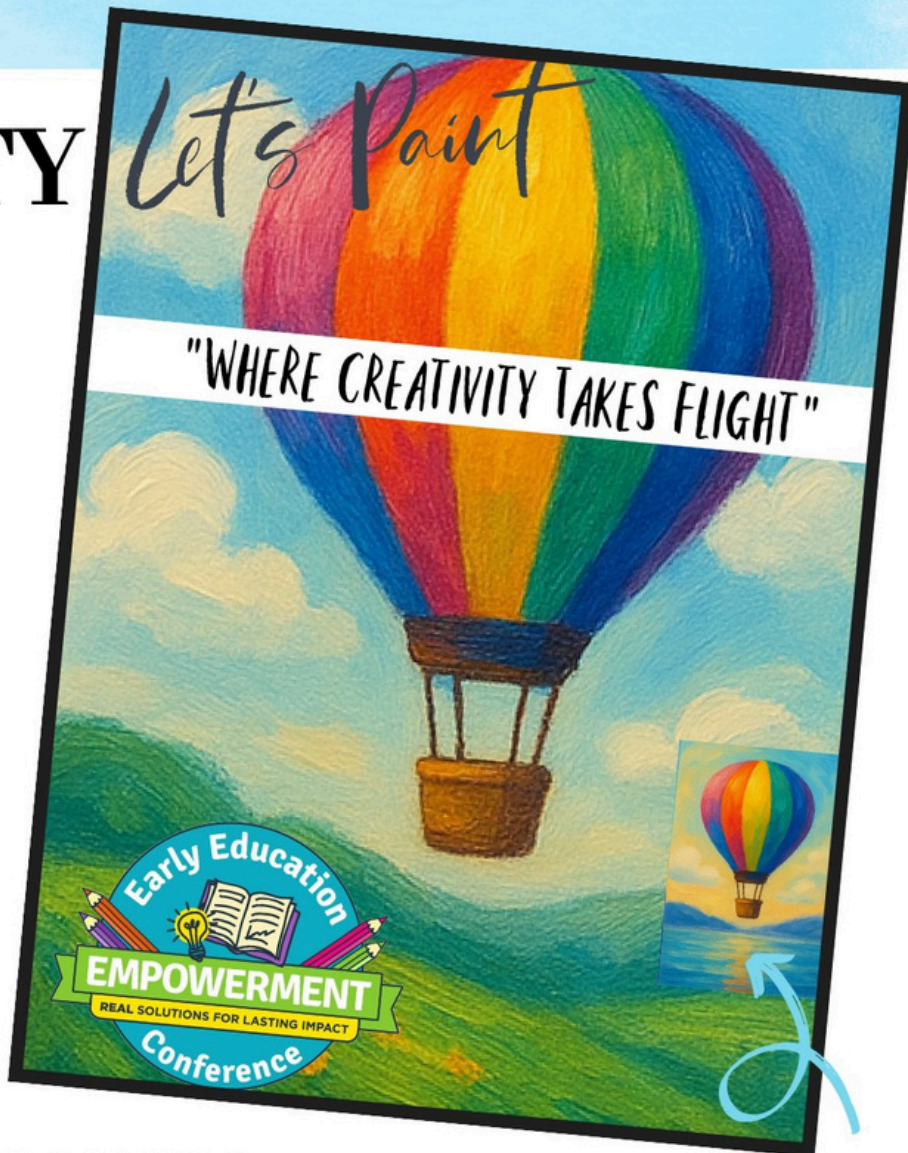
Where Creativity Takes Flight

# PAINT PARTY

FRIDAY  
MAY  
8



7:00 pm  
to  
9:00 pm



## LOCATION

Crowne Plaza -  
801 Greenwich Ave Warwick, RI 02886

or This

REGISTER  
NOW



HOST: Christine Ball  
Paint Parties and More by Chris  
401 572-1097

[www.Paintpartiesandmorebychris.com](http://www.Paintpartiesandmorebychris.com)

Registration Link



# DAY 3

SATURDAY, MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>



FEATURING  
KIMBERLY  
KRZANOWSKI &  
COACH STACEY B.



**SATURDAY, MAY 9<sup>TH</sup> 2026**

**7:30-8:00am** VIP Entry

**8:00-8:45am** Registration

**8:45-9:30am** **Keynotes Dr Kimberly & Coach Stacey B**

**9:30-9:40** Break

**9:40-10:40am** Session I

**10:40-10:50am** Break

**10:50-11:50am** Session II

**11:50-1:40pm** **Lunch - Networking Vendors**

**1:40-2:40pm** Session III  
**Pecha Kucha**

**2:40-2:50pm** Break

**2:50-3:50pm** Session IV

**3:50-4:00pm** Break

**4:00-5:00pm** Session V  
**Mad Scientist Jolting Jonathan Pecha Kucha**

**7:00-9:30pm** *Altitude Awards*  
VIP ECE Best of the Best Awards  
Event





# ALTITUDE AWARDS

*Honoring those charting the course for early education.*



**CROWNE PLAZA  
WARWICK, RI**

**MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>  
7:00-9:30PM**



# BONUS DAY 4

SUNDAY, MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>



## RAFFA YOGA & URBAN SWEAT SPA

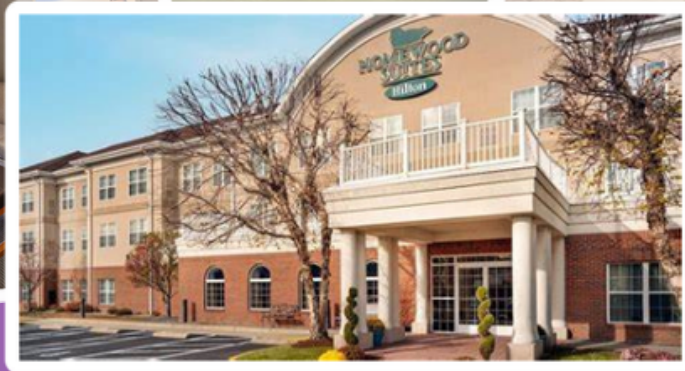


# 2026 LOCATION & LODGING

**CROWNE PLAZA 801 GREENWICH  
AVE, WARWICK, RI 02886**



**Hyatt Place**



**Homewood Suites By Hilton**



**Radisson Hotel**

**PRICES AS LOW AS \$209 PER NIGHT.  
SHUTTLES AND CONTINENTAL  
BREAKFAST VARY BY LOCATION.**

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## **Leading From the Inside Out: Mindset, Energy, and Impact**

Before diving into strategy and operations, this session helps you reset and step into leadership with clarity and intention. Through guided reflection and interactive exercises, you'll explore how your mindset shapes decisions, team culture, and overall success. You'll leave energized, focused, and ready to fully engage in the day's practical sessions.



## **Co-host & Opening Keynote Speaker Erica Saccoccio**

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Erica Saccoccio is a seasoned early childhood education leader, multi-site childcare owner, advocate, speaker, and author with more than 25 years of experience in the field. As the founder and CEO of a network of high-quality childcare centers in Rhode Island, she champions leadership, positive workplace culture, and community engagement as the cornerstones of sustainable early childhood programs. Erica is a trusted coach and keynote speaker, known for her candid, real-world insights that help directors and educators lead with confidence, strengthen relationships, and elevate their programs. She is the host of The Childcare Director's Chair podcast, a presenter at state and national events, and co-author of Women Excelling Everywhere. Erica's approach blends practical solutions with heart, inspiring others to build strong teams, serve families with excellence, and make a lasting impact in early childhood education.



# Keynote

## Katie Woodward Young & Carrie Rogers



### **HR STRATEGIES TO BUILD A HIGH-FLYING TEAM**

Every strong childcare program depends on a skilled, committed team. In this workshop, administrators will explore HR strategies that ensure smooth hiring, effective onboarding, and staff retention that keeps your team flying high. Learn how to design clear job roles, streamline recruitment, and implement policies that support professional growth. Leave with actionable tools to strengthen your HR systems and keep your staff motivated, engaged, and ready to reach new heights.

### **Day 1 Lunch Keynotes Kate Woodward Young & Carrie Casey**

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Kate and Carrie deliver dynamic, engaging, and insightful presentations that inspire leaders to tackle challenges with confidence and humor. Through relatable strategies and practical tools, we empower educators and business owners to streamline tasks, embrace resilience, and achieve success without sacrificing joy or authenticity.



# Keynote

## ReShaun Webb



### **Leading Culture with Clarity, Confidence & Care**

A thriving childcare center runs like a well-coordinated flight crew, grounded in clear communication, trust, and support. This session teaches directors how to build a “crew lounge” culture where staff feel valued, aligned, and motivated. You’ll gain practical tools to strengthen communication, boost morale, and lead with clarity and warmth.

### **Day 2 Lunch Keynote ReShaun Webb**

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ReShaun Webb is a dedicated Early Childhood Educator, coach, and speaker with a passion for empowering teachers, parents, and childcare providers. With a Master’s degree in Early Childhood and Adult Education, ReShaun has made significant contributions as an Early Childhood coach, business owner, and award-winning educator.

ReShaun’s commitment to elevating the field of early childhood education has impacted professionals nationwide, helping them create enriching learning environments that foster the growth and development of every child.



# Keynote

**Kimberly Krzanowski, Ed.D**



## **WHEELS UP! Launching Early Childhood Leaders from Takeoff to Touchdown**

Take flight in this inspiring keynote as we explore how to cultivate leadership in early childhood education. From takeoff to touchdown, discover practical strategies, actionable insights, and leadership lessons that empower teachers to guide young learners, ignite curiosity, and build the next generation of confident, capable leaders.

## **Day 3 Keynote Speaker Kimberly Krzanowski, Ed.D**

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Dr. Kimberly Krzanowski brings over 20 years of experience in early learning as a former teacher, center administrator, and higher-education leader. She is the Executive Director of the Early Childhood Innovation Center at Delaware State University, where she leads statewide scholarships, career development, and workforce support initiatives. Previously, she served as Executive Director of the Office of Early Learning at the Delaware Department of Education, overseeing Delaware's QRIS, professional development system, compensation policies, and innovative funding strategies. Dr. Krzanowski holds degrees from the University of Delaware and Wilmington University, including a doctorate in Educational Leadership with a focus on innovation in the early childhood workforce.



# Keynote

## Coach Stacey Byes-Byarse



### **Show Up, Not Show Out:**

A Certified Life Coach, Happiness Coach, and Early Learner Trainer, she helps individuals and teams discover purpose, build confidence, and overcome obstacles that limit growth and joy.

### **Day 3 Keynote Speaker Coach Stacey B.**

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Coach Stacey B brings over 20 years of experience in early learning and personal and professional coaching, known nationally as The Happiness Coach for her bold, joyful, and transformational style. A Certified Life Coach, Happiness Coach, and Early Learner Trainer, she helps individuals and teams discover purpose, build confidence, and overcome obstacles that limit growth and joy. Her early childhood work sparked her passion for building meaningful connections with children and families, inspiring her mission to empower people to heal and step into their happiest, most authentic selves. Coach Stacey B hosts the Childcare Teacher Chronicles Podcast and YouTube Channel, leads Beyond the Bell University, and is a multi-passionate entrepreneur with her own boutique and signature fashion-glasses line. Outside her professional work, she enjoys crafting, prioritizes self-care, and loves life as a wife and mother of four. Bold, brave, and joy-filled, Coach Stacey B is a keynote speaker who inspires audiences to reclaim happiness and step into their purpose.



# THE EARLY EDUCATION EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE

**INFANT + TODDLER  
BREAK OUT SESSIONS**



## TRACY CHENEY

### **Keep Your Teeth on Your Own Body**

This training will explore the myriad of reasons why a toddler may bite and offer solutions of how to prevent and/or appropriately respond to biting, as well as other problematic behaviors, along with offering practical ideas on ways to communicate with parents about biting.

# INFANT + TODDLER BREAK OUT SESSIONS

## DR. MAHRI WRIGHTINGTON



### **Tiny Humans, Big Feelings: Practical Strategies for Challenging Behavior**

Every challenging behavior tells a story. In early childhood settings, those stories often begin with big feelings, unmet needs, or skills that are still developing. This engaging, practical session helps educators and leaders move beyond reacting to behavior and start responding with confidence and calm. Working with young children is joyful, but it can also be exhausting when big feelings show up as hitting, biting, or refusing to listen. In this session, we'll break down what's really going on underneath those behaviors and share simple, realistic strategies that actually work in busy classrooms. You'll learn how to spot the signs before things escalate, how to keep your own cool when emotions run high, and how to turn tough moments into teachable ones. You do hard, important work every day. Let's make it a little easier - and a lot more peaceful - for you and the children you care for.



## TRACY CHENEY



### **From Coos to Conversations: Growing Language and Literacy Through Responsive Caregiving**

Language development happens at lightning speed during the first few years of life—and it grows best through responsive, nurturing interactions. This workshop explores how infants and toddlers develop language and early literacy through everyday moments, relationships, and routines.



# THE EARLY EDUCATION EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE

**PRE-K + SCHOOL AGE  
BREAK OUT SESSIONS**

## JONATHAN BREINDIAL “JOLTING JONATHAN”



### **Ignite the Spark: Bringing Fun and Engagement to Your Classroom**

Teaching is more than lessons—it’s about the energy, creativity, and joy you bring into your classroom every day. This interactive workshop explores what it truly means to have fun while teaching, not just for the children but for you as an educator. Learn strategies to create playful, engaging learning experiences that captivate students, spark curiosity, and make every moment memorable. Discover how your own excitement and passion directly impact student retention, engagement, and the overall classroom culture. Leave actionable ideas to reignite your teaching spark and build a classroom where learning is joyful, dynamic, and meaningful—for you and your students alike.



## JEREMY STURDIVANT “MR. JAY”

### **Kidversations**

Strong, purposeful communication with children is more important than ever, especially during stressful times like the pandemic when anxiety and grief can affect young learners. In this interactive session, teachers will explore strategies to deepen connections, build trust, and help children feel seen, heard, and supported. Learn practical techniques to turn everyday conversations into powerful moments that strengthen relationships and foster emotional well-being in your classroom.



## CARLA WARD

### **The Power of Connections: The Flight Path of an Educator's Influence**

Every day, educators prepare for takeoff—charting the course for a child's day filled with discovery, growth, and connection. In this workshop, we'll explore how the relationships you build with children set the altitude for their learning and emotional well-being. From pre-flight checks like morning greetings and routines to midair course corrections during challenging moments, your influence keeps their journey steady and full of purpose. Together, we'll unpack what it means to guide children with heart, foster strong communities, and ensure every child feels ready to soar.



## DR. NICHOLE RICH-BYRNE

### **The Magic Bag**

A Simple Tool to Spark Curiosity and Engagement During Circle Time. Discover how to use the "Magic Bag" strategy to transform circle time into an engaging, language-rich experience for young learners. This playful, low-cost tool invites curiosity, fosters communication, and helps children build connections between daily lessons and the world around them. Participants will leave with practical ideas they can immediately implement in their classrooms.



## NOELLE D'INTINO AND ISA PRICE

### **Behavior Brainstorm: In-Flight Solutions Lab**

Step into our In-Flight Solutions Lab, where we take a deep dive into classroom behavior challenges, identify the sources of “turbulence,” and collaborate to design practical strategies that ensure smooth, productive learning experiences. Participants will analyze real classroom scenarios, explore research-informed approaches to social-emotional regulation, and develop actionable solutions teachers can implement immediately. Through hands-on activities, group problem-solving, and guided reflection, this workshop equips educators with the tools to prevent disruptions, support children’s emotional regulation, and create calm, engaging learning environments, helping every day in the classroom feel like a smooth flight from takeoff to landing.



## YOLANDA RICHEY

### **Flight Plan for Positive Behavior Guidance**

Prepare for takeoff in this high-energy, research-informed workshop designed to “calm the turbulence” often associated with challenging behaviors. Just like a skilled flight crew ensures a safe and steady journey, early educators play a vital role in creating positive learning environments where young children can fly high! Through playful activities, meaningful reflection, and neuroscience-based strategies, participants are sure to leave this workshop with “clearer skies” that help them prepare for “smooth landings” as they guide behaviors in the most positive and effective ways!



## TANGEE PEEK



### **Soaring to New Heights in ECE education: A data driven approach to small group instruction**

Think of each small group as a flight crew and your classroom as the cockpit. Just as pilots use instruments and flight plans to navigate safely, teachers can use data to guide instruction and keep every student on course. By using assessments to identify strengths, gaps, and goals, you can design targeted lessons that meet students where they are. Real-time data lets you adjust your instruction, regroup, or differentiate as needed, just like pilots make course corrections mid-flight. Collaboration with colleagues provides extra guidance, like air traffic control. When used effectively, data becomes your navigation tool, helping you lead every learner confidently to success and make a big impact across your center.



## LAURA SHEA AND ADE HOFMAN



### **Hidden Literacy: Discovering the Unexpected Paths to Reading and Writing**

Literacy development is happening all around us, in ways we often don't expect. In this session, Laura Shea and Ade Hofmann will help you uncover the hidden connections between outdoor play and essential pre-writing and pre-reading skills. We'll explore the physical foundations of literacy, from building core strength and crossing the midline to refining the pincer grasp through playful activities like grating chalk or handling tools. You'll learn to notice "print" in abstract objects like sticks, stones, and even shadows—helping children develop symbolic thinking and pattern recognition without ever picking up a worksheet.



# THE EARLY EDUCATION EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE

**LEADERSHIP  
BREAK OUT SESSIONS**

# LEADERSHIP BREAK OUT SESSIONS



## DR. KEENA RUSH MOSLEY

### **From the Classroom to the Command Center: How to Elevate Your Career as a Future Leader**

Every great flight begins with preparation and a clear flight plan. If you're ready to move from the passenger seat to the pilot's seat of leadership, this session is your pre-flight checklist. Designed for teachers and support staff eager to take the next step, you'll learn how to translate your classroom expertise into marketable leadership skills, develop new competencies and chart a clear course toward advancement. With a focus on mindset, readiness, and strategy, this workshop ensures you're equipped to soar with confidence when new leadership opportunities arise.



## RESHAUN WEBB



### **Flight 101: Pre-Flight Check – Fueling the Educator Before Takeoff**

Before any successful flight, the pilot must complete a thorough pre-flight check—ensuring everything is fueled, balanced, and ready for the journey ahead. The same is true for educators. In this powerful and reflective session, participants will explore the importance of teacher wellness as the foundation for effective teaching, leadership, and classroom success. Through real-life scenarios, guided reflection, and practical strategies, educators will learn how to recognize the signs of burnout, reset their mindset, and implement sustainable self-care practices that support both personal well-being and professional performance.

# LEADERSHIP BREAK OUT SESSIONS

## JERLETHA MCDONALD


### **Child Care, Federal Funding, Policy & Advocacy: How It Works & Why It Matters:**



Fasten your seatbelts and prepare for takeoff into the world of child care funding, policy, and advocacy! In this session, we'll navigate the complex airspace of federal funding streams, regulatory requirements, and policy initiatives that shape early childhood programs. Participants will explore how funding decisions are made, understand the flight path of policies that affect operations, and learn why advocacy is the co-pilot every program needs to ensure high-quality care and equitable access for all children. Through hands-on examples and interactive discussions, educators will leave with a clear flight plan for advocacy, practical strategies for navigating the policy skies, and tools to make informed, strategic decisions that keep their programs flying smoothly.

## DR. SUSAN ZOLL

### **Designing an Eclectic Curriculum**



Let's draw elements from some of the most impactful approaches to teaching and learning to create a tailor-made pedagogy. We'll consider Reggio-inspired and Montessori classrooms, as well as strategies from Charlotte Mason, Forest Schools, and Project Zero to weave together threads of learner-centered experiences to meet the cognitive, physical, and social-emotional needs of our children.



# THE EARLY EDUCATION EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE

ALL EDUCATOR  
BREAK OUT SESSIONS



## DR. DANNAE ORISAMOLADE & SHELLEY ROUSER FROM DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY



### **Opening Doors in Early Childhood Education: Pathways, Purpose, and Professional Growth**

Early childhood educational opportunities should be accessible, meaningful, and economically sustainable. This session explores professional growth pathways for individuals interested in entering or advancing within the early childhood field.

Attendees will learn about Delaware State University's program designed for students, career changers, and working professionals seeking elevated qualification opportunities.

Topics will include:

- How the CDA can help you
- Career pathway development in early childhood education
- The value of early childhood credentials and degree completion
- Workforce accessibility through flexible program design
- Connecting passion for teaching with professional and economic opportunity

This session is appropriate for students, prospective program applicants, educators, and individuals exploring careers in early childhood education.



## **KIMBERLY KRZANOWSKI, ED.D**

### **Wheels Up! Launching Early Childhood Leaders from Takeoff to Touchdown!**

Take flight in this inspiring keynote as we explore how to cultivate leadership in early childhood education. From takeoff to touchdown, discover practical strategies, actionable insights, and leadership lessons that empower teachers to guide young learners, ignite curiosity, and build the next generation of confident, capable leaders.



## **ANNETTE EBERHART**

### **Wellness Advocacy & Resilience for ECE Leaders and Teams**

This session reframes wellness as a leadership responsibility through an advocacy lens, then moves into self-care that fits real schedules using small-practices and habit stacking. We'll put resilience into action with boundary scripts, workload triage, and a simple debrief routine for hard days, grounded in stories from the field drawn from Annette's lived experience running a 24-hour FCC and the Best Practices Unveiled platform, Authorship and the committees of service. After 35 minutes of immersed content, participants spend 5 minutes completing the conference workbook to craft 1-2 concrete implementation steps and list anticipated challenges. We close with 10 minutes of interactive coaching, where challenges are shared and tailored, peer-supported solutions are developed.





## RAEYNA WOODSIDE HOWARD

### **C is for Collaboration: Getting Coaches and Educators on the Same Team**

This interactive session explores the power of collaboration, showing how coaches and educators can work together to achieve a shared vision of excellence. Participants will learn practical strategies for establishing an in-center mentorship program—whether mentors are internal or external—focusing on how to gather meaningful feedback and use it to improve teaching practices. Attendees will leave with actionable tools to strengthen mentoring relationships, foster professional growth, and create a culture of continuous improvement within their centers.



## RUTH BAUGH

### **Caring for the Caregiver: Sustaining Yourself While Supporting your Classroom**

Teaching and leading in early childhood classrooms can be incredibly rewarding—but it can also be demanding and exhausting. This workshop focuses on strategies to support your own well-being while maintaining a strong, thriving classroom environment. Participants will explore practical self-care techniques, time management strategies, and ways to build resilience, all while fostering a positive and engaging space for children. By learning how to care for themselves, educators can model healthy habits, reduce burnout, and create a more balanced, joyful classroom experience for both staff and students.





## KATE WOODWARD YOUNG AND CARRIE CASEY

### **Co-Pilots for Success Building Strong School-Family Partnerships**

Children thrive when schools and families work together as true partners. This interactive workshop explores practical strategies for building meaningful, collaborative relationships with families that support children’s learning, development, and overall well-being. Participants will learn how to communicate effectively, foster trust, and create shared goals with families—becoming co-pilots in guiding each child toward success. Through reflection, discussion, and actionable tools, educators will leave equipped to strengthen connections, empower families, and create a supportive, inclusive school community where every child can soar.



## SHANNON ESTIN

### **Seeing the World Through a Different Lens**

Prepare for takeoff in this powerful, movement-filled workshop that challenges conventional approaches to special education and inclusion by celebrating the “superpowers” of diverse learners. Just as pilots navigate through changing skies using instruments and a clear flight plan, participants will navigate complex classroom dynamics through authentic storytelling, dynamic activities, and transformative discussions. Explore autism awareness, mental health, and culturally responsive teaching practices while learning how to create inclusive, supportive learning environments that allow every student and educator to soar.





# THE EARLY EDUCATION EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE

**PECHA KUCHA  
SESSIONS I & II**

# PECHA KUCHA SESSION I



## RENEE CARBONE FLEMING

### **Future-Ready & Fearless: Your Personal Brand Is the Jet Fuel of Your Career**

In a rapidly changing, AI-driven world, educators must be seen as more than their job titles. This empowering talk shows early childhood professionals how to strengthen their mindset, leverage their transferable skills, and build a personal brand that opens new opportunities for income, impact, and leadership. When you learn to communicate your value, your career doesn't just evolve—it takes flight.



## ADVA HANAN

### **Maximize Your Minutes: Time Management for Teachers**

Are you juggling the demands of teaching and life? This workshop is designed for teachers who are striving to balance lesson plans and life outside the classroom without feeling overwhelmed.



## SUSIE BEGIN

### **Play Schemas in Action: Understanding the Hidden Patterns Behind Children's Play**

What looks like simple play is actually children repeating powerful patterns that build their understanding of the world. In this fast-paced Pecha Kucha, discover how to recognize 10 play schemas in action and use them to create meaningful, engaging learning experiences in your classroom and child care center.

# PECHA KUCHA SESSION I



## JAMIE WAGLER

### **The Power of Purpose: Leadership That Transforms Out-of-School Programs**

Out-of-school programs thrive when leadership is rooted in purpose. In this dynamic session, we'll explore how rediscovering your "why" can transform team culture, elevate programming, and bring renewed energy to your work. Through real-world examples and actionable ideas, you'll leave inspired to lead with courage, curiosity, and clarity. Purpose isn't extra—it's everything.



## FALASHA CAMPELL

### **Mastering the Art of the Pivot in Childcare**

Working in childcare is always changing—no two days are ever the same. Life happens, challenges pop up, and plans don't always go the way we expect. But that's where the magic is. Learning to overcome obstacles and embrace the art of the pivot turns tough moments into growth opportunities. Stay flexible, stay focused, and keep showing up—because in childcare, your ability to adapt makes all the difference.



## ARLETTE HIDALGO

### **Honor the language, see the child**

In early childhood settings, bilingual children are often misunderstood and sometimes misidentified. "Honor the Language, See the Child" invites educators to shift their perspective—recognizing bilingualism as a strength, not a delay. Through real-life insights and practical strategies, this session focuses on inclusive practices, family partnerships, and the importance of respecting language and culture from the very beginning.

## PECHA KUCHA SESSION II



### **KEN THOMPSON**

#### **Mitigating Risk and Staying Competitive in the Marketplace Risk**

Management goes beyond an insurance policy. It is a process, and a collaboration, between your staff, your facilities department, your parents, your kids, and your insurance agent. Today we will discuss how implementing, and adhering to, specific protocols can save you thousands of dollars and unmeasurable stress.



### **CYNTHIA GALLAGER**

#### **ZAP Germs In the Classroom**

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### **PAUL BUCKLEY**

#### **Connecting Great Teachers with Great Programs**

Great teachers are looking for great programs—and great programs are looking for great teachers. What happens when connections are made matching early childhood educators with centers that align with their values, culture, and classroom needs. When the right educator is in the right environment, children thrive, staff stay longer, and programs grow stronger.



### PATRICK SINGLER

#### **ABC Moves: Learn It, Shake It, Love It!**

Who says learning the alphabet has to be still and quiet? Get little bodies moving and brains growing at the same time! From “surfing” for “s” or “dancing” for D teaching the alphabet through movement turns learning into a full-on dance party. It’s fun, energetic, and perfect for helping kids remember their letters while burning off that endless energy. Because when kids move, they groove—and that’s when the learning really sticks!



### SUSAN RACETTE

#### **"Let Them Move: The Science of Learning That Lives in the Body"**

Before a child can read a word or hold a pencil, their body is already learning. Discover how movement builds brain power, self-regulation, and physical literacy – and why intentional, structured movement isn't a luxury. It's the curriculum.



### DR. CHARITY HOLLAND

#### **"UP": Under Pressure**

Dr. Holland tackles a reality many leaders face—knowing what to do is one thing, but executing under pressure is another. Too often, when the weight hits, leaders don't rise... they retreat.

# VENDORS ON THE RUNWAY



## THE DISCOVERY DECK

- 1 Joe Pinsonneault Consulting
- 2 RIAEYC
- 3 Becker's School Supply
- 4 Devereux Foster Care
- 5 Family
- 6 Watch Me Grow
- 7 Spectrum Solutions
- 8 Book Around
- 9 Mad Science
- 10 (No Table)
- 11 Mia Bella Candles
- 12 Harmony Books
- 13 Ruth Ann Simonelli
- 14 Pace
- 15 Trudeau Center
- 16 Ratio Staffing
- 17 Apoyo Especail
- 18 (No Table)
- 19 Teachers for Today
- 20 Charter Oak State College
- 21 Global Technologies & Zono
- 22 Kindermotion New England
- 23 Social In Society
- 24 Pariva
- 25 Thompson Insurance
- 26 All Brand
- 27 Cool Clique

## THE READING HANGER

- 28 Stand Up & Stand Out
- 29 Directors Bookshelf
- 30 Paper Pie Books
- 31 Dr Kenna Mosley
- 32 Susie Begin
- 33 Dr Mommy C

## LIFT OFF LOUNGE (ROTUNDA)

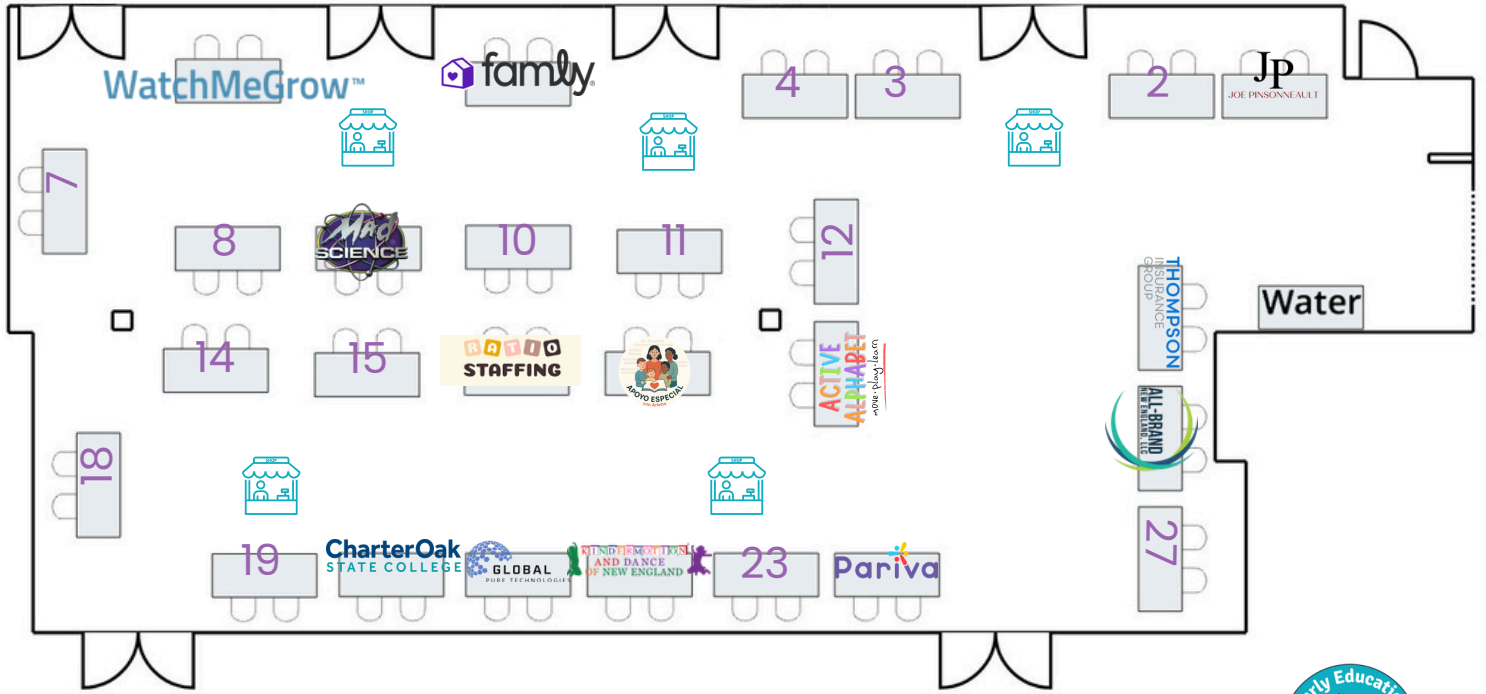
- 34 Pure Haven by Alana
- 35 Expressions by Bekah
- 36 In Tune Vacation
- 37 Teacher Tees by Sara
- 38 Favorable by Steph
- 39 Educators Consult
- 40 Rhody Games & Books
- 41 Simply Done

## THE SKY LOUNGE

- 42 The Child Care Directors Chair
- 43 The Directors Club
- 44 Mic'd Up with Mama Shaun
- 45 ECE Circle Time
- 46 PD Monster
- 47 The Toddler Tutor
- 48 East Coast Capture
- 49 Mic's Mega Bubble
- 50 Coach Stacey B
- 51 DJ House Calls
- 52 Bad A\$\$ Queen
- 53 Little Stories that Stick
- 54 (No Table)
- 55 ECE Circle Time



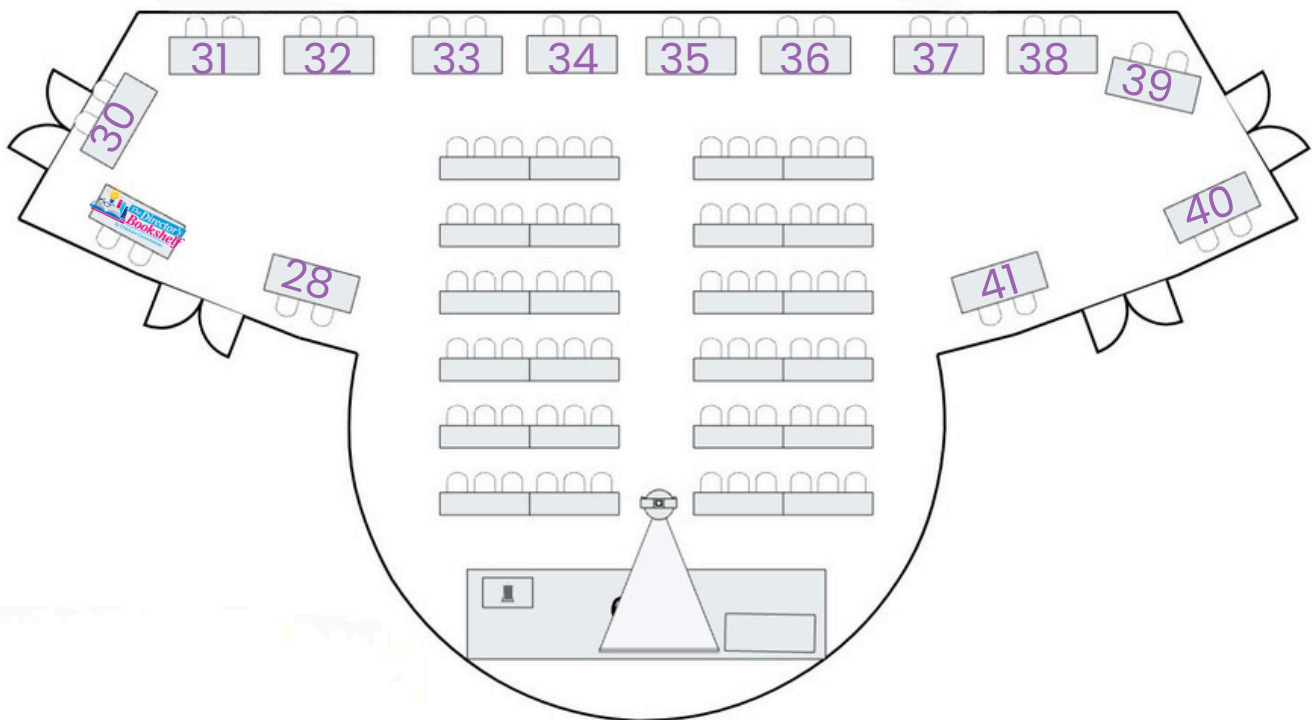
# Discovery Deck



Vendors



# Lift Off Lounge



The Reading Hanger





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# ACTIVE ALPHABET



## Pronunciation & Movement Guide

### Aa

Say: "A! Angry ant: Say: "B! Boxing bear: Say: "C! Calling cat: Say: "D! Dancing dinosaur: Say: "E! Exercising

*/ä/, /ä/, /ä/"*

Do: Stomp your foot

**Pronounce:** /ä/  
(as in apple, cat)

### Bb

*/b/, /b/, /b/"*

Do: Arms punch

**Pronounce:** /b/  
(as in bat, boy)

### Cc

*/k/, /k/, /k/"*

Do: Hand to ear

**Pronounce:** /k/  
(as in cab, cut)

### Dd

*dinosaur: /d/, /d/, /d/" elephant: /è/, /è/, /è/"*

Do: Dance

**Pronounce:** /d/  
(as in dot, ad)

### Ee

Do: Lift weights

**Pronounce:** /è/  
(as in egg, pet)

### Ff

Say: "F! Flying falcon: Say: "G! Golfing

*/f/, /f/, /f/"*

Do: Flap arms/wings

**Pronounce:** /f/  
(as in fun, fan)

### Gg

*goat: /b/, /b/, /b/" hooping hippo: /h/, /h/, /h/" iguana: /i/, /i/, /i/" jackrabbit: /j/, /j/, /j/"*

Do: Swing arms

**Pronounce:** /g/  
(as in gap, gum)

### Hh

Do: Hips in circle

**Pronounce:** /h/  
(as in hop, hat)

### Ii

Say: "I! Itching

Do: Scratch arm

**Pronounce:** /i/ ì/  
(as in igloo, pin)

### Jj

Say: "J! Jumping

Do: Jump in place

**Pronounce:** /j/ j/  
(as in jog, joy)

### Kk

*kangaroo: /k/, /k/, /k/"*

Do: Kick your foot

**Pronounce:** /k/  
(as in kid, back)

### Ll

*ll, ll, ll/"*

Do: Hands to eyes

**Pronounce:** /l/  
(as in let, ball)

### Mm

*moose: /m/, /m/, /m/" /n/, /n/, /n/"*

Do: Knees up/down

**Pronounce:** /m/  
(as in map, dim)

### Nn

Say: "K! Kicking Say: "L! Looking lion: Say: "M! Marching Say: "N! Nodding

Do: Chop air w/ arms

**Pronounce:** /n/  
(as in no, pin)

### Oo

Do: Hands open/close

**Pronounce:** /ö/  
(as in ostrich, pot)

### Pp

Say: "P! Peek-a-boo Say: "Q! Quiet Say: "R! Running rail: Say: "S! Surfing seal: Say: "T! Tiptoe tiger:

*panda: /p/, /p/, /p/" quacking /kw/, /kw/, /kw/" /r/, /r/, /r/"*

Do: Hands over eyes

**Pronounce:** /p/  
(as in pan, lap)

### Qq

Do: Elbows up/down

**Pronounce:** /kw/  
(as in quit, aqua)

### Rr

Do: Run in place

**Pronounce:** /r/  
(as in rot, rabbit)

### Ss

*/s/, /s/, /s/"*

Do: Arms out up/down

**Pronounce:** /s/  
(as in sit, sad)

### Tt

*/t/, /t/, /t/"*

Do: Walk on toes

**Pronounce:** /t/  
(as in tap, pet)

### Uu

Cross arms in  
Do: Arm up

**Pronounce:** /ü/  
(as in under, gut)

### Vv

Do: Arm

back/forth  
**Pronounce:** /v/  
(as in van, ivy)

### Ww

Do: Handscircle

**Pronounce:** /w/  
(as in wall, wet)

### Xx

Do: front of body (x)

**Pronounce:** /ks/  
(as in exit, ax)

### Yy

*yak: /y/, /y/, /y/"*

Do: Hands to cheeks

**Pronounce:** /y/  
(as in yum, eye)

### Zz

*zebra: /z/, /z/, /z/"*

Do: Hand moves up&down body

**Pronounce:** /z/  
(as in zap, Oz)

# Active Alphabet Letter Chart

Aa



Bb



Cc



Dd



Ee



Ff



Gg



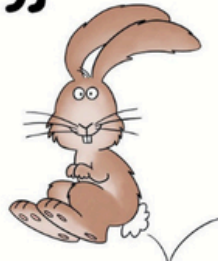
Hh



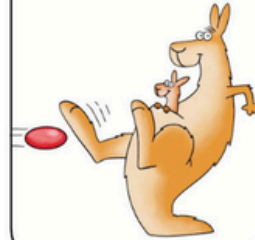
Ii



Jj



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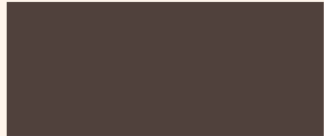
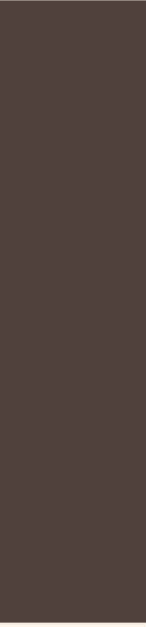
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### WHY CHOOSE OUR PROGRAM?

- **Culturally Responsive Practices:** Our curriculum integrates anti-bias and culturally responsive practices, honoring the cultural heritage and unique contributions of the children and families we serve.
- **Flexible Learning Options:** Classes are offered online with evening and weekend sessions, making it convenient for working professionals.
- **Entrepreneurial Focus:** Gain the skills needed to excel in educational settings and start and manage your own early learning business.

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- **Comprehensive Curriculum:** Learn developmentally, linguistically, and culturally appropriate teaching strategies, observation and assessment techniques, and how to build strong partnerships with families.
- **Supportive Environment:** Benefit from embedded academic supports, including tutors and cohort learning communities, ensuring your success from enrollment to graduation.
- **Professional Growth:** Our program aligns with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) standards, preparing you for various early childhood education and administration roles.

### JOIN THE MOVEMENT AT DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY

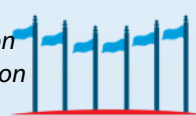
- **Community Impact:** Our program aims to invigorate the local economy by preparing early learning providers to become business owners and enhance the quality of childcare options in the community.
- **Career Advancement:** Our degree, which focuses on equity and access, helps you overcome barriers to higher education and career progression, enabling you to achieve your personal and professional goals.

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### CONTACT US

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## How It Works

01

Sign Up and Log In To The Trailblazers Leadership Portal

02

Access the Weekly Content - Download, Read, Listen & Reflect

03

Join Our Weekly Wednesday Coaching Zoom to Collaborate

04

Implement in your Center & track your progress!



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www.childcaredirectorschair.com



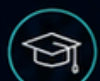
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