AGENDA //

8–9 AM ............................................................... Check-In

9–10 AM ......................................................... Morning Session

10–10:45 AM ......................... Keynote by Kelly Starling Lyons

10:45–11 AM ........................ Partner Playground Break

11 AM–Noon ...................... Fred Rogers Productions Panel

Noon–12:45 PM ......................................................... Lunch

1–1:45 PM ......................... Concurrent Sessions A

1:55–2:20 PM ...................... Outdoor Partner Playground

2:30–3:15 PM ......................... Concurrent Sessions B

3:30–4:20 PM ......................... Concurrent Sessions C

4:20 PM ............................................................... Block Party

KEYNOTE SPEAKER //

Kelly Starling Lyons is an award-winning children’s book author and teaching artist. She is also a founding member of the Brown Bookshelf, which raises awareness of Black voices writing for young readers. Her mission is to center Black heroes and celebrate family, friendship and heritage. She lives in Raleigh and was named to Good Morning America’s 2021 Inspiration List: Who’s Making Black History.

Lyons has written more than 20 books for young readers. Among her acclaimed titles are Caldecott Honor winner Going Down Home with Daddy and Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor Award recipient Ty’s Travels: Zip, Zoom, among others.

Books by Kelly Starling Lyons

Dream Builder: The Story of Architect Phil Freelon
Eddie’s Ordeal
Ellen’s Broom
A Girl Named Misty
Going Down Home with Daddy
Hope’s Gift
Jada Jones series
Miles Lewis series
One Million Men and Me
One More Dino on the Floor
She Persisted: Coretta Scott King
Sing a Song: How “Lift Every Voice and Sing” Inspired Generations
Tea Cakes for Tosh
Tiara’s Hat Parade
Ty’s Travels series
We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices

Learn more about the author at kellystarlinglyons.com.
Olubunmi Mia Olufemi is supervising producer of *Alma’s Way*, a PBS KIDS series created by Sonia Manzano (“Maria” of *Sesame Street*) and produced by Fred Rogers Productions. She is responsible for overseeing all phases of production, serving as the company’s liaison with the animation studio and broadcaster. Additionally, she coordinates the creation of series assets for marketing and licensing efforts, among other duties. Olufemi started her career in children’s television at WGBH (now known as GBH) Educational Foundation, where she worked on acclaimed children’s properties including *Arthur*, *Curious George*, *Martha Speaks* and *Design Squad Global*. Most recently, she was the producer of *Molly of Denali*, the Peabody Award–winning PBS KIDS show. Her work is devoted to building inclusive productions, on screen and behind the scenes, that authentically celebrate and highlight underrepresented populations, particularly minorities and immigrant cultures. For *Alma’s Way*, she has worked to create spaces to uplift these new voices in children’s media. She received her MA in Writing, Literature and Publishing from Emerson College.

As supervising producer of *Donkey Hodie*, Kristin DiQuollo provides leadership and creative vision to Fred Rogers Productions’ newest preschool series, which is inspired by characters from *Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood*. Prior to joining the company, she led the production of broadcast and digital content for the PBS KIDS series *Cyberchase* as executive producer and story editor at WNET New York, helping to spearhead its expansion on digital platforms, including strategies for accessibility as well as its evolution as a series focusing on math and environmental themes for 6–8-year-olds. A nominee for multiple Daytime Emmy® Awards and honored with Parents’ Choice and Kidscreen awards, DiQuollo also oversaw *Cyberchase*’s national family and educator engagement efforts, broadening the series’ reach to new public media audiences. Experienced in using research to inform development and design of content, she has worked on several projects that investigate learning outcomes from educational media. She previously worked in educational outreach and marketing for the IMAX Corporation and as an associate editor and projects coordinator for *Merlyn’s Pen*, a magazine and website showcasing the works of teenage writers. She received her BA in English from Providence College.

Chris Loggins is supervising producer for *Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood*, overseeing all aspects of television production, working closely with partners on everything from scripting through final episode delivery and beyond, and directing live-action segments. An Emmy® Award–winning producer, he also serves as production manager for *Peg + Cat* and *Odd Squad*, which both air on PBS KIDS. Before joining Fred Rogers Productions, he served as the development coordinator at WQED, the PBS station in Pittsburgh. Loggins has previous experience working with children in his roles as host of “Baby and Me Storytime” at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and driving the Storymobile for Beginning with Books Center for Early Literacy. He holds a BA in American Studies with a focus on African American History from Kenyon College.

Moderated by Child Development Advisor Roberta L. Schomburg, PhD
CONCURRENT SESSIONS A // 1–1:45 PM

Ditch the Textbook & Embrace the Tech
This interactive presentation will introduce 2–3 teachers to innovative ways to bring tech into the classroom with a focus on literacy instruction. Teachers will explore hyperdocs, coding activities and more with a specific focus on literacy and fluency. Many resources, including ready-to-make templates, will be shared. Teachers will have the opportunity to brainstorm ways to incorporate the tools and resources into their literacy instruction.

**PRESENTER**
Lauren Boucher

**ORGANIZATION**
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

Beginning Readers & Decodable Text: What, Why & How
Learning to read can feel like climbing a mountain: it is full of adventure, trepidation, challenges and victories. In this session, discover how utilizing decodable text with beginning readers can provide stable footholds as they crack the alphabetic code. Participants will learn what decodable texts are, why they are useful in the process of becoming a skilled reader and how they can best be put to use with K–3 students. Leave with practical tools for implementing decodable text in your classroom.

**PRESENTERS**
Mary Stanley Derfel
Dr. Angela Preston

**ORGANIZATION**
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

Meet the Bee-Bots
Learn all about Bee-Bots, and leave with instructional lesson ideas to take back to your classroom. Bee-Bots are a digital tool to introduce students to coding. It enhances the engagement of any lesson and encourages collaboration among scholars, preparing them for future jobs where these essential skills are needed. Get an introduction with a video of an authentic application of scholars using Bee Bots, learn a variety of instructional uses and practice using the tool. Standards will be taken from Math and ELA NC standard Course of Study and will be selected on each grade level from kindergarten to 2nd grade. This presentation will share ideas on how to use letter recognition and early phonic skills with the use of Bee-Bots. The presenters will also share comprehension ideas for different grade levels.

**PRESENTERS**
Monica Davis
Denise Owens
Alicia Vosburgh

**ORGANIZATIONS**
Beaufort County Schools
Eastern Elementary School

How Are We Feeling? Using Children’s Books to Enhance Social-Emotional Literacy
Emotional literacy—the ability to identify, understand and respond to emotions in yourself and others in a healthy manner—is essential for school readiness. We will look at the importance of emotional literacy and the ways children’s books can make intentional teaching of emotions fun and easy.

**PRESENTERS**
Stephanie Dreyer
Jessica McQuillen

**ORGANIZATION**
Child Care Resources Inc.
Parents & Early Childhood Professionals Come Together to Support Families Experiencing Homelessness

Parents and early childhood education professionals can partner to promote the resilience of young children and families experiencing homelessness. This session will increase awareness of the experiences of homelessness from national research and the perspective of parents in North Carolina, and will provide guidance for how to best meet the needs of these families in early childhood education settings. We will discuss the ways in which language and literacy skills are developed in early childhood via everyday interactions with nurturing adults, both caregivers and early childhood educators. Children become self-directed, motivated learners when they are in stable and safe environments. We will discuss ways this supportive environment can be provided to young children experiencing homelessness. We will also present parents’ requests for “homework support” as programming they value, and offer practical suggestions for implementing research-based methods that foster early literacy.

**PRESENTERS**
Alex Buccelli
Heather Finster
Mary Haskett

**ORGANIZATION**
NC State University

An Educator’s Influence on Preschool Hygiene: Where Do We Go from Here?

As our world has been flipped upside down due to the pandemic, our children have been immensely impacted academically and social-emotionally. This presentation is a call-to-action to our community (especially our school community), educators and a child’s first educator: their parent(s)/caregiver(s). This presentation will focus on us as a whole being the change agents within our community and a child’s microsystem to help promote healthy behavior and introduce how to utilize books, songs and poems to support proper hand hygiene. Creating awareness in a fun, memorable way will help promote sustainability and positive outcomes related to being germ conscious. Participants will be involved in open discussions, breakout sessions and a small planning session related to curriculum and assessment.

**PRESENTER**
Jolandra Houston

**ORGANIZATION**
Little GERMinators

I Am Molly! Molly Is Me! Using Informational Text with PBS KIDS to Teach Values in This Ever-Changing World

Alaska Public Media will share how Molly of Denali can be used in communities and schools to engage families and help parents, educators and nontraditional educators discuss values or race with young children aligned with Common Core Standards. Participants will receive a list of Molly of Denali Level-One “I Can Read” books, which help children learn to sound out words and sentences. The simple concepts and familiar words support children eager to start reading independently. Participants will also engage in creating an artifact for the Molly of Denali Museum.

**PRESENTER**
Stephanie McFadden

**ORGANIZATION**
Alaska Public Media
Mind Full or Mindful?
The materials in our classroom, how the furniture is arranged and the routines we keep affect children in our care. Their classroom experiences start and end with the teacher. In this session, we’ll discuss displays in the classroom and how to ensure that they are meaningful to children. (Examples include: center tags with a child’s name in print and their picture; classroom schedules with pictures of the activity and the activity written out in print; and asking children to describe their drawing and writing their description next to it.) We will also discuss how to clear your mind and become a more mindful teacher to promote engagement within your classroom.

**PRESENTER**
Meagan Hopes

**ORGANIZATION**
Child Care Resources Inc

Deep Dive into Data Literacy
Take a deep dive into data literacy through the lens of assisting leadership to address problems. As a leader, there are many demands and expectations to meet outcomes. To meet outcomes, data literacy defines questions, data collection, data comprehension and data interpretation from the beginning. This data literacy approach provides an understanding on how using data helps leadership, data culture and governance.

**PRESENTER**
Tanya Morgan, PhD

**ORGANIZATION**
Division of Child Development and Early Education

Meeting Families Where They Are
Hear about WHRO’s literacy programs for schools and families in the community and VPM’s work with partners around The Basics Initiative as well as how to incorporate PBS KIDS Edcamps into family engagement work. Then learn how to access and implement PBS KIDS resources and other initiatives into existing work with families for maximum impact.

**PRESENTERS**
Mary Jo Grieve
Martha Razor

**ORGANIZATIONS**
VPM
WHRO

Imagining Equity: Starting with Our Youngest
This session will focus on early literacy as a catalyst for introducing equity in early childhood. Imagining Equity is a professional development opportunity created to support Catawba County’s Early Childhood workforce in creating equitable and affirming classroom learning environments. Social justice for preschoolers? Yes! Building our future world starts with our youngest. During this session, explore and discuss how mindfully selected children’s books can provide the opportunity for early childhood professionals to reflect on their own biases while simultaneously planting seeds of racial equity in children.

**PRESENTERS**
La’Gentry Ross
Dr. Gail Summer

**ORGANIZATION**
Catawba County Partnership for Children
Science of Reading Implementation Isn’t an Event, It’s a Process

Just as research in reading should adhere to the norms of science so should implementation. The science of implementation is structured around five overarching frameworks. This session will help you think about developing and sustaining the infrastructure you need to implement effective and well-operationalized approaches to teaching reading. When data, systems and evidence-based practices are an integrated approach, then equity and access are centered and every child achieves.

PRESENTERS
Dr. Donna Albaugh
Kelley Bendheim
Kathy Oliver

ORGANIZATION
Office of Early Learning, North Carolina
Department of Public Instruction

STEMulate Learning: Making the Case for STEM in Early Childhood Education

PBS Charlotte has teamed with SMART Start of Mecklenburg County to create Creative Coders, a series of workshops that engage students and families in hands-on learning utilizing PBS ScratchJr and PBS LearningMedia. Designed for pre-K students, educators and families with children ages 3–8, the workshops use guided play to introduce both kids and grown-ups to exciting digital and tangible tools designed to support the development of science inquiry and engineering design practices. Creative Coders introduces young students to the principles of programming and gets them excited about coding and STEM.

PRESENTER
Toye Watson, MEd

ORGANIZATION
WTVI PBS Charlotte

A Playful Pedagogy: Including All Children in Outdoor Play & Learning

Gain resources for building the foundations of literacy using outdoor play and learning environments. Explore creative ways to expand vocabulary and to enhance comprehension (e.g., story stones, making letters and writing words using natural materials, reading, listening, sharing stories and describing observations.) Learn how to use nature to scaffold literacy learning by creating scavenger hunts to reinforce words, pictures and descriptions and by listening to the variety of sounds outdoors to provide a richer and more meaningful way to help with language and pre-reading skills. Finally, participants will begin assembling their own STEAM kit, which will include booklists and additional activities to help students enrich their vocabulary.

PRESENTERS
Linda Kinney
Kathy Osborne

ORGANIZATION
North Carolina Zoo

Computational Thinking for All Children: Embedding Foundational Concepts to Empower Future Coders

This session will describe some of the foundational concepts in computational thinking (CT) and provide activity examples for early intervention providers and early childhood practitioners. Learn about the importance and how-tos of embedding CT into early learning opportunities, including story time, and how young children are ready and eager to engage in such activities.

PRESENTERS
Jessica Amsbary, PhD
Christine Harradine, PhD
Megan Vinh, PhD

ORGANIZATION
STEM Innovation for Inclusion in Early Education (STEMIE) at Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, UNC-Chapel Hill
Serve & Return: You Make a Difference

The Birth to Three Network provided through Child Care Resources Inc. is an opportunity for early educators and administrators to build relationships while working together toward a shared goal. During our sessions, we share stories and make connections. Serve and return aligns with social-emotional concepts and skills related to building positive relationships within the classroom. This training will allow early childhood educators to explore the meaning of serve and return to better support the children in their care.

PRESENTER
Natasha Brown

ORGANIZATION
Child Care Resources Inc.

Transition to Kindergarten: Sharing Student Information Between Pre-K & Kindergarten

This session will provide the background for the state’s Transition to Kindergarten initiative and the development of a transition report that will be used by pre-K teachers to collect and share child development information with families and the receiving kindergarten teachers. Presenters will also share additional family and teacher resources to support smooth transitions into kindergarten.

PRESENTERS
Leslie Simmons
Dr. Kristi L. Snuggs
Dan Tetreault

ORGANIZATION
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
Division of Child Development & Early Education

Virtual summit resources will be available on June 25. Visit pbsnc.org/impact-summit for more information.
Family Connections: Integrating Age-Appropriate Literacy Activities in the Home Environment

What does a family-early childhood educator partnership look like in early childhood education? And how can an early childhood educator encourage age-appropriate literacy learning opportunities in a home environment? This presentation will discuss and explore how early childhood educators and diverse families can connect to enhance the quality of a young child’s language and literacy.

**PRESENTERS**
Dr. Valerie Jarvis McMillan
Justina Vaughan, MA

**ORGANIZATION**
Early Educator Support Office at UNC Charlotte: Center for Educational Measurement & Evaluation

Creating with Littles

Want to get our youngest scholars creating using technology? First, discover easy ways to promote student agency. Next, experience how digital tools like Wixie, Pear Deck, Google Slides and Flipgrid can provide our students opportunities to create. This presentation helps students become more independent readers and writers by providing them scaffolds that help them better share their ideas electronically using a variety of media. It also provides them Universal Design for Learning as they have increased access to ways to represent their learning.

**PRESENTER**
Debbie Tannenbaum

**ORGANIZATION**
Fairfax County Public Schools, VA

Amplify Your Read Aloud with Active Reading

Active Reading is the practice of reading aloud a children’s book by asking questions, building vocabulary and connecting to the child’s world. Join staff members of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library to learn tips to elevate your reading in the classroom setting as well as easy tips to share with families to improve reading at home.

**PRESENTERS**
Elyse Berrier
Barbara Cantisano
Jesse Isley

**ORGANIZATION**
Charlotte Mecklenburg Library

Go NAPSACC: Building a Foundation of Health Equity

This presentation will describe key child health disparities, their link to child literacy and learning outcomes and the important role child care providers play in creating a more equitable future. The presenter will introduce Go NAPSACC, an evidence-based online platform that guides child care providers through an improvement process proven to lead to healthier child care environments. As we cover Go NAPSACC Best Practices, we will highlight practices related to health topics and classroom education as well as resources available in the Go NAPSACC Tips & Materials Library to help meet these practices. We will provide examples of booklists related to nutrition and gardening as well as practices for reinforcing language development at meal times and incorporating literacy/numeracy into physical activities. We will also provide background information on the connections between nutrition, physical activity and cognitive development.

**PRESENTER**
Emily Clarke, RD, LDN

**ORGANIZATION**
Go NAPSACC, University of North Carolina Center for Health Promotion & Disease Prevention
Sparking Children's Interests: The Key to Engaged Learning

As developmentally appropriate practice is considered, teachers are encouraged to use children’s interests to plan for learning. Participants will learn how to use NCFELD with intentionality to support individual learning needs and gain knowledge of strategies to effectively facilitate learning. We’ll also discuss how this topic aligns with the North Carolina Professional Teaching Standards.

**PRESENTERS**
Brooke Hough
Melissa Ledbetter

**ORGANIZATION**
Early Educator Support Office at UNC Charlotte

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Honoring Culture in the Classroom with PBS KIDS

All children’s cultural identities deserve to be affirmed in early learning classrooms. In this workshop, you will learn about multicultural education, culturally relevant pedagogy and strategies for embracing various cultures within your classroom as well as how to engage families in an inclusive, culturally responsive way, utilizing PBS KIDS digital media content. Participants will also receive book ideas that promote multiculturalism in the classroom and a booklist from PBS KIDS.

**PRESENTERS**
Mouna Alghaithi

**ORGANIZATION**
PBS Wisconsin

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The Case for Collaboration

There is a proverb that says, “To go fast, go alone; to go far, go together.” In this session, hear from two organizations who take that proverb seriously, collaborating with many local organizations, including each other, and have embedded collaboration as a value to better meet the early childhood education challenges we face.

**PRESENTERS**
Lisa Cloninger
Elizabeth Kabalka

**ORGANIZATIONS**
Smart Start of Mecklenburg
Mecklenburg County Children's Developmental Services Agency (CDSA)

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Using PowerPoint & Screencast-O-Matic to Create Learning Activities for Early Learners

This presentation will show educators how to create educational content that can be housed on YouTube for their students by using PowerPoint and their free Screencast-O-Matic accounts. Participants will also be provided with the opportunity to create materials that enhance literacy among early learners. Literacy resources to use will also be incorporated in the workshop.

**PRESENTER**
Bre Wilson

**ORGANIZATION**
South Carolina ETV
PBS LearningMedia 101
In this hands-on session, educators will explore PBS LearningMedia through an early learner lens. The resources available are for all students and offer children the opportunity to experience learning in an engaging and interactive way. Educators will participate in a hands-on lesson incorporating literacy and PBS KIDS. Participants will walk away empowered with new ideas and resources that they can use in their classrooms right away.

PRESENTER
Celia Santos

ORGANIZATION
PBS North Carolina

Painting with a Twist of Literacy: Connecting Books with Painting
A canvas walk through a children’s book. This session will give participants the experience of creating art while learning practices to engage children in literacy activities. Through the creation of their own art pieces, participants will be able to both experience the joy of creation and the connection with others while presenters guide them through a story and art experience.

PRESENTERS
Kenya Morris
Holly Wells

ORGANIZATION
Child Care Resources Inc.

Using Data to Build Capacity: Landscape Study of Prenatal–Age 3 Services & Supports in Mecklenburg County
Explore how data can drive a community’s capacity for systems-change. By assessing strengths, needs and gaps, we can influence and inform Mecklenburg County’s systems of support for families with young children.

PRESENTERS
Laura Marie Armstrong, PhD
Ariana Shahinfar, PhD
Jennifer Stamp, MSW

ORGANIZATION
Smart Start of Mecklenburg County

The Sounds of Reading: Phonological Awareness in Today’s Classroom
The Sounds of Reading focuses on phonological awareness, covering many concepts: rhyming, alliteration, sentence segmentation, syllables, onsets, rimes and phonemes. Each concept will be defined and explained followed by classroom application, including example activities. Connections to NC Foundations for Early Learning and Development, the NC Early Learning Inventory and kindergarten–first grade literacy standards will be discussed.

PRESENTERS
Kelley Bendheim
Jessica Fitzgerald
Sarah Morrison

ORGANIZATION
North Carolina Office of Early Learning
The Lit Fuse
Let's get lit together! The fusion of early literacy, art and media makes a huge impact on children's cognitive, social-emotional, language and physical development. Join in as we discuss these connections and creative ways to engage children birth to age five in early literacy.

PRESENTER
Jennelle Lewis

ORGANIZATION
Partnership for Children Lenoir & Greene Counties

Making Connections: Using Children's Books to Support Identity, Equity & Inclusion
Explore ways to select books to enable children to both have their lives reflected and to gain insight to the lives of others. Participants will discover how to use books that authentically portray children and families of diverse cultures, languages, configurations and circumstances. Sources and examples will be provided for sparking rich conversations and promoting inclusion.

PRESENTERS
Jessica Amsbary, PhD
Camille Catlett
Tracey West, PhD

ORGANIZATION
Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute,
University of North Carolina

Three Early Reading Strategies You Need to Know
What are early reading strategies? Are they all the same? Forget the long lists of strategies. Learn three easy-to-use reading strategies that will make a difference for beginning readers, from putting individual sounds together to tackling multisyllabic words. These strategies are based in the science of reading and have been successfully used by teachers, students and parents.

PRESENTERS
Heather Aiken, PhD
Teresa Taylor, MEd

ORGANIZATION
Targeted Reading Instruction, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute

Using Data to Improve Reading Instruction in K–3 classrooms
Data, data, data—what do we do with it? In this session, participants will gain an understanding of the importance of using assessment data to improve student outcomes. The major outcome of the presentation will be to show how to impactfully analyze and use the data to inform, monitor and adjust instruction. In North Carolina, the two data sources used in elementary schools include DIBELS 8 and NC Early Learning Inventory. We will give a brief overview of these statewide formative/summative assessments and how to use these tools to drive instruction.

PRESENTERS
Carrie Bruns
Thomas Merritt
Kelly Pratt

ORGANIZATION
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
Office of Early Learning
Families as Partners: Using Everyday Tools to Increase Learning Outcomes in Children

This session will explore North Carolina’s use of digital resources to support family engagement throughout the state. In this workshop, teachers, parents and caregivers will build upon and examine how their important roles evolve as children grow and develop. During this highly interactive session, participants will also be asked to reflect and share on what is working for them around family engagement. Lastly, this session will discuss how North Carolina partnered with Teaching Strategies, LLC to increase access to valuable resources for both teachers and families alike throughout the state.

PRESENTERS
Alexandra Morris, MSW
Kayla Stewart

ORGANIZATIONS
Teaching Strategies, LLC
Division of Child Development & Early Education

Virtual summit resources will be available on June 25. Visit pbsnc.org/impact-summit for more information.
Can We Read It Again? Engaging Children with Picture Books & Early Mathematics

Welcome to a hands-on workshop on how to engage young children while reading aloud and opening the door to the world of early mathematics, among other topics. Get an overview of best practices to read aloud picture books, either in the home or in the classroom. This session is based on research evidence from early literacy and mathematics on impactful shared reading experiences that build children’s language and cognitive/academic skills. These strategies will be appropriate for early educators and family members to implement with children ages 4–7. We will draw curricular connections to Developmentally Appropriate Practice for early learning (NAEYC, 2020) and the NC Standard Course of Study in English Language Arts and Mathematics for grades K–2.

**PRESENTERS**
Dr. Jill Grifenhagen
Frédérique Yova, PhD

**ORGANIZATIONS**
NC State University College of Education
Child Care Services Association

Tech Up the Math

Discover ways that you can create transformative math learning experiences. Give students ways to visualize the math concept in a way not possible without technology, use multimodal learning and empower them to interact with their classmates’ math thinking. See how technology tools like Wixie, Flipgrid and Pear Deck’s Flashcard Factory can help you tech up your math instruction. This presentation helps build on our students’ numerical literacy. It also teaches them to better visualize math concepts, promotes math conversations between students and allows them to express their mathematical knowledge in more than one way.

**PRESENTER**
Debbie Tannenbaum

**ORGANIZATION**
Fairfax County Public Schools, VA

Supporting Children's Emotional & Social Development

During this hands-on session, caregivers will learn strategies to support children to develop positive interactions, identify and manage their emotions and recognize and address the feelings of others. By using the wheel of emotions, manipulatives and breathing techniques, caregivers will be able to address topics such as self-awareness, positive interactions, identifying and managing emotions and recognizing the feelings of others. Participants will walk away with new techniques and many useful tips and resources that they’ll be able to incorporate in their classrooms. Participants will also review multiple picture books and will receive a comprehensive list of literacy materials that address self-awareness, how to identify feelings and emotions and how to develop positive relationships.

**PRESENTERS**
Elyse Berrier
Barbara Cantisano
Jesse Isley

**ORGANIZATION**
Charlotte Mecklenburg County Library

The Coalescence of STEM & Early Childhood Education: Opting to Engage

Research is clear that young children begin to acquire knowledge from birth and the first five years is the most rapid period of development. STEM principles should be taught in the same manner as the basics that contribute to the development of cognitive and social-emotional domains. This presentation will empower caregivers to introduce STEM activities and concepts to young children. Participants will have the opportunity to use a developmentally appropriate children’s book and demonstrating the literacy strategy of making a connection through a STEM-based hands-on activity.

**PRESENTERS**
Dr. Joshua Byrd
Nadia Lowe
Dr. Sandra I. Plata-Potter

**ORGANIZATION**
University of North Carolina at Pembroke
Craven County Smart Start
Professional Learning Community: Equity in the Field of Early Childhood Education

This session will provide early childhood professionals with strategies and structures that empower them to create their own professional learning communities. Participants will learn about this collaborative and ongoing process that results in equitable outcomes for the children they serve. They will have the opportunity to acquire new skills, make connections with colleagues and reflect on their professional practices.

**PRESENTERS**
Stephanie Bridges
Lindsay Schrenkel
Crystal Thomas

**ORGANIZATION**
Early Educator Support Office at UNC Charlotte

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In Whose Universe? Struggles in Shaping the Vision for Equitable Universal Pre-K

“Universal Pre-K” has become an oft-tossed-about phrase but it is rarely well defined or envisioned. This session will take a creative and engaged approach to sharing what one large county has encountered and steps we’ve taken to align interests as we work to improve equity in early childhood education through the implementation of Universal Pre-K.

**PRESENTER**
Dr. Mary-Margaret Kantor

**ORGANIZATION**
Smart Start of Mecklenburg County/MECK Pre-K

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A Great Place to Work: Creating a Healthy Organizational Climate

Early childhood administrators often have a global impression that things are going well or not so well at their center but lack specific information on which program areas contribute to those impressions. Through thought-provoking questions and engaging exercises, you will learn how to assess the organizational climate of your program that will help you create a great place to work.

**PRESENTERS**
Julie Clinkscale
Priscilla Hayes

**ORGANIZATION**
Child Care Services Association

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Building on an Equitable Foundation: Mirrors, Windows & Sliding Glass Doors

This session builds upon approaches of Mirrors, Windows and Sliding Doors aligning to Dialogic Reading and NC Foundations to support the construction of an equitable literacy footing for all children, nurturing their cultural curiosity. Participants will reflect on using literacy to promote children’s positive self-identity, awareness and appreciation of their culture and culture of others, and support development of inclusivity.

**PRESENTERS**
Joanna Aguilar, MEd
Margo Ford Crosby, MEd
Tammy Sneed
Dr. Brenda K. Williamson

**ORGANIZATIONS**
Early Educator Support Office at UNC Charlotte
Center for Educational Measurement & Evaluation
Educational Leadership Department
Goddard School in Durham
Division of Child Development & Early Education
Multi-Sensory Literacy with PBS KIDS

Opportunities for literacy connections are all around us. How can we use even the simplest moments in our classrooms to spark literacy connections and meet each learner where they are? Join PBS North Carolina as we discuss how using the PBS KIDS model of Watch, Play, Explore, Share can provide opportunities for multisensory literacy learning.

**PRESENTERS**
Khalilah Gilmore
LaToya McCrimmon

**ORGANIZATION**
PBS North Carolina

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Supporting Social Emotional Learning through Classroom & Family Partnerships

Join Babies First NC as we share our remarkable experience working with ten early childcare education centers to launch an easy and impactful Social Emotional Learning (SEL) project. This two-part project added to the SEL skill level and connection between centers and their families while enhancing the center’s quality of care. Babies First NC provided instruction and coaching for early educators and families on how to implement developmentally appropriate social-emotional skills for children through literacy and supporting materials. Find out how this special project enhanced SEL, literacy, family engagement as well as physical and mental wellness for early childhood educators, children and families.

**PRESENTERS**
Teresa Boykin
Asata Virgo

**ORGANIZATION**
Child Care Services Association–Babies First NC

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PBS KIDS Self-Paced Learning

PBS KIDS offers free and flexible self-paced learning to help inspire pre-K–2 teachers and provide support for the classroom. Choose from several learning experiences designed to spark new ideas and expand your skill set.

**PRESENTER**
Jennifer Sarmento
Angela Wilson

**ORGANIZATION**
PBS North Carolina

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Career Navigation & Recruitment of Bilingual Early Childhood Educators

Representation matters. This presentation introduces Charlotte Bilingual Preschool’s new, innovative program designed to build a pipeline of bilingual early childhood educators. By increasing the number of high-quality, dual language ECE teachers, we can reduce educational disparities impacting Latinx children. At this presentation, attendees will learn about the importance of building career pathways in ECE for the Latinx community and how the Charlotte Bilingual Preschool is providing these opportunities.

**PRESENTERS**
Susana Jerez
Jennifer Stamp, MSW

**ORGANIZATIONS**
Charlotte Bilingual Preschool
Smart Start of Mecklenburg
Science of Reading Resources for Little Learners
The presentation highlights alignment with preschool and pre-kindergarten developmental indicators in NC Foundations for Early Learning & Development. Objectives include an overview of the Science of Reading, sharing useful resources for literacy instruction within the classroom and supporting caregivers as they reinforce literacy skills at home. This session will provide early childhood educators with tools aligned to the Science of Reading for use in the classroom and to facilitate a literacy connection between home and school.

PRESENTERS
Cameron Ammann
Jessica Fitzgerald
Jenni Wilkinson

ORGANIZATION
North Carolina Office of Early Learning

It Takes Two to Make a Thing Go Right
“Teamwork makes the dream work.” Each community is unique in the way it operates, how it is funded and its engagement and services. This session will address the importance of partnering with families and parents to increase engagement. It will also provide insight into strategies that successfully connect with communities, teachers and families and for assessing assets and needs as well as using the findings to leverage PBS KIDS resources. These insights have in turn informed a strategic focus and tailored approach to education services that meet the needs of communities, teachers and families. Participants will receive literacy tips to read to their early learners and best practices for introducing a new book, connecting school to home collaboration best practices.

PRESENTER
Dr. Kimberly Mobley

ORGANIZATION
Georgia Public Broadcasting

What Does Equity & Justice Look Like in Early Childhood?
In this session, participants will learn about the ongoing racial disparities in early learning programs, as well as the factors that perpetuate these inequities. Participants also will be provided with concrete strategies—including how to facilitate the development of pre-literacy skills—that can be used to begin the work of equity and justice in early learning settings and promote better outcomes for young children.

PRESENTER
Dr. Jen Neitzel

ORGANIZATION
Educational Equity Institute

Playful, Inclusive & All Day Long: STEM for Each and Every Child
Let’s practice inclusive STEM learning and engagement opportunities for each and every child. We will discuss how to intentionally plan for and use strategies to ensure young children with and without disabilities are engaged in playful, child-centered and inexpensive STEM experiences within their everyday routines and activities. We’ll also share how STEM can support language and literacy development. Come away with curated book lists, storybook conversation tip sheets and examples of open-ended questions.

PRESENTERS
Jessica Amsbary, PhD
Christine Harradine, PhD
Megan Vinh, PhD

ORGANIZATION
Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute
Gray or White Matter? Both Matter for Literacy

Reading is a relatively new human invention. From infancy, children have a neural scaffolding in place upon which environmental factors refine and build reading skills. Join us for an in-depth look at new brain research that postulates that the neural basis for literacy may emerge before birth and is well established by age 2.

PRESENTER
Dr. Kristi L. Snuggs

ORGANIZATION
Division of Child Development & Early Education

Behavior as Communication: Guiding Children’s Positive Social-Emotional Development

Viewing children’s behaviors as communication requires new skills that provide opportunities for children to explore their emotional expression and social interactions, rooted in a deeper understanding of children’s development. Informed by CSEFEL Pyramid Model and NC Foundations for Early Learning and Development, this session offers interactive scenario/problem-solving and discussions that will provide a foundation for new practices. It will include the CSEFEL/Pyramid Model Book Nook lists that can be used with children to support positive social behaviors. Participants will reflect on their current supports, analyze areas of growth and apply new skills in a collegial group setting.

PRESENTER
Shawna A. Daniels, MEd

ORGANIZATION
Learning and Growing Early Childhood Consulting

Virtual summit resources will be available on June 25. Visit pbsnc.org/impact-summit for more information.
Local educators, parents, caregivers and community leaders make a tremendous impact within the early childhood education space. PBS North Carolina has developed the Rootle Ambassador Program to celebrate and support their work. Rootle Ambassadors give us the opportunity to equitably reach classrooms, communities and homes across the state with curriculum-informed content and resources.

Learn more about the program at pbsnc.org/rootle-ambassadors.

**AMBASSADOR Program**

**SARA KESTERSON**
Ashe County

**JENNELLE LEWIS**
Lenoir County

**APRIL SWAIN**
Bertie County

**BRANDON AUTAR**
Buncombe County

**FRIDAY OKURE**
Cabarrus County

**LA’GENTRY ROSS**
Catawba County

**BRENDA MILLETT**
Cherokee County

**STEVEN HARRISON**
Durham County

**SANDRA IXA PLATA-POTTER, PH.D.**
Craven County

**LOUMECIA STATON**
Guilford County

**JENNELLE LEWIS**
Lenoir County

**CHASTITY GOUGE**
McDowell County

**YOLANDA HOUSE**
New Hanover County

**CONNIE LOCKLEAR, ED.D.**
Robeson County

**ERIKA BROCK**
Transylvania County

**TAMEKA ALLEN**
Wayne County

**EARLY LEARNING CHAMPIONS**

Early Learning Champion **Jennelle Lewis** is the Project Development Coordinator with the Partnership for Children of Lenoir and Greene Counties. Her work is a fusion of early literacy, outreach and event coordination. She holds a BS in Family and Community Services with concentrations in music and psychology from East Carolina University.
SEE YOU NEXT YEAR IN ASHEVILLE

The Impact Early Childhood Education Summit is made possible with support from the North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services’ Division of Child Development & Early Education, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and The William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust.