



Maryland State Family Child Care Association

27TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

BEYOND TECHNOLOGY:

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IN THE DIGITAL AGE



OCTOBER 18-19, 2019

CAROUSEL HOTEL

OCEAN CITY, MD



27TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

BEYOND TECHNOLOGY: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IN THE DIGITAL AGE

OCTOBER 18 & 19, 2019 | CAROUSEL HOTEL

Join us for the most awaited conference filled with education, networking and friends. Do not miss out on this fun, refreshing, inspiring weekend where you can potentially receive up to 13 hours of training, including two (2) Professional Activity Units!

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2019

6:30 AM – 11:30 AM & 1:00 PM – 5:30 PM	Registration
7:00 AM – 7:30 AM	Breakfast
7:30 AM – 8:00 AM	Welcome
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	General Session I
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Vendors/Raffles/Auction Viewing
9:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Session I
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Lunch
12:45 PM – 1:00 PM	Vendors/Raffles/Auction Viewing
1:15 PM – 3:15 PM	Session II
3:30 PM – 5:30 PM	Session III
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Beach Patio Social Mixer

GENERAL SESSION I

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Screen Media and Young Children: Science-Based Strategies to Support their Language Development and Joy of Learning – *PRO & CD*

Keynote: Lisa Guernsey

This keynote will focus on the importance of content, context, and the individual child (the Three C's) in the use of media with young children, starting with a quick overview of the big questions that are often asked about technology and kids: How much "screen time" is unhealthy for young children? What apps and digital games are of high enough quality to help them learn? The session will also highlight studies that focus on the importance of social interaction and back-and-forth conversation for a child's language development, with practical tips that have a basis in research on what works.

Watch her TED Talk: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P41_nyYY3Zg
(see Lisa Guernsey's bio on Meet Your Presenters page)



SESSION I – 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

A. Tap, Click, Read: Growing Readers in a World of Screens – CD & PRO
Lisa Guernsey

This workshop will provide participants strategies to promote literacy in the digital age. With young children having easy access to video games and other digital media, Tap, Click, Read provides educators and parents the tools and information they need to help children grow into strong, passionate readers who are skilled at using media and technology of all kinds- print, digital and everything in between.

B. Using Music to Teach Early Childhood Foundation Blocks – CURR
Allyson Gillispie

This session could be broken down into 2 sessions of Literacy/Math and Science/Social Science. As a music therapist, I use music to teach non-music goals with special needs students. We would focus on using music to enhance learning in a variety of areas. While exploring a variety of books, we will dive into how to best use music to strengthen your curriculum. Through music, we will break down literacy into oral language, vocabulary, phonological awareness, letter/early word knowledge, and book awareness. We will break down math into number sense, counting, ordinal numbers, matching, sorting, and patterns.

C. Providing the Human Touch to Technology: Infants to School Age Activities that are Fun - CURR
Amina Jones Law

NAEYC Technology and Interactive Media Position Statement: Has technology replaced hands on experiences? What is the human touch in technology? Why is the human touch important? Technology, the myth and the facts. Developmentally Appropriate Technology Tools and Interactive Media: Interactive Demonstrations for each age group Incorporating the human touch Infants & Toddlers Preschoolers and Kindergartners School-Age Children Online Resources.

D. Achieving Quality: The Maryland Child Care Credentialing - PRO
Angeline Bishop-Oshoko, Agneatha Wright & LaTanya Taylor

The Maryland Child Care Credential is a voluntary program that recognizes child Care providers who go beyond the requirements of State licensing and registration regulations. There are seven staff credential levels and four administrative Credential levels, each one recognizing a child care provider's achievement of a specified number of training clock hours, experience and professional activities important for providing quality child care programs. Participating providers are required to complete training in six Core of Knowledge areas that will help them develop the knowledge and skills to provide the best possible care for the children and families they serve.

E. Relationship Soup - PRO
Lacey Tsonis

What goes into Relationship Soup? How do you shift the way you look at relationships to have a more strength-based focus? What role does technology, if any, play in the relationships in your life? Come explore how to enhance the relationships in your life, both personally and professionally, and identify simple strategies you can start doing today to repair damaged or challenging relationships.

SESSION II – 1:15 PM – 3:15 PM

F. Helping Families find the Balance with Technology - COMM
Nancy Chalink-Seidler

Do you worry about how families are using technology with their children? Are they turning it off and striking a balance? Come acquire ideas on how YOU can suggest they find the happy medium based on what is developmentally appropriate and what will give them sanity!

G. Development Delays – CD & SN
Jennifer Jurch & Angie Sparks

This training provides participants with knowledge and strategies for teaching children with developmental delays. Participants view characteristics of typical child development from birth through five, discuss "red flags," developmental screening tools, developmental delays and adaptations to assist children with developmental delays. Through interactive simulations, participants will gain an understanding of the challenges children with developmental delays face and have an opportunity to develop accommodations they can utilize in their classrooms.

H. The Combined Powers of Observation, Data and Technology to Promote Development in Young Children - CD
Kelly Summy, Robert Wagner, Linda Carling & Kristen Thompson

Data from observing young children is powerful in the hands of a knowledgeable child care provider! In this session, participants will learn how to turn everyday observations into actionable data, using the framework of the Early Learning Assessment (ELA). Participants will make the most of the enhanced online reporting features of the ELA to guide instruction. The ELA is a free observation-based tool developed by the Maryland State Department of Education and the Johns Hopkins Center for Technology in Education. It was built to help you measure and track the development of children between 36- 72 months. The ELA helps to unlock insights about how children are progressing so that you can provide the very best growth opportunities for them. Whether you've used the ELA before or have never heard of it, this session is full of ideas that you can apply right away, using information collected about the children in your care to strategically support their development.

I. Coding for Early Learners - CURR
Crystal Ey

Up, down, backwards, forwards! Learning to code prepares our children for the world we live in today. Coding stories and games create collaborative learning experiences filled with exploration. From toddlers to school agers, join us for an interactive workshop that sets the stage for how early coding skills are fostered in our children. Discover how basic programming reinforce and expand both early math and literacy concepts. Plus, coding is fun!

J. Bringing Harmony to Discord: Managing Difficult Conversations - PRO
Laura Foster

Child care providers occasionally find themselves facing difficult conversations with colleagues, community members, or parents. Even if these conversations are rare, they can consume a tremendous amount of time and energy if we let them. This session will bring attention to techniques and reflections that can prepare child care providers for these conversations. Participants will gain insight into managing hostility, anxiety, denial, and differences in values while still developing intentional responses to implement in future conversations.



SESSION III – 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM

K. Advocacy is as Easy as 1-2-3! - PRO

Mary Beth Salomone Testa & Beth Morrow

Using technology makes being an advocate a snap! You can use technology to: 1.) Stay informed about policies affecting family child care, 2.) Connect policy ideas to your stories and experiences, and 3.) Engage with your elected officials. Join us as we discuss policies affecting family child care and develop our advocacy skills.

L. Technology Can Spark Creativity - CURR

Sheila George

This training will help participants identify the characteristics of creativity and the creative process and learn how to recognize Apps that support and use the Creative Process with our children. We spend time actually exploring different computer Apps, comparing the pros and cons and the "fit" for individual programs. We will also discuss Technology Tips for selecting Apps and for using technology in developmentally appropriate ways. Bring your tablets and smart phones; let's get creative.

M. Child Care 101: Acing Your Inspection - PRO

Sherry Tsigounis

This session will teach participants about initial and continuing, registrations, inspections, changes that effect your registration, record keeping, continued training, capacity, supervision, child protection, sanitation, home safety, outdoor safety, water safety, sleep safety, health & nutrition

N. Adverse Childhood Experiences: Neuroscience, Epigenetics, and Resilience – HSN & CD

Steve Rohde

Adverse Childhood Experiences, ACEs, can have an immediate impact on children and their families. And, the relationship of health risk behavior and disease in adulthood as a response to childhood emotional, physical, or sexual abuse and neglect, and household dysfunction is now becoming much clearer. This workshop will explore ACEs, their impact, and how as caregivers we can help young children and their families.

O. Growth Mindset: Through the Lens of Children's Literature - CD

Thelma Hayes & Erica Bates

Participants will differentiate between a fixed mindset and a growth mindset through role play and small group activities. Participants will develop lesson plans that promote essential aspects of a growth mindset using current children's literature. Participants will distinguish between growth mindset praise/ supports versus fixed mindset reward systems. In this highly interactive workshop, you will explore the elements that are needed to formulate a Growth Mindset for early childcare professionals and students through exploration of children's literature. Child care professionals will be presented with resources, information, and strategies that shifts a Fixed Mindset towards a Growth Mindset that will empower students to take risks and achieve academic success. The concepts are applicable from birth to school-age and throughout the child's lifespan. Supporting children to develop a Growth Mindset promotes a willingness to try, fail, try again, and move towards success and achievement. The utilization of children's literature offers opportunities for educators to connect children with the concepts that promote growth mindset. A literature rich environment supports early educators to make a difference in the lives of children.



**CAROUSEL
OCEANFRONT HOTEL &
CONDOMINIUMS**

Mention Maryland State Family Child Care when making your reservation to receive the rates below:

Non-Ocean View, Deluxe 2 Queen Beds

\$59 Th & Su | \$87 F & Sa

Ocean Front, 2 Queen Beds

\$79 Th & Su | \$128 F & Sa

Suite Non-Oceanfront

\$79 Th & Su | \$128 F & Sa

Condo - 2 Bedroom 2 Bath

\$139 Th & Su | \$180 F & Sa

Condo - 3 Bedroom 2 Bath

\$164 Th & Su | \$225 F & Sa

+10.5% State and Local tax on all rooms

The Conference Committee recommends pairing up to cut down on costs. Looking for a roommate? Check out the [MSFCCA 27th Annual Conference Facebook Page](#) – post or search there!

Call 1-800-641-0011

*Any difficulty with reservations, ask for **Ross Whitman**



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2019

6:40 AM – 11:30 AM	Registration
7:00 AM – 7:30 AM	Breakfast
7:30 AM – 8:00 AM	Welcome
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	General Session II
9:15 AM – 11:15 AM	Session IV
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Lunch
12:00 PM – 12:30 PM	Basket Raffle
12:30 PM – 1:45 PM	Live Auction
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	General Session III
3:15 PM – 5:15 PM	Session V
7:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Dinner & Dance

GENERAL SESSION II

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

**Overview of Office of Child Care
and the Division of Early Childhood - PRO**

Keynote: Steven Hicks & Jennifer Nizer

Participants will get an overview of the new (proposed) regulations and update on Licensing, Credentialing, Child Care Scholarships and Maryland EXCELS. Steven and Jennifer will also share many of the projects happening as a result of the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5).

(see Steven Hicks & Jennifer Nizer's bio on Meet Your Presenters page)



GENERAL SESSION III

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Technology is Calling, Are You Ready to Answer? - PRO

Keynote: Brian Siatkowski

Technology has been calling, texting, emailing, facetimeing, and liking you on social media, are you ready to answer? There are many platforms available and knowing when to use which ones and how to best use them can be overwhelming. Plus, you have to figure out not only how to use it appropriately and effectively with the children in your care, but also how to use it to promote and build your business. With vast experience in marketing, Brian will help you identify how to maximize your use of social media, use a variety of technologies for marketing your business, and identify appropriate ways to bring technology into your child care.

(see Brian Siatkowski's bio on Meet Your Presenters page)



SESSION IV – 9:15 AM – 11:15 AM

P. Town Hall with Family Child Care Providers: We Need Your Voice! - PRO

Steven Hicks & Jennifer Nizer

A brief 15-minute overview of how MSDE is working with the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services to create better partnerships of child care providers, children and families. The remainder of the session will be a facilitated conversation with an opportunity for family child care providers to give feedback on the future of early childhood in Maryland.

Q. The Importance of Child Engagement in Play and Learning - CD

Alan Guttman

This workshop will focus on the importance of child engagement in play and learning. In this interactive session participants will learn how to define and recognize the qualities of children's engagement with adults, peers, learning materials, and play activities. Videos of children engaged in typical activities, including with technology, will be viewed and discussed to broaden and deepen participant understanding of how best to support and promote child engagement in your program.

R. Get Out of Your Box: Use Technology to Explore - CURR

Sheila George & Nicole Pierre

Are you stuck in your program, feeling isolated or limited by your four walls? Technology allows your classroom to reach new areas, investigate the unknown, and involve more children in the learning process. During this session, participants will explore out of the box ideas to use technology to expand learning inside and outside of their program. Learn how to safely use technology to harness diverse experiences increasing children's understanding with no bounds. Involve children in actively learning and engaging with technology to research, investigate and explore.

S. Using Sign Language as a Tool to Communicate with Infants and Toddlers - CD

Jill Lyons

This training is designed to introduce infant and toddler teachers to using sign language with children to support communication. Through this highly interactive training, students will learn 8-10 signs for "needs meeting" words such as more, all done, mommy, daddy, stop, etc. Students will also walk away with created hand sign placards and pair them with the spoken words that match the signs.

T. Mother Nature's Classroom: A Seasonal Curriculum – CD & CURR

Monica French & Steve Rohde

What is Nature-Based Learning in reference to early childhood education and why is it so important? How do you apply it in traditional settings like school, daycare, etc.? Explore the best practices when teaching and learning with young children and nature. Learn how to integrate interactions with nature in your existing curriculum, no matter where you live or what population you serve! Discover how children from all backgrounds are prepared socially, emotionally and academically through hands-on investigation and inquiry of the natural world. Accessibility to nature is each child's right – as facilitators of this experience, we need to be well-versed in how to make this play possible to every child and family! Learn how to access the resources in your area to create a nature rich classroom. Images of the little explorers at Wild Haven Forest Preschool in action will inspire educators with ideas for art, songs, storytelling, mathematical and scientific thinking and more!

SESSION V – 3:15 PM – 5:15 PM

U. You Got This: Stories, Examples and Activities to Start Thinking Bigger - PRO

Brian Siatkowski

This session will integrate stories and actionable steps child care providers can take to think bigger and make a bigger impact on their business and their community. Topics will weave through technology and marketing, the impact of consumers and media, and how grassroots marketing is the new television. This is a feel-good session that should raise attendee's confidence through motivational speaking and stories coupled with activities within the session that attendees can use when they leave to make a difference on how they impact their business and community.

V. Playful Learning with PBS KIDS: Integrating Media into your Family Child Care Program - CURR

Karla Thompson & Krista Repass

The goal of the Playful Learning with PBS KIDS: Integrating Media into Your Family Care Program session is to lay a foundation about the importance of play-based learning. This session will introduce providers to connected learning strategies using PBS KIDS content to support early learning objectives and knowledge goals. Special guest, Avonda Ellison, owner of Laugh-n-Learn Center in Salisbury, will also be on-hand to share her insight and experience with her peers.

W. How to Communicate with Challenging Children - SN

Lauren Spigelmyer

This workshop will provide parents and caregivers with communication techniques that build respect and rapport, strengthen relationships, foster problem solving, and teach children to take control of their actions. These strategies will give participants tools for preventing and addressing challenging behaviors through dignifying and respectful communication. After completion of this workshop, participants will be able to: Identify the seven highly effective communication strategies, define areas of need and problem solve for solutions to meet those needs and exemplify ways to apply the strategies to their teaching practices.

X. S.M.I.L.E A Positive Approach to Discipline - CD

Debbie Langer

Are you tired of the same old suggestions on how to prevent and improve the behavior of young children? Do you ask yourself the question, "Who is in charge here?" Come to this training to learn fun ways to approach discipline that will improve the overall climate of your environment, improve your relationship with the children, and have you and the children smiling.

Y. Valuing Curiosity in the Digital Age through Integrated STEAM Practices – CD & CURR

Akil Rahim

Technology, it's not what you think (and probably not what you've been told). It is an integrated part of science, engineering, art and math and evolves from the innate curiosity with which each child brings into the world. This session provides an innovative hands-on approach to enhancing the development of children's curiosity in this age of digital technology. Participants will learn how to create integrated STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) activities that boost children's natural curiosity including their self-awareness self-regulation, organizing, problem-solving and other related (executive functioning) skills.



SPANISH LANGUAGE SESSIONS

SESIONES DE ESPAÑOL

VIERNES | 18 DE OCTUBRE
SESION I – 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

SA. Prevención de Conductas Desafiantes- *Crecimiento y desarrollo infantil (CD)*

Elena Marin Velasquez

Prevenir conductas desafiantes Este curso de educación continua está diseñado para educadores de la primera infancia y brinda instrucción sobre cómo manejar y prevenir conductas difíciles en el aula. Los temas incluyen: revisión de los hitos del desarrollo socioemocional, definir e identificar conductas desafiantes y crear planes, medidas y estrategias preventivas.

Objetivos:

1. Revisar los hitos del desarrollo socioemocional.
2. Definir e identificar comportamientos desafiantes y medidas preventivas.
3. Crear un plan preventivo para evitar comportamientos desafiantes.

VIERNES | 18 DE OCTUBRE
SESION II – 1:15 PM – 3:15 PM

SB. Conociendo el impacto del tiempo frente a pantallas electrónicas en el cerebro del niño- *Crecimiento y desarrollo infantil (CD)*

Mau-CastroTrujillo

El objetivo de este taller es discutir las características del tiempo de pantalla y cómo afecta el desarrollo del cerebro en niños pequeños. Los participantes también discutirán los pros y los contras relacionados con el tiempo de pantalla, el lenguaje y el desarrollo físico. Revise los principios y hechos fundamentales del desarrollo del cerebro y cómo se ve influenciado por las actividades, el entorno de aprendizaje y, en última instancia, por el tiempo de pantalla. Organice las actividades y el entorno para promover un desarrollo saludable con el uso de la tecnología. Los participantes tendrán la oportunidad de compartir y aprender de las peras sobre el uso saludable y controlado de la tecnología en sus aulas.

VIERNES | 18 DE OCTUBRE
SESION III – 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM

SC. Entendiendo los beneficios de Google Drive- *Profesionalismo (PRO)*

Ramona Johnson

En la actualidad, las unidades de memoria pueden limitarnos porque las extraviamos o actualizamos la información en otras computadoras, etc. Tener toda su información disponible y poder trabajar en colaboración es la nueva ola de operaciones. Aprende sobre tecnología nueva y gratuita. ¡Si tiene una computadora o un teléfono inteligente, tiene una oficina y dirige su negocio! Traiga su computadora portátil para que podamos trabajar juntos.

SABADO | 19 DE OCTUBRE
SESION IV – 9:15 PM – 11:15 PM

SD. T para Tecnología- *Plan de estudios (CURR)*

Maria Artola

En esta clase, los estudiantes podrán describir la importancia de usar actividades apropiadas para apoyar la comprensión de la tecnología con niños de edad pre-escolar. Además, los estudiantes aprenderán las habilidades necesarias para implementar actividades de alfabetización tecnológica y/o juego en las áreas de sistemas de tecnología y convertirse en una ciudadanía digital. Los estudiantes también recibirán orientación para crear políticas de uso de tecnología apropiadas para los niños en su programa.

SABADO | 19 DE OCTUBRE
SESION IV – 3:15 PM – 5:15 PM

SE. Trabajando con Niños con ADHD– *Necesidades especiales (SN)*

Meylin Mejia

Este curso de educación continua está diseñado para educadores de cuidado infantil y brinda instrucción en español. Temas incluyen: definición de aprendizaje cognitivo, herramientas para promover la capacidad de atención en niños con TDAH y formas de promover cambio de comportamiento.

Los objetivos:

1. Definir los procesos cognitivos que implican el aprendizaje.
2. Desarrollar herramientas para promover la capacidad de atención en niños con TDAH.
3. Manejar conductas disruptivas en niños con TDAH.
4. Establecer rutinas para fomentar el cambio de comportamiento





MSFCCA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

(please print clearly)

Name _____ E-Mail (required) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Cell _____ Home _____ County _____

Are you an MSFCCA Member? Yes ___ No ___

*If YES, you MUST include a copy of your MSFCCA (yellow) Membership Card to receive the member discount or your registration may not be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Only completed packets will be processed.

Are you a member of your local association? Yes ___ No ___ Name of Association _____

Are you a local Association Officer? Yes ___ No ___ Your Association Position _____

Do you wish your name to be on a list of attendees given to the Vendors/Exhibitors? Yes ___ No ___

Is this your first conference? Yes ___ No ___ Number of MSFCCA conferences you have attended _____

CONFERENCE FEES				
<i>please circle your registration option</i>				
	Early Bird by 8/30/19	Regular 8/31/19 – 9/21/19	Late 9/22/19 – 9/28/19	TOTAL
Member	\$190	\$220	\$245	
Non-member	\$240	\$270	\$295	
Saturday Only, Member	\$150	\$180	\$205	
Saturday Only, Non-Member	\$200	\$230	\$255	
Optional: Saturday Night Dinner Guest	Number of additional guest at \$35/each: _____*			
TOTAL				

Mail Registration & Payment:
MSFCCA Conference
Wendy Dingus
9195 Balsam Run
Bel Alton, MD 20611
*Registration must be postmarked in accordance with conference fees

*Guest, 18 years or older, are welcome for Saturday Night Dinner with Paid Ticket

Payment Information
(print clearly)

Please select payment method:

Visa

MasterCard

Check
Payable to: MSFCCA

MSDE Approved Training Voucher* (see below)
**must submit with registration*

Billing Address: _____

Card # _____

Exp. Date _____ Security # on back _____

Name _____

Signature _____

**SPACE IS LIMITED,
ACT NOW!**

- Full Registration Includes:**
- All General Sessions for Friday & Saturday
 - Session I, II, III, IV & V
 - Breakfast for Friday & Saturday
 - Lunch for Friday & Saturday
 - Friday Night Social Mixer
 - Saturday Dinner & Dance
- *NO Friday dinner provided**

- Saturday Only Includes:**
- General Session II & III
 - Sessions IV & V
 - Saturday Breakfast & Lunch
 - Saturday Dinner & Dance

Are you using a voucher?

Please send a copy of your MSDE Voucher Application along with your Registration Form. Your application for your voucher will hold your spot until your Validated Voucher is received by the Conference Committee. If your MSDE Voucher is not received by September 1, 2019, you have until Sept. 10, 2019 to send in a personal check or credit card information to keep your spot. If not, your registration will be forfeited. ALL vouchers must be received by Sept. 1, 2019. The attendee is responsible for MSDE Vouchers, it is not the responsibility of the MSFCCA Conference Committee.





MSFCCA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Participant Name: _____

- Workshops are assigned as registrations are received. Class sizes are limited, early registration is recommended.
- Please circle your top 3 choices for each session
- If you do not wish to attend any of the sessions, please circle "Not Attending"

NO PHONE CALLS WILL BE MADE TO VERIFY SELECTIONS.
IF INFORMATION IS OMITTED, YOUR SELECTION WILL BE MADE FOR YOU

SESSION I – Friday, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM						
1 st Choice	A	B	C	D	E	SA
2 nd Choice	A	B	C	D	E	SA
3 rd Choice	A	B	C	D	E	SA
SESSION II – Friday, 1:15 PM – 3:15 PM						
1 st Choice	F	G	H	I	J	SB
2 nd Choice	F	G	H	I	J	SB
3 rd Choice	F	G	H	I	J	SB
SESSION III – Friday, 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM						
1 st Choice	K	L	M	N	O	SC
2 nd Choice	K	L	M	N	O	SC
3 rd Choice	K	L	M	N	O	SC
SESSION IV – Saturday, 9:15 AM – 11:15 PM						
1 st Choice	P	Q	R	S	T	SD
2 nd Choice	P	Q	R	S	T	SD
3 rd Choice	P	Q	R	S	T	SD
SESSION V – Saturday, 3:15 PM – 5:15 PM						
1 st Choice	U	V	W	X	Y	SE
2 nd Choice	U	V	W	X	Y	SE
3 rd Choice	U	V	W	X	Y	SE

CONFERENCE MEALS
<p>Friday & Saturday Breakfast Buffet Scrambled eggs Sausage (<i>Friday</i>) Bacon (<i>Saturday</i>) Biscuit with jelly Southern grits (<i>Friday</i>) Oatmeal (<i>Saturday</i>) Fruit tray</p>
<p>Friday Lunch Buffet - South of the Border Chicken and tortilla soup Build your own taco, taco salad and fajitas with: soft flour tortillas and crisp corn tortillas, seasoned ground beef, sliced grilled chicken breast, roasted peppers and onions, lettuce, tomato, zesty salsa, guacamole, sour cream, cheddar cheese Refried beans and Spanish rice Dessert</p>
<p>Saturday Lunch Buffet - Deli Express Sliced deli meats to include: Turkey, ham and roast beef Sliced American, cheddar, Swiss and provolone cheeses Lettuce, sliced tomato, sliced onion and pickle spear, assorted breads and rolls Red bliss potato salad and coleslaw Macaroni Salad Bean Salad Dessert</p>
<p>Saturday Dinner Buffet Tossed Garden Slow roasted top round of beef with silver dollar rolls Broiled salmon with sun dried tomato and garlic butter Penne pomodoro Seasonal Fresh vegetable medley Oven roasted bliss potatoes *served with warm dinner rolls and butter, chef's pastry display and regular and decaf coffee, hot tea and iced tea</p>
<p>Please list any Food Allergies that will need the chef's attention: _____</p>

By registering for this conference, you are **agreeing** to the **Terms and Conditions** set forth on Conference Registration Form PAGE 3, including the **photo release**.





MSFCCA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Terms and Conditions

Registration will be processed on a first-come, first-serve basis. We will do our best to place you in your first-choice workshops. We do, however, reserve the right to place you in another workshop if there is no longer space available. Class sizes are limited; early registration is recommended.

Confirmations will be mailed electronically. If you do not receive an email registration confirmation by October 1st, please email the contact below. **NO PHONE CALLS WILL BE MADE TO VERIFY SELECTIONS.** Classes and/or instructors are subject to change. If you do not complete the above 1st, 2nd & 3rd Choices, the Conference Committee has the right to place you where they like. Registration Packets Postmarks **MUST** follow the deadline dates listed.

Any check returned as unpaid and/or non-sufficient funds will be charged a \$50.00 (fifty dollar) fee. Please note that your credit card information will not be stored in any database in any way. It will be securely transmitted from the President to the MSFCCA Treasurer who manually enters and processes your registration fee. At that time, your credit card will be charged and processed. After processing, your credit card information will be destroyed.

Cancellation/Refund Policy

No refunds shall be offered for all payments made for registration cancellation or no-shows.

Photo Release

I give MSFCCA consent to photograph me, record my voice, and the use of these photographs and/or recordings singularly or in conjunction with other photographs and/or recordings for advertising, publicity, commercial or other business purposes. I understand that the term "photograph" encompasses both still photographs and video footage. I release all claims against MSFCCA with respect to copyright ownership and publication including any claim for compensation related to use of the materials.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Classes and/or instructors are subject to change
- Participants must be present for the entire session in order to receive training credit and must obey the Conference Code of Conduct
- Children and unpaid guests may not attend the general sessions, workshop or meals
- Confirmations will be mailed electronically

Registration Contact Person: **Wendy Dingus**

E-mail: **wonderland9195@gmail.com**

Phone Number: **301-392-3481**



MEET YOUR PRESENTERS

Agneatha Wright – Agneatha currently serves as the Deputy Branch Chief of Credentialing at the Maryland State Department of Education. She has over 20 years of experience and holds a master's degree in Early Childhood. She began her career as a high school student working in the child development center at her local high school and later served as an Early Head Start Teacher and Public School Teacher. With her love for children and making an impact on families and teachers in the field while promoting quality and best practices, she advanced into leadership roles as Head Start Education Manager, Supervisory Education Program Specialist and Credentialing Coordinator. Agneatha resides in Baltimore County with her husband and two beautiful girls.

Akil K. Rahim – Akil has been conducting family engagement training for Head Start (and other early childhood) staff and parents since 1995 and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art & math) training since 2007. Currently, he provides STEAM and family engagement training programs in MD, DE, PA, NJ and NY and has conducted training at early childhood conferences in the same states. In addition, he has a curriculum for teaching early childhood STEM and STEAM courses at Howard Community College in Columbia, MD. Akil has a bachelor's degree in science education and a master's degree in HRD Education, Training and Development.

Alan Guttman – Alan is the Director of Early Childhood Policy & Systems at the Johns Hopkins University School of Education's IDEALS Institute. He earned an MA degree in Early Childhood Education from New York University. Alan has worked in the field of early care and education for 39 years as an aide, teacher, site supervisor, Head Start director, public school district child development program director, and federal Head Start program reviewer.

Allyson Gillispie – Allyson is a Board-Certified Music Therapist for Warren County Public Schools and Assistant Music Director for Front Royal United Methodist Church. She provides music therapy weekly to special education pre-school, elementary, middle and high schools. Before Allyson obtained her music therapy degree, she was a special education teacher, DD case manager, mental health residential manager and music teacher. Allyson presented "Technology in Music Therapy" at a Virginia Music Therapy Association workshop, "Using Music to Teach" at Children's Literature Conference at Shenandoah University, "How to Include and Encourage Students with Special Needs" for "Music with Mar.'s Mini Con" and has hosted 2 conferences for local teachers.

Amina Jones Law – Amina is the CEO of Childcare Management Solutions (CMS). She has served in many capacities in the field of early education including, college instructor, legislative liaison for children, family provider, child development center owner, military advisor for early education programs, key note speaker and has served on numerous boards and chair on the commission of the status of women. Childcare Management Solutions provides classroom and online instructor-facilitated training to Early Care professionals, and Family Work place issues for the Federal government throughout the US and abroad. CMS is approved by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) the District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) and Virginia. CMS is approved to teach Pre-service and Core of Knowledge areas starting with beginning to advanced levels and the Train the Trainer (TOT) course. Ms. Law has owned and operated Childcare Management Solutions since 1991. In 27 years of operations, the CMS Team has been responsible for training over 100,000 participants in the classroom and online. Ms. Law loves interacting with participants abroad. She also has enjoyed mentoring and coaching many students over the years. These students now own and operate centers and work in other education fields impacting children and families.

Angeline Bishop-Oshoko – Angeline served as Operations Chief from 2001 -2008 in the Office of Child Care with the Department of Human Resources where she was instrumental in the implementation of the Child Care Automated Tracking system. She previously served as Family and Partnership Manager for the Howard County Head Start program. She lived in New York for several years where she managed retail stores and served as TANF Program Manager with the Dutchess County Department of Social Services for over 10 years. In her current position as the Credentialing Branch Chief, she supports teachers participating in the Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund (since the inception of the program in 2008, 376 teachers have graduated with either an associate's or bachelor's degrees), over 16, 600 credentialed providers, and continue to support professional development and best practices in early childhood. In addition, she oversees approximately a \$12M budget that supports quality program enhancement and capacity building. Ms. Bishop-Oshoko holds a master's degree in Education and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from State University of New York, at New Paltz.

Angie Sparks – Angie is an Inclusion Specialist with Abilities Network/Project ACT. She promotes high quality, inclusive early childhood education experiences for children of all abilities by providing training and consultation services to early childhood professionals. Through coaching, mentoring, advocating, and the provision of resources, she supports educators and families in fostering healthy social-emotional development and addressing the mental health and behavioral needs of young children. Angie has served as a Pre-K teacher and director, a fifth-grade teacher, and a Curriculum Writer/Education Specialist for a for-profit corporate child care. She has worked in urban, suburban, and rural locations, which gives her a diverse perspective of children, families, and teachers.

Beth Morrow – Beth Morrow, Associate Director of Public Policy at Maryland Family Network, is an advocate and catalyst for the development of a strong system of quality child care, early education, and family support. She is active in state and federal debates on child care policy and is strongly committed to ensuring that young children, along with their parents, have access to high-quality, affordable programs and educational opportunities.



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Brian Siatkowski – Brian Siatkowski is a managing partner for Tebo & Associates (www.tebopartnerships.com) Tebo & Associates is a full-service marketing and advertising agency that specializes in the education sector with a focus on “integrated, relevant partnerships.” Mr. Siatkowski specializes in brand integration and activation through low-cost, high-impact advertising, sponsorship, and event creation as well as public-private sector partnerships. Past projects include strategic partnership campaigns for corporate partners like NASA, SeaWorld, Nemours Children’s Hospital, Michael Waltrip Racing and Pizza Hut. In the public sector, he has developed marketing and sponsorship programs for large-scale school districts like Orange County Public Schools (FL) and Albuquerque Public Schools (NM) to help create non-traditional revenue streams and promote public school programs. Mr. Siatkowski has also created multiple nontraditional marketing campaigns and partnerships for the Maryland State Department of Education. Mr. Siatkowski has been featured on NBC Nightly News, advised the Florida Senate on rules for companies advertising with schools, and spoken at national public relation & marketing conferences for his work. He has won two national awards from the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) for his marketing programs with Orange County Public Schools (FL). He currently serves as a member of the Corporate Advisory Board (CAB) for Johns Hopkins Children’s Center and resides in York, Pennsylvania.

Crystal Ey – Crystal Ey is President and Executive Director of LiteBrite LLC, an MSDE approved training and consulting company. At the corner stone of Crystal’s passion for providing the highest quality professional development, is her dedication to children and families. LiteBrite LLC supports our early care community of providers and teachers across the state of Maryland and beyond its borders into multiple states. Crystal is proud to have partnered LiteBrite LLC with Johns Hopkins Center for Technology in Education and The University of Maryland to support the roll out of the Early Learning Assessment, the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment and the MSDE Approved Pre-K Curriculum. A graduate of Salisbury State University with a degree in Elementary Education, Crystal’s career spans over 28 years as a Harford County public school teacher, homecare provider, owner/operator of The Learning Express early learning program, MSDE Accreditation Validator and certified CLASS observer. When she is not working a room, hands flying, you can find her camping with her family and visiting the House of Mouse, as Disneyworld is her HAPPY PLACE. A budding novelist, even if it’s only in her dreams, she will always cheer for the underdog and believe teaching is never just a job, but a true calling in changing the lives of our children.

Debbie Langer – Debbie Langer is currently the Training Approval Specialist for the Department of Early Childhood/Office of Child Care at MSDE. She has been working with children and adults for 35+ years. Her resume includes: running a summer camp for 5-year olds for three summers, teacher in a child care center (4 years), Kindergarten Teacher for Anne Arundel County (6 years), Family Child Care provider (9 years) and Executive Director of Arundel Child Care Connections (17 years). Early Childhood and ensuring that young children have the best start possible is her passion! Debbie is a single mother of two young men (30 and 26).

Elena Marin Velasquez – Elena is a Mental Health and Wellness Coordinator for Early Head Start Program in Washington DC for the last 3½ years. She provides training and coaching to teachers and home visitors. Elena also conducts trainings for parents to discuss strategies and techniques to prevent and address challenging behaviors in young children and is also coordinating work to identify and support special needs children and families.

Erica Bates – With over 20 years of classroom experience and a Master’s Degree in Education, Erica Bates strives to generate in each student a joy of learning. She has a Maryland Educator Certificate in Early Childhood Education Pre-K-3 and an Association of Christian Schools International Educator’s Certificate for the elementary level. As a passionate and dedicated teacher, Erica Bates continues to seek to apply her extensive experience and knowledge in the area of Early Childhood education to create stimulating and enriching learning environments that provide children with a solid educational foundation. By presenting and engaging in local and national conferences, Erica’s goal is to empower educators as they make a positive impact in the lives of their students.

Jennifer Jurch – Jennifer Jurch is the Strategic Project Specialist at Project ACT/Abilities Network, as well as an Inclusion Specialist providing ECMH consultation to early childhood providers in Baltimore, Harford and Cecil counties. In this role she provides training and coaching to providers, as well as having a lead role in the planning of Project Act’s annual conference. She has worked in early childhood for over 15 years, providing early intervention services to families and children with special needs.

Jennifer Nizer – Jenn is the Director of the Office of Child Care (OCC). She was the director at Johns Hopkins Bayview Child Development Center and during her 14 years of working there, she had the opportunity to be the president of the Baltimore City Child Care Association and then moved to working at the state level with the Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA). During this time Jenn received her master’s degree in early childhood education from Towson University. She was then elected as president of the MSCCA where she worked on behalf of child care centers to assure early childhood programs had a seat at the table with MSDE, the Governor’s Office and several other agencies in the State of Maryland. Jenn remained president for 6 years where she served on several committees including, the quality rating and improvement system, MD EXCELS, revamp of the Child Care Credentialing system and training, and worked with Public Policy to provide testimony in Annapolis on Universal Pre-k, to name a few. She wants Maryland to be the state that everyone wants to follow! Jenn has spent the better part of two decades being an advocate for child care programs, teachers, children and families. She is a passionate, determined, hard-working person who wants the best for children, families and early childhood providers.

Jill Lyons – Jill is the Infant/Toddler and Inclusion Specialist with MCCCRRRC. In her role with MCCCRRRC she provides technical assistance to child care providers in topic areas such as: business development, program improvements, and professional development. She provides TA through site visits, phone calls, group sessions, and one on one meetings. Jill also develops and facilitates MSDE approved trainings on a variety of topics, including infant/toddler development. In her spare time, Jill can often be seen at a baseball game with her family or out enjoying a run.

Karla Thompson – Karla Thompson, M.Ed, M.S., oversees digital content learning design for early care programs and PreK-12 classrooms as well as curriculum and instructional resource development. She also supports MPT’s early childhood community engagement and outreach activities. Karla develops and oversees online professional development courses for Maryland’s early care providers on MPT’s education portal, Thinkport.org. She joined MPT’s education department twelve years ago after a special education consulting career in Baltimore City Head Start programs.



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Krista Repass – Krista Repass has worked with and on behalf of the child care community for more than 20 years and is currently the Managing Director of Early Childhood Education Services at Maryland Public Television. In this role, Ms. Repass coordinates many professional development and outreach activities, including those as part of the US Department of Education's Ready To Learn Initiative as both a station partner, and most recently, in developing national resources using research-based, transmedia learning content from PBS KIDS. Ms. Repass, and MPT work jointly with the Maryland State Department of Education to develop online professional development courses for Core of Knowledge clock hours for Maryland's early educators.

Kristen Thompson – Kristen Thompson, M.S., is the Technical Project Manager at the Johns Hopkins University School of Education Center for Technology in Education (CTE). In this role, she manages CTE technology products, including the Ready for Kindergarten Online System and related technologies that support Maryland's Kindergarten Readiness Assessment and Early Learning Assessment. Previously, she managed and supported the development and delivery of professional development initiatives at CTE. Prior to working at CTE, Ms. Thompson worked as a director of a youth program, as well as a child care teacher.

Kelly Summy – Kelly Summy is a Project Administrator at the Johns Hopkins University School of Education Center for Technology in Education (CTE). She focuses on creating and presenting professional development related to the Early Learning Assessment (ELA) and Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA). Prior to joining CTE, Ms. Summy worked as an early childhood ESOL teacher, general educator, and interventionist in Baltimore City Public Schools. Ms. Summy studied linguistics and Neurobiology at Harvard University and holds an M.S. in Education from Johns Hopkins University.

Lacey Tsonis – Lacey has worked with children and families for over 15 years, primarily in non-profit settings. For the last decade, she has worked with the Maryland Child Care Resource Network, first as the Professional Development Coordinator at the Howard County Child Care Resource Center and now as the Assistant Deputy Director at Maryland Family Network. Her work continues to focus on improving the quality and accessibility of affordable child care for families in Maryland.

LaTanya Taylor – LaTanya has over 10 years of experience in the Early Childhood field. She earned her bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education/Human Development at Coppin State University and her Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education at Towson University. Beginning her career as a classroom teacher, LaTanya further affirmed her love for children. Quickly advancing into leadership roles, she was able to largely impact children's lives by enhancing teacher practice and promoting quality environments and interactions. Her ultimate goal is to always positively affect the lives of children and families. She enjoys photography, travelling, music, shopping and spending time with family and friends.

Linda Carling – Linda Carling, Ed.D. is the Senior Program Director for Learning, Engagement and Design at the Johns Hopkins School of Education Center for Technology in Education (CTE). In this role, she leads the team that designs, builds, and implements high quality learning experiences for a range of initiatives for general and special educators and early childhood providers statewide including the professional development for Maryland's Kindergarten Readiness Assessment and Early Learning Assessment. Prior to joining CTE, Dr. Carling was an elementary school teacher for a local school system, a curriculum developer and teacher for eSylvan, and a child care teacher.

Laura Foster – Since earning her B.A. in linguistics and cognitive science at Pomona College, followed by her AMS Montessori teaching credential, and M.Ed. in educational leadership from the University of Kentucky, Laura has accumulated 12 years as an educator of young children and an educational leader. Laura has taught in public, non-profit, and private schools and holds an administrative credential from the Office of the State Superintendent of Education in the District of Columbia. When it comes to her role as Head of School at Broad Branch Children's House, Laura finds it personally fulfilling to create a home-away-from-home for young children. By supporting a cadre of professionals, designing a beautiful environment, and implementing an authentic Montessori curriculum, she is able to offer the children of the community a wonderful foundation for their development. For Laura, it is a tremendous responsibility and a great treasure to teach children that the world they live in is full of supportive adults and amazing experiences.

Lauren Spigelmyer – Lauren Spigelmyer is the Founder and Executive Director of Behavior Hub Nonprofit. Having been in education for over a decade, Lauren has the knowledge and experience to back her thoughts and has learned what it takes to create successful, data-supported content. Being an adventurer, she loves to find nontraditional solutions and make sure that boundaries are being pushed. Her goal is to make managing strong feelings and self-regulation a fun, interactive process and as simple and light-hearted as possible. When not solving problems for parents, Lauren travels the world to explore non-western psychological approaches such as Indian yoga, Chinese tai chi and qigong, African drumming, aikido, judo, kendo, and capoeira from Brazil. She also explores food scenes, boxes, reads everything she can get her hands on, skis, hikes, and grows her design knowledge. Lauren has a dear love of wine, cheese, dark chocolate, and the art of conversation.

Lisa Guernsey – Lisa Guernsey is director of the Learning Technologies project and senior advisor to the Early and Elementary Education Policy program at New America. She also co-founded and leads the Learning Sciences Exchange fellowship program at New America. Lisa focuses on new approaches to help students and families succeed in the Digital Age, and her work involves leading teams of analysts and writers to translate research, examine policies, and generate new ideas for developing high-quality learning opportunities for underserved and historically disadvantaged populations. Prior to her work at New America, Guernsey worked as a staff writer at The New York Times and The Chronicle of Higher Education and has contributed to several other national publications, including The Atlantic, the Washington Post, Newsweek, Time, Slate, and USA TODAY. She is co-author with Michael H. Levine of Tap, Click, Read: Growing Readers in a World of Screens (Jossey-Bass, 2015) and author of Screen Time: How Electronic Media – From Baby Videos to Educational Software – Affects Your Young Child (Basic Books, 2012). She has contributed to multiple books on technology and learning, including Technology and Digital Media in the Early Years (Routledge, 2014) and Family Engagement in the Digital Age (Routledge, 2016). Lisa has served on several national advisory committees on early education, including the Institute of Medicine's committee that led to the seminal 2015 report, Transforming the Workforce for Children Birth Through Age 8: A Unifying Foundation. Guernsey holds a master's in English/American studies and a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Virginia. Lisa lives in Alexandria, Virginia with her two daughters. She is on Twitter @LisaGuernsey.



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Maria Artola – Maria has been a registered family child care provider in Maryland since 1998. In addition, Ms. Artola is a certified observer for the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) since 2008. Her passion to support the child care community is led through her work as an MSDE approved trainer and lending her support through formalized mentoring through the Montgomery County Child Care Resource & Referral Center. She has been an active member of the local Family Childcare Associations (FCCMC) as well as the local chapter of MDAEYC, and a member of the Early Childhood Club Education Department at Montgomery College.

Mau Castro-Trujillo – Mau, a Bilingual Child Development Specialist/Coach and CDA Coordinator, is the current Child Development Associate Program Coordinator as well as one of the class instructors. She has 12 years of experience in assisting, organizing, coordinating and training in different work settings in the education field; including providing technical assistance and visits to childcare providers and designing courses at a college-level educational facility while working with a diverse student population. She has two Bachelor's degrees in Education from the Catholic University, earned in Caracas, Venezuela. In addition to another degree in International Studies, she has also been taking classes, attending conferences, and designing courses in Child Growth and Development, Foundation in Education in the United States, Infants and Toddlers' development and Curricula Planning, and Professionalism in the field of Early Childhood Development for more than a decade. Additionally, while earning her degrees, she worked in different schools and institutions, in public and private sectors both in Venezuela and in the US. She also volunteered for adults' education classes as part of the Services Learning Experience Program in collaboration with the Montgomery County Public School System. She worked for six years developing, designing, and teaching developmental classes for the Workforce Development and Continuing Education, as part of a certification program at the Montgomery Community College, in Maryland and, recently, as part of the Child Development Associate Instructional team at Briya Public Charter School in Washington, DC. All the experience blended in perfectly with her capacity to communicate, work and teach fully in both languages, English and Spanish, As well as, the ability to work successfully across different cultures.

Mary Beth Salomone Testa – Mary Beth advocates for smart policies and investments for child and family well-being; to ensure policy makers are considering the whole child and family; and encouraging advocates to tell the stories behind the data. Mary Beth brings nearly 20 years of experience in advocacy and policy development, with expertise in connecting policy and practice.

Meylin Mejia – Meylin Mejia is a Doctor of Medicine and Surgery in her home country, and immigrated to the US in 2015, where she became a family child care provider. She is an adjunct faculty member with Montgomery College, teaching classes in health, safety, nutrition, and CPR.

Monica French – Monica French is an experienced educator and advocate for nature-based early childhood education. As a former assistant director of a child care center in Laurel, MD, she developed an understanding of developmentally appropriate practice but longed to help children connect with the natural world. She was drawn to emergent curriculum and more authentic ways of facilitating learning, which led her to The Nature Preschool at Irvine Nature Center in Owings Mills, MD. She worked with children, staff, and families as assistant director, establishing a strong and joyful learning community full of enriching outdoor experiences. Monica developed numerous programs including training sessions for Nature & Nurture, a seasonal outreach program which supports educators working in underserved communities in Baltimore City. Monica continues to support not only young children, but teachers and childcare providers through her work as a Board Member, trainer, and presenter for the Eastern Region Association of Forest and Nature Schools (ERAFANS). She is currently working with Baltimore City Recreation and Parks and Wild Haven as a founding director to pilot Baltimore City's first forest immersion program. Learn more about Monica's work at: www.ERAFANS.org, and www.wildhaven.us.

Nancy Chalink-Seidler – Nancy Cahlink-Seidler comes to us from Maryland State Department of Education, Office of Child Care, Training Coordinator. An educator since 1997, Nancy has been an Infant/Toddler Teacher, K-8 Teacher, Parent Educator, Early Childhood Advocate, Educational Director at a Resource and Referral, Consultant at John's Hopkins CTE, Adjunct Instructor at Community Colleges, and Judy Center personnel. She has a BA in Communications/English, Teaching Certification, master's in education and Business, Certified in CLASS, and a 0-3 Mental Health Certification from University of MD. Nancy has a true passion for teaching and helping others. She loves opportunities to share her knowledge and help other professionals grow.

Nicole Pierre – Nicole Pierre, Educational Trainer for LiteBrite, LLC, graduated from Louisiana State University with a degree in Communications. She worked in the marketing field for several years before deciding to open her own family child care business. She returned to college to pursue her degree in Early Childhood Education and is currently working on her Master of Early Childhood Education with a focus on inclusion of all children. Nicole is a past nationally accredited family child care provider and has worked serving the child care community assisting providers in providing quality child care from starting their business to achieving accreditation. She worked in the capacity of technical assistance specialist, training support, and training coordinator for the Maryland Child Care Resource Network for over 8 years. She is currently an independent trainer and consultant across the state of Maryland, adjunct professor, certified CLASS observer, and serves as the Training and Writing coordinator for LiteBrite, LLC. She continues to attend professional development workshops and develop training to meet the needs of the child care community in Maryland and at various conferences and events. She focuses on supporting diversity and inclusion, developmentally appropriate practice and professionalism in early childhood education. She has a passion for helping educators continually provide quality care and believes high quality personal development is the foundation of a well-rounded early educator.

Ramona Johnson – Ramona Johnson has lived in Montgomery County Maryland for the last 20 years. Ms. Johnson is an advocate of Early Childhood Education. She teaches at Montgomery County Public Schools as a Spanish Teacher and at Montgomery College as an Adjunct Professor in the Early Childhood Education Division as well as the Workforce and Development Division. Ms. Johnson holds a Masters in Early Childhood and a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction with a focus in STEM. Ms. Johnson loves to travel in her free time with her son Miguel, mom Connie and her dog Shakira. Ms. Johnson truly believes it takes a village to raise a child and that is why she is dedicated to training the villagers so that our children will grow in a holistic environment.



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Robert Wagner – Robert Wagner works in the Division of Early Childhood Development at the Maryland State Department of Education. As an Education Program Specialist, he oversees the implementation of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment and the Early Learning Assessment. He works with the early childhood supervisor in each of the 24 school districts with grant funding for professional development. Prior to his current position, he worked with Anne Arundel County Public Schools as a teacher in general education and special education for 11 years before becoming an elementary school principal for 22 years. Mr. Wagner was the NAESP National Distinguished Principal for Maryland in 2011.

Sherry Tsigounis – Sherry Tsigounis started her career in the child care industry at the age of 14, babysitting for the children in her neighborhood. She received her MA and BS Degree in Early Childhood Education from Towson University. Her professional career began as aide in a child care facility while pursuing her degree at Towson. She then taught Child Care and managed the on-site licensed child care center at Mergenthaler High School. Ms. Tsigounis then became a Licensing Specialist for the Baltimore County Office of Child care and is currently the Regional Manager for the Baltimore City Office of Child Care.

Sheila George – Sheila George, an Educational Trainer for LiteBrite, LLC, graduated from Millersville University with a degree in Education. She has worked as a homecare provider, a preschool teacher and director, a before and after school group leader, a director and coordinator. Sheila has also been a Child Development Specialist and a Harford County public school teacher. She is currently a teacher mentor and coach, a certified PreK CLASS observer, and an adult educator. Sheila has enjoyed working with children and students of all ages in a variety of educational settings for over 25 years. She has been proud of her work with Johns Hopkins Center for Technology in Education to support the roll out of the Early Learning Assessment in Maryland and training trainers for the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment in Maryland and other states. Sheila's work as an MSDE certified trainer allows her to share her passion for education with individuals dedicated to making a difference in the lives of children.

Steven Hicks – Steven Hicks serves as Assistant State Superintendent for the Division of Early Childhood Development at the Maryland State Department of Education. Immediately prior to his appointment, he was Executive Director of the nonprofit Ready at Five in Maryland. Previous to working in Maryland, he served as Senior Policy Advisor at the U.S. Department of Education.

Steve Rohde – Steve Rohde is the Deputy Director for Resource and Referral Services for the Maryland Family Network (a merger of Maryland Committee for Children and Friends of the Family) and the Maryland Child Care Resource Network. Steve has been a preschool classroom teacher, a child care center director, a child care specialist with municipal and county licensing programs, a trainer, a county and state administrator for licensing, and an Acting Executive Director for a major Maryland nonprofit. Steve has worked with John's Hopkins University (JHU) training their staff on an assessment for the research project CTE/JHU conducted of the Maryland EXCELS Program. Steve is the President Emeritus of the board of Child Care Aware of America. Steve has a bachelors and master's degree in early childhood education from Towson University and an Executive Certificate in Transformational Nonprofit Leadership, University of Notre Dame, Mendoza School of Business. Steve was also adjunct faculty with Stevenson University (formerly Villa Julie College) for five years. Steve has been married for over 39 years, has a great wife, two wonderful daughters, and four terrific granddaughters.

Thelma Hayes – Thelma Hayes has been engaged with early childhood education for over 25 years while promoting the well-being of young children through advocacy and education. Thelma holds a MS Ed with a specialization in Reading. As an educator for over 25 years, Thelma has served as a classroom teacher, mentor, and consultant to support and encourage the inclusion of all children in the learning process. She is a seven times recipient of the Howard County Celebrating Success nomination. She currently serves as a mentor and facilitator in Howard, Montgomery, and Prince Georges County while working with teachers in the classroom to support the best practices for creating an enriched learning environment. Thelma has presented at local, state, and national conferences, including NAFCC and NAEYC.

