

# ASK

A week of online learning for child development professionals!

## ADVANCING SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE

Saturday, February 20, 2021 – Thursday, February 25, 2021

Early Bird Registration deadline January 5, 2021: \$27  
 Regular Registration-after January 6 - February 1, 2021: \$35

TO REGISTER- <https://bit.ly/2UQtJy8>

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2021

**SESSION I: 8:30am – 10:00am**

**Applying an Anti-Racism Framework in Pre-K (Sponsored by Durham PreK)** Presented by: Dr. Ronda Taylor Bullock  
 Through a series of mini-workshops, attendees will develop and/or build upon their understanding of applying an anti-racism framework in the Pre-K setting. Participants will be able to recognize and challenge their own biases, acquire language that will help them to speak-up and challenge biased remarks, and gain a better understanding of how to have race-based conversations with young children. **Age Group Covered by Content:** 3-5/Preschoolers



**FEATURED PRESENTATION — How to Crack A Walnut** Presented by: Erica Berry

Have you ever had a class where the kids were wild? What about super shy? Or was it a mixed bag? Guess what? This workshop will give you tangible techniques using music and movement to successfully engage children in such classes. Once techniques are shared, you will have an opportunity to participate in real exercises so that you can hit the ground running in your classroom. Be sure to attend this interactive workshop that will keep you on your toes! For the last 13 years, Erica has served as a music and movement professional in preschools and to families all over the Triangle. She created the Theatre Arts Department at Woods Charter School and the voice program at Renner Dance Studios. She has worked with all ages of kids and adults in her capacity as a certified Group Fitness Instructor. Her passion is leading children and adults to greater happiness and health through movement and music. Erica studied Political Science and Music at Howard University and went on to pursue her Juris Doctorate degree at Hastings College of the Law. She practiced Corporate Law for 6 years before having her first child in 2002. She started an early childhood music education program, Jammin Baby, LLC, in 2006. Check Erica out at [www.jamminbaby.com](http://www.jamminbaby.com). **Age Group Covered by Content:** All Ages

**REGGIO-The Reggio Emilia Approach to Education: What is It? How Do I Begin?--BEGINNER**

This presentation is ideal for those who are new to the Reggio Emilia approach, just beginning to implement key principles of the infant-toddler, preschool and primary schools of Reggio Emilia in their own classrooms, or participants who would like to hear more about the fundamental principles and how they can be translated into the American context.

**Age Group Covered by Content:** All Ages

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2021**

**SESSION I CONTINUED: 8:30am – 10:00am**

**REGGIO—Cultivating a Reggio Mindset: What's Next? -- INTERMEDIATE**

This presentation is designed for participants who have been implementing the basic principles of the Reggio Emilia approach and are ready to consider how to move beyond the beginning steps. This presentation will show examples of a current child-led, emerging project from Lakewood Avenue Children's School, a 5 star-licensed Reggio-inspired preschool for children ages 1–5. Participants will explore how to use the children's every day experiences as provocations for longer-term projects. This presentation is ideal for participants who would like to delve deeper into their understanding of the key principles of the Reggio Emilia approach.

**Age Group Covered by Content:** All Ages

**REGGIO—Children as Agents of Change-- ADVANCED**

This presentation is designed for those who have been researching the infant-toddler, preschools and primary schools of Reggio Emilia for some time. Participants have a solid foundation of the key principles of the Reggio Emilia approach and are ready to delve into an understanding of the democratic classroom through an examination of the child's right to be viewed as a global citizen and an activist. This presentation will show an example of a project from Carolina Friends Durham Early School, an independent Quaker school, which has been drawing inspirations from the schools in Reggio Emilia since 1996. During this presentation, participants will examine the key dispositions that foster the democratic classroom, as well as the connection between projects, civic participation, and the child's right to be an agent of change.

**Age Group Covered by Content:** All Ages

**REGGIO—Petite Investigations: Explorations with our Youngest Children-- INFANT-TODDLER**

Can you do a long-term project with infants and toddlers? How do you determine what the children are interested in and truly reflect a child driven investigation? In this workshop we will discuss how to plan and implement an emergent investigation with infants and toddlers. **Age Group Covered by Content:** Infants and Toddlers

**Strategies for Promoting Early Communication Skills** Presented by: Dr. Jessica Kinard

In this workshop, we will discuss strategies for promoting communication skills in young children. Participants will be able to: (1) use information about typical communication milestones to guide their observations of children; (2) identify evidence-based contexts for working on communication skills; (3) describe several evidence-based strategies for promoting children's communication; and (4) identify resources for continued learning on this topic. **Age Group Covered by Content:** All Ages

**Using Sign Language with Young Children** Presented by: Priscilla Hayes

Teaching infants and toddlers to use sign language gives them the opportunity to see, feel, and hear language. This professional development experience will guide you through the discovery of how to use sign language as a tool to promote children's confidence, classroom management, and form connections. Participants will learn the benefits of using sign language with young children, how to use basic sign language, and identify strategies for implementing sign language in their classroom environment. **Age Group Covered by Content:** Infants and Toddlers

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2021**

**Yoga Beyond an Exercise** Presenter: Malika Robertson

This session will review how to use yoga philosophy and techniques in the classroom on a regular basis. We will simplify the practices of yoga theory to incorporate them into everyday wellness practices. **Age Group Covered by Content:** 3-5/Preschoolers

**SESSION II: 10:30am – 12:00pm**

**Addressing Early Childhood Homelessness from the Shelter to the Classroom** Presented by: Tasha Melvin

In 2016 Families Moving Forward ventured into an almost unknown territory, targeting services for the youngest population in the shelter, birth to 5 years old. Over the course of three years, many lessons have been learned and services continue to expand to offer support to infants, toddlers, preschoolers and their families. Families Moving Forward's Dir. of Partnerships & Programs, Children's Services Coordinator, and Early Childhood Specialist will walk you through how family homeless shelters and early childhood partner organizations can engage and provide evidence-based practices to effectively support vulnerable households. **Age Group Covered by Content:** All Ages

**Best Fit for Hiring Infant and Toddler Staff** Presented by: Cassia Simms-Smith

Recruiting and hiring infant and toddler staff can be a challenge! This training will provide expert methods to help you determine the specific hiring needs of your organization. We will also discuss ways to attract teachers that are the best fit for your organization. We want to help you take the stress out of the hiring process! **Age Group Covered by Content:** Infants and Toddlers

**Considering Challenging Behaviors** Presented by: Angela Pate

Do you have difficulty managing challenging behaviors in your classroom? Are you frustrated with the impact challenging behaviors have on student and staff morale? Do you wish there was something you could do? This training is for YOU! This learning event will help after school providers address a wide range of challenging behaviors in the classroom. Participants will be introduced to enriching strategies that will increase student engagement and facilitate positive classroom management. **Age Group Covered by Content:** 3-5/Preschoolers

**Preventing Compassion Fatigue in Pandemic Times** Presented by: Jan Williams, Cheri Coleman, Agatha Schutte

Participants will learn about compassion fatigue (caused by absorbing the trauma and stress of the families that we work with), the symptoms to watch out for, how to do a self-assessment, and prevention strategies. These strategies will include awareness, balance, connection, mindfulness, and self-care. The issue of additional pandemic stress will be addressed. **Age Group Covered by Content:** All Ages

**Reggio Emilia: Anti-Racism in Early Childhood Classrooms** Presented by: Sadie Bauer

Join teachers from the NC Reggio Emilia Collaborative in a review of strategies for creating inclusive classrooms. **Age Group Covered by Content:** All Ages

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2021**

**SESSION II CONTINUED: 10:30am – 12:00pm**

**What Amelia Bedelia Can Teach Us about Using Language in the Classroom?** Presented by: Amy Latta  
 "Why won't my students listen?" Sometimes, behavior issues are caused by barriers in communication. In this session, with a little help from Amelia Bedelia, you will learn some effective ways to communicate with students and make sure your message is heard. **Age Group Covered by Content:** All ages

**KEYNOTE SESSION: 12:30pm – 1:30pm**



**FOUNDATIONS FOR LIFE: BEING EMOTIONALLY RESPONSIVE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN**

Join Ron Mohl in discussing our role in a young child's development and how it connects to social emotional skills. We will consider brain development when defining ourselves as facilitators of social emotional development and employ hands on strategies that supports a child's independence. From this session, participants will be able to articulate three points that define their role as a child's social emotional facilitator; will list social emotional skills that can be encouraged in the learning environment; and will apply hands-on strategies that can be used with intentional instruction.

Ron brings over 20 years of experience in the education industry to his position of Lead Educational Presenter for Lakeshore Learning Materials. In this role, Ron has presented to school districts, public and private institutions, Head Start programs, and military bases across the country. By focusing on the importance of play in the learning process, Ron's interactive trainings help educators enrich the curricula related to language development, math, science, music and diversity.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2021**

**LUNCH AND LEARN (1:00pm – 2:00pm)**

**Keeping it Healthy** Presented by Lynn Keith Policastro  
 How do we support young children in creating healthy habits for a lifetime? During this session we will be moving and "cooking" together. You will be engaged in new learning new activities and routines that will support children moving more and eating healthier. **Age Group Covered by Content:** 3-5/Preschoolers

**EVENING SESSIONS (7:00pm – 8:30pm)**

**Communication and Language Development for Infants and Toddlers** Presented by Julie Clinkscale  
 Communication and Language Development for Infants and Toddlers is part of Zero to Three-The Growing Brain curriculum. The goal of training is for participants to understand how communication and language skills develop in infants and toddlers, the brain's role in the development of these skills, and how to support them. Participants will learn about specific communication milestones and when they typically emerge and how this relates to brain development and discover strategies for supporting early communication skills. **Age Group Covered by Content:** Infants and Toddlers

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2021

EVENING SESSIONS (7:00pm – 8:30pm)

**Deep Breathing: A Connection to Calm-HSB** Stephanie McAvoy, Nicole Randall

This training is geared towards informing, assessing, and providing strategies to support the skill of deep breathing and making the connection to help children learn how to calm. Participants will assess their own responses and reactions in relation to deep breathing by creating an environment that naturally promotes this crucial skill to early social-emotional development. They will learn about the importance of and evidence-based research on why breathing with children matters. **Age Group Covered by Content:** 3-5/Preschoolers



**FEATURED PRESENTATION — I Can See it So I Can Do it: Using Visuals to Promote School Success**

Join school leadership, Conscious Discipline® master instructor Kim Hughes, a 30+ year veteran of education with master's degrees in both Elementary Education and School Leadership, in an engaging workshop based upon the principles of Conscious Discipline. Visual cues support brain development as well as increase memory, attention, self-regulation, and problem solving because children feel empowered when they internalize expectation so they better understand what to do to succeed. Participants will begin to recognize how using visuals (or pictures) are a great tool for seeing and understanding. These visual aids allow children the time they need to process what they are being asked to do. Information will no longer simply disappear into thin air to be forgotten as spoken words often go "in one ear and out the other." **Age Group Covered by Content:** 3-5/Preschoolers

**More than Maps: Exploring Geography in the Early Childhood Classroom** Presented by: Carrie Becker

Young children LOVE maps! How can we grow this love of maps into knowledge about the world around them? During this workshop participants will explore the connections that children make to the world around them using human geography. They will also explore connections made to geography around the globe using traditions, folklore and fairy tales. **Age Group Covered by Content:** 3-5/Preschoolers

**REGGIO-The Natural Materials Atelier** Presented by: Carmen Raynor

Learn how to bring the natural world into your classroom, giving children the ability to express themselves with materials found out in nature. **Age Group Covered by Content:** All Ages

**Speak Up! Levels of Leadership** Presented by: Amy Latta

Whatever your role, you can be a leader in your classroom and community. In this session, you will learn about 6 styles of leadership and identify your personal style. We will also talk about practical ways to make a difference in your school and at the state level. **Age Group Covered by Content:** All Ages

**Storytelling in the Preschool Classroom: Ideas and Techniques for In-person and Remote Learning**

Presented by: Jennifer Fisher

Join me to learn ideas for using storytelling in the preschool classroom, both virtual and in person. I will present techniques and projects that can be adapted for use with little or no supplies, and work for in person and on line teaching. We will practice some group storytelling games and discuss ways to include families in the process. **Age Group Covered by Content:** 3-5/Preschoolers

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021**

**LUNCH AND LEARN (1:00pm – 2:00pm)**

**Learning within Boundaries: Maintaining Teacher Effectiveness through Virtual Learning** Presented by: Diana Lloyd  
 Since the onset of COVID-19, educators and students have been required to quickly shift from the traditional in class learning model to a virtual learning experience. As we embark on this fast-moving train, educators frequently raise important questions such as: Can we deliver effective teaching methods to young children from a distance? How can we partner with families to optimize children’s learning? How can we use the Pre-K CLASS framework to help guide our planning? Together, we will examine these questions using video observation. **Age Group Covered by Content:** 3-5/Preschoolers

**EVENING SESSIONS (7:00pm – 8:30pm)**

**Applying an Anti-Racism Framework in Pre-K (Sponsored by Durham PreK)** Presented by: Dr. Rhonda Taylor Bullock  
*This session is Part 2 of this workshop presented Saturday and is not designed to be a stand-alone session.* Through a series of mini-workshops, attendees will develop and/or build upon their understanding of applying an anti-racism framework in the Pre-K setting. Participants will be able to recognize and challenge their own biases, acquire language which will help them speak-up and challenge biased remarks, and gain a better understanding of how to have race-based conversations with young children. **Age Group Covered by Content:** 3-5/Preschoolers



**FEATURED PRESENTATION – Being a Partner in Play** Presented by: Ron Mohl

What intentional choices can we make with children to support their learning while being a partner in play? We will look at specific strategies that enrich being a partner in play through opportunities for discovery and actively participating in their play. As responsive partners in play, we will address the growth of the whole child while respecting them and their play. Participants will list opportunities for a child’s discovery; apply a 3-step process to initiate responsive teacher/student interactions; and employ contributions while being a partner in play. **Age Group Covered by Content:** 3-5/Preschoolers

**Every Child Ready to Read** Presented by: Karlene Fyffe Phillips, Dmin

This workshop will equip participants with fun, interactive ideas and activities to help children and families prepare for success in kindergarten and beyond. Participants will also learn about the basics of brain development. **Age Group Covered by Content:** All Ages

**Infant and Toddler Early Literacy Learning** Presented by: Sandra Monteiro Arasim

Did you know that reading to babies sets the foundation for future reading and writing? Our youngest infants and toddlers develop these essential abilities through positive, caring interactions and immersion in literacy-rich surroundings. Join us as we explore ways to create these nurturing environments for children’s early literacy experiences. We will discover six age-appropriate literacy skill “building blocks” for infants and toddlers, and develop strategies for supporting parents in sharing literacy in the home. **Age Group Covered by Content:** Infants and Toddlers

**EVENING SESSIONS (7:00pm – 8:30pm)**

**Learning is Fun with PBS KIDS! Resources for Home-based Programs** Presented by: Mallory Mbalia, Jewel Lowe  
Come "Watch, Play, Explore and Share" with us! This workshop will equip home-based programs with engaging media resources from the trusted brand PBS. These vetted resources make learning accessible and fun. This workshop will highlight the learning model "Watch, Play, Explore and Share". Participants will walk away with tools they can use right away! **Age Group Covered by Content:** All Ages

**REGGIO-The Light and Shadow Atelier** Presented by: Carmen Raynor  
Bridge the worlds of science, art, and storytelling through light and shadow play. Discover the magical worlds that can be created through the use of simple materials, overheads, and lightboxes. **Age Group Covered by Content:** All Ages

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021**
**LUNCH AND LEARN (1:00pm – 2:00pm)**

**How Are You? How Am I?** Presented by: Winter Graham, Marlana Hawkins-Burch, Ann Carter  
We'll examine the many benefits to children who gain a strong foundation in emotional literacy, explore simple ways in which you can foster emotional literacy in your classroom, and share some excellent resources for tools and activities teachers can incorporate into their daily classroom curriculum to make intentional teaching of emotions fun and easy. **Age Group Covered by Content:** All Ages

**EVENING SESSIONS (7:00pm – 8:30pm)**

**Lesson Plans for Multiple Ages for Family Child Care Homes** Presented by Sara Kiehn  
This session is designed for the home-based caregiver. Participants will learn how to differentiate care and instruction to ensure that each child's developmental stage, interests and learning readiness are accounted for when planning activities in the home-based child care program. Participants will review sample activity plans and create a template to use for future activity plans. Participants will learn how to use the NC Foundations to determine how to differentiate. Participants will learn how to plan for individual accommodations to ensure inclusion of all children. **Age Group Covered by Content:** All Ages

**REGGIO-The Bambino Atelier** Presented by Carmen Raynor  
Explore ways we can weave the fabric of connection and relationships through the materials we offer our youngest learners. **Age Group Covered by Content:** All Ages

**The Power of Positivity** Presented by Zulaykha Clemons-Dunn, Laura Kehle  
We live in a society, and work in communities where stressful situations are the norm. This workshop provides an insight into the power of positivity, as well as strategies for the participants to use immediately that will help reduce stress, and increase a sense of well-being in their lives. **Age Group Covered by Content:** All Ages

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021

EVENING SESSIONS (7:00pm – 8:30pm)

**Making Them Visible: Recognizing, Supporting, & Advocating for Children of Incarcerated & Returning Parents**

Presented by Melissa Radcliff There are an estimated 2.7 million children in the US with at least one incarcerated parent. In NC the best estimate is more than 21,000. The most recent Annie E. Casey Foundation report shows that more than 5 million children (179,000 in NC) have experienced parental incarceration at some point in their lives. This workshop focuses on this invisible group often dealing with shame, stigma, and a sense of isolation, and the impact of parental incarceration and re-entry. Review strategies to identify and serve these children, how to engage advocates in advancing policies supporting the children, current gaps in resources and data collection, and new ways to partner and collaborate to better meet the needs of the children. The presenter will discuss the need to gather information and insight from these children themselves to ensure that their voices are heard. **Age Group Covered by Content:** All Ages

**Sensory Integration and The Out of Sync Child** Presented by Swetal Thaker, Michelle Christopher

A review of the sensory systems and the alert mechanism will provide a background for understanding and recognizing sensory processing issues in the “out of sync” child. **Age Group Covered by Content:** 3-5/Preschoolers

**Using Sign Language with Young Children** Presented by Priscilla Hayes

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021

EVENING SESSIONS (7:00pm – 8:30pm)

**Applying an Anti-Racism Framework in Pre-K (Sponsored by Durham PreK)** Presented by Dr. Rhonda Taylor Bullock

Through a series of mini-workshops, attendees will develop and/or build upon their understanding of applying an anti-racism framework in the Pre-K setting. Participants will be able to recognize and challenge their own biases, acquire language that will help them to speak-up and challenge biased remarks, and gain a better understanding of how to have race-based conversations with young children. **Age Group Covered by Content:** 3-5/Preschoolers

**Communication and Language Development for Infants and Toddlers** Julie Clinkscale

Communication and Language Development for Infants and Toddlers is part of Zero to Three-The Growing Brain curriculum. The goal of training is for participants to understand how communication and language skills develop in infants and toddlers, the brain’s role in the development of these skills, and how to support them. Participants will learn about specific communication milestones, when they typically emerge and how this relates to brain development and discover strategies for supporting early communication skills. **Age Group Covered by Content:** Infants and Toddlers



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021

EVENING SESSIONS (7:00pm – 8:30pm)



**FEATURED PRESENTATION – Implicit Bias: What Educators Need to Know**

Presented by Rhodus Riggins Jr.

We all have biases. What we don't think, we think. Implicit biases are unconscious yet powerful. Let's explore the characteristics and influences of implicit biases on suspension, expulsion rates, and adultification in children of color. **Age Group Covered by Content:** All Ages

**Music & Movement: An Integrated Approach to Early Learning and Literacy Development** Presented by Sue Joyce  
 What does research say about the effectiveness of using music and movement as an integrated approach to early learning and literacy development? Join this workshop to find out and to experience an integrated approach using music and movement coupled with children's books in the classroom and with families. Hands-on practice of an evidence-based 3-Step-Process provides a framework for effective lesson planning that addresses and supports early learning domains, areas of interest, and early learning standards. **Age Group:** All Ages

**Prescription for Toxic Stress: Calming the Limbic Brain** Presented by Jennifer Anderson  
 Come learn how adult caregivers can create environments that help calm the irritable limbic system and reactive stress response that occurs when toxic stress is experienced. We will examine key principles to help our brains calm down, including: protection, comfort, and structure. We all need these principles in our environment but they are critical for Infants and Toddlers. **Age Group Covered by Content:** All Ages

**REGGIO-The Black and White Atelier**

This atelier can best be described by Ann Pelo's quote from *The Language of Art: Reggio-Inspired Studio Practices in Early Childhood Settings*—"Before launching into the full spectrum of color, stand at its edge with white and black, the beginning and the end. Black and white provide a frame through which we more clearly see and understand color. Side by side on paper, the contrast between black and white calls each more fully to life. **Age Group Covered:** All Ages

**Using Researched Based Strategies to Teach Math and Science** Presented by Angela Clayton  
 Communication and Language Development for Infants and Toddlers is part of Zero to Three-The Growing Brain curriculum. The goal of training is for participants to understand how communication and language skills develop in infants and toddlers, the brain's role in the development of these skills, and how to support them. Participants will learn about specific communication milestones and when they typically emerge, how this relates to brain development and discover strategies for supporting early communication skills. Participants will engage in activities to enhance their understanding of research based practices to help students with number conservation, and other number concepts. Also science objectives will be taught that using music and movement ensure student understanding of the concepts. **Age Group Covered by Content:** 3-5/Preschoolers