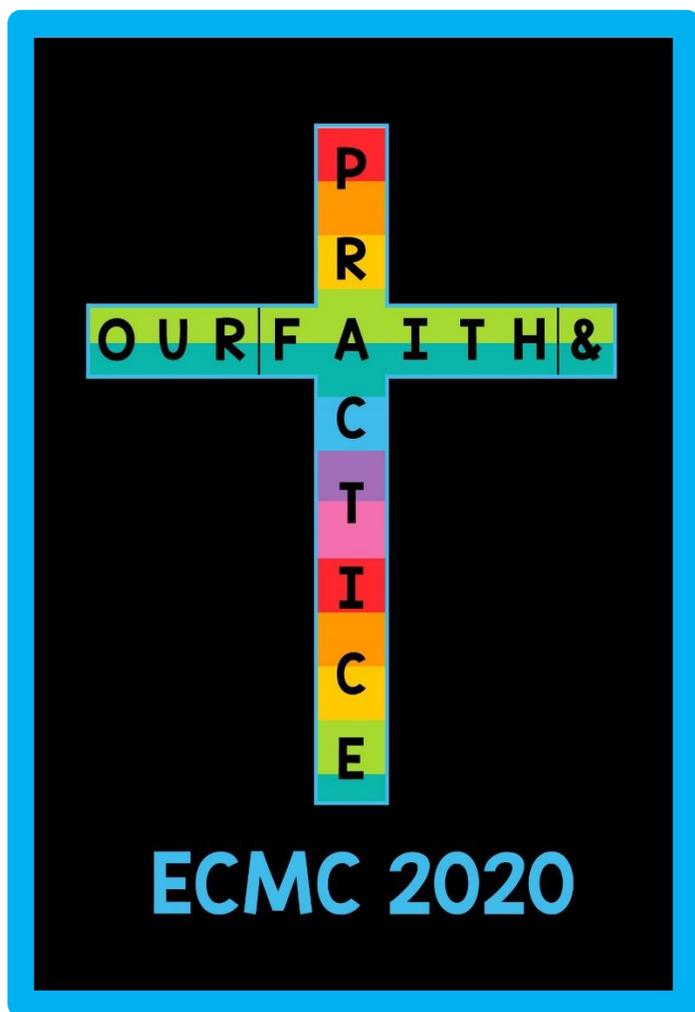




Early Childhood
Methodist Conference
Track A



A Training Event
for
Teachers of Children
Ages 0-6
Sponsored by
United Methodist Texas
Conference Weekday
Ministries

Thursday and Friday, February 6 & 7, 2020

Conference Location:
St. Luke's United Methodist Church
3471 Westheimer
Houston, Texas 77027

Keynote Speakers



Thursday: Eric Huffman Our Father is Younger Than We: How the Innocence of Children Reveals the True Heart of God

Children come hardwired to find joy in the simple things. Although their energy may seem chaotic, they actually thrive in order, and though we may assume children are quickly bored by monotony, they actually crave repetition, reenactment, and ritual. We'll learn what the simple longings of a child's heart teach us about the God who made them, and why teaching kids to be good adults shouldn't always be our goal in the classroom.

Eric Huffman is the Lead Pastor of The Story Houston, a four-year-old congregation of over 800 people who are on a mission to inspire non-religious people to follow Jesus. Eric is also the author of *40 Days of Doubt: Devotions for the Skeptic* (Abingdon Press, 2018) and the host of the *Maybe God Podcast*, where he tackles the toughest questions non-religious people are asking. In its first year of production, *Maybe God* episodes were downloaded over 70,000 times by listeners in over 40 countries across the world.

Over the past 20 years, Eric and his wife, Geovanna, have planted two campus ministries and four new congregations reaching thousands of young people in Louisiana, Missouri, and Texas. Eric's passion is to lead new generations of educated and non-religious skeptics to honestly consider the life-altering love of God in Jesus Christ.

Eric has recently been featured in three different stories in the *Houston Chronicle*, and in her review of *40 Days of Doubt* for *Good News Magazine*, Elizabeth Glass Turner wrote, "This book from Abingdon has the makings of a classic. And right now, it is urgently needed, as much as intellectual honesty always is."

A sought-after speaker, Eric has served as a guest contributor for the KSBJ and NGen radio evening shows, the Art of the Sermon Podcast, and the Compass Podcast. His previous speaking engagements include the Explore Calling Conference, The Louisiana Annual Conference, the North Carolina Preaching Festival, and the New Room Conference.

Eric and Geovanna live near downtown Houston with their children, Zaira and Koen.

Friday: Amanda Morgan
The Key Ingredient:
Intentional Interactions



Research consistently tells us that the key factor separating high-quality early education from the rest is the quality of the interactions in the classroom. We'll learn why this is true as we hone the tools for powerful interactions and practice putting them to work in a classroom setting.

Amanda Morgan grew up in a tiny town in eastern Oregon called Nyssa. (You've probably only heard of it if you farm onions or like to go chukar hunting.) She attended Utah State University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in both Elementary and Early Childhood Education as well as a Master of Science in family, human, and child development. She has classroom experience ranging from preschool to sixth grade, along with teaching university students, parents, and early childhood professionals, and has taught in private, public, and migrant school settings.

In addition to her professional experience, nothing has been as challenging or as rewarding as her role of mom to 4 young (and rowdy!) boys. Amanda and her family are recent transplants to the Puget Sound area in northwestern Washington and enjoy exploring their new surroundings together.

Passionate about applying what is known about child development to the areas of education and parenting, she has created multiple resources and presentations on topics such as intentional teaching in a play-based environment, developmentally appropriate practice, positive guidance, powerful interactions, and the importance of play in childhood.

Amanda writes, speaks, and trains nationally on the topic of intentional, whole child development and is the creator of the blog, Not Just Cute. Because childhood's not just cute. It's so much more. It's powerful, it's priceless, and it's often over way too soon. www.notjustcute.com

Registration Information

1. Registration is ONLINE and participants will be able to choose from many workshops! Online payment via PayPal / credit card is recommended.
2. Priority is given to Methodist programs. Online registration begins December 9th for Methodist programs and December 16th for all other programs. Please be prompt with registration, as some workshops will fill early.
3. Each participant must have a valid and individual email address. Directors may register multiple participants, but each must have their own email address for receiving their schedule and training certificate.
4. Cost per participant is \$85. Payment may be made for individuals via Paypal, credit card, or check. The school may submit one check that covers all participants. To ensure that we post your payment correctly, please include a list of the participants' names and corresponding invoice numbers. Please make your check payable to ECMC Houston and mail it to:
ECMC c/o Debra Fischer
5501 Main Street
Houston, Texas 77004
5. After January 13, 2020, the cost to register increases to \$100.
6. Mailed checks must be postmarked by Monday, January 13, 2020. If your check is not received on time, participants may not be able to attend the conference.
7. Please be sure to contact the registrars (Rachel Green or Donna Heath) via email: ECMCregistrar@gmail.com if you have any questions or problems.

How to Register

To register: **EVERYONE** is required to register **INDEPENDENTLY**.

1. Go to our website at <http://www.ecmchouston.org>. Methodist churches will be emailed an early bird link to register early.
2. Click the register button at the top of the page.
3. Find your school name.
4. Select your workshop format:

Conference 4 Workshops registration	2 Workshops & 1 Advanced Track registration (PK or I/T)	2 Workshops & 1 Directors' Track registration	Directors' Track & Advanced Track registration
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5. Choose your workshops for each time. Double check your choices.
6. Add all workshop ticket to your cart.
7. If you are registering multiple people, add another workshop ticket and repeat the above process.
8. When you are ready, proceed to check out.
9. Fill out the information of the person responsible for payment. This may be your school and director of the participant.
10. Add the participant's first and last name and their individual email address.
11. Decide your method of payment and check out. If you choose to pay using credit card, you will be directed to PayPal.
12. The individual participant and the person in charge of payment will receive an invoice.
13. If you have any questions, please email ecmcregistrar@gmail.com.

Please send payment and direct all questions to the Registrars:

via mail:

ECMC c/o Debra Fischer
5501 Main Street
Houston, Texas 77004

via email:

ECMCregristrar@gmail.com

Details of the 2019 conference:

Lunches: The conference fee includes a morning snack and lunch each day plus two (2) drinks. Please note that ECMC is not able to provide for special dietary restrictions. If you have special dietary needs, feel free to bring your own lunch.

Speaker Credentials: All speakers presenting at ECMC 2019 meet the trainer qualifications required by TDFPS effective January 2012. Speaker qualifications are kept on file and can be provided to participants if requested.

Parking: Signage will direct you where to park. We encourage carpooling.

Visit our website for more conference information: <http://www.ecmchouston.org>

Please note: In case of conference cancellation due to inclement weather or other circumstances beyond our control, there will be no refunds.

Conference Schedule 2020 Track A

Thursday		Friday	
Registration, Vendors, & Sharing	8:00 - 8:45 a.m.	Vendors, & Sharing	
Session 1	8:45 - 10:15 a.m.	Session 3	
Break, Vendors, & Sharing	10:15 - 10:45 a.m.	Break, Vendors, & Sharing	
Session 2	10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Session 4	
Lunch, Vendors, & Sharing	12:15 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch, Vendors, & Sharing	
Welcome & Keynote	1:00 - 2:30 p.m.	Keynote	
I/T Advanced Track (includes lunch) 8:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.		PK Advanced Track (includes lunch) 8:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.	
		Director's Track (includes lunch) 8:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.	

Please notice that this schedule allows participants to complete 5 hours of training by 2:30 p.m. PLEASE REMEMBER TO USE ALL FREE TIME TO VISIT THE VENDORS AND NETWORK WITH YOUR FELLOW ATTENDEES. You receive training credit for these activities.

Early Childhood Methodist Conference Etiquette

The conference mission is to provide a quality, professional training experience for early childhood educators. Please remember to respectfully represent your school at all times.

- All attendees must arrange their own childcare. No children are allowed at the conference.
- Cell phones should be turned off during the Keynote and all training sessions.
- Beverages and food are not allowed in the Sanctuary.
- Keep in mind that all the “staff” at the conference are volunteers. Please be kind and speak to them respectfully.
- The clock hour certificate will be provided after the attendee has completed her/his evaluation of the conference online. This certificate is provided in good faith. Each attendee is honor-bound to attend all required training sessions.

Make sure you come ready to do
some shopping!
This year, the vendors will be in the
The Activity Center

Conference Workshops

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A1	Social-Emotional Tools for the Early Childhood Classroom	Amanda Armbruster	all	Child Growth & Development

Amanda will offer tips and strategies for building a strong classroom community, encouraging positive behaviors, and laying the foundation for positive social-emotional development.

Amanda Armbruster is a Licensed Professional Counselor in Houston, Texas. She works part-time at the office of Dr. Michelle Forrester, a Child Psychologist, doing individual and group therapy, parent training, and school consultations. Amanda recently started her own business, Take a Break Tots, LLC. She writes blog posts for her website, provides parent consultations, and in-service trainings for professionals working with young children. Amanda is a former St. Luke's Day School Teacher and current St. Luke's Day School mom!

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A2	Do This, Not That: Alphabet Knowledge	Stacy Benge, M.S.	3 - PK	Professional Practice, Methods & Curriculum

No flash cards? No worksheets? No letter of the week theme? How do children learn the letters then?

Through this class, learn exciting alternatives to inappropriate letter knowledge instruction and leave ready to throw out all of your flash cards and worksheets! Discover developmentally appropriate approaches to letter recognition and knowledge that will lay strong foundations for literacy development.

Stacy Benge is a child development and early learning specialist who approaches early childhood education in a way that makes sense. In addition to holding a Master of Science degree in Human/ Child Development and Family Studies, she has spent 10 years in the early childhood classroom teaching children ages birth to five. Stacy also has 20 years of experience of sharing her passion for child and human development with fellow early learning professionals by designing and presenting continuing education courses.

#	Workshop	Presenters	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A3	Bring It Outdoors!	Janice Brown, Shannon Lewis, & Sharon A. Young	3 - K admin	Professional Practice, Methods & Curriculum

Plan for outdoor learning centers. Dig in with butterfly and vegetables gardens. Examine teacher roles to expand the variety of ways children can experience the natural world.

Janice Brown is founder of On the Grow, a gardening coaching service that provides garden education for home, school, community, and corporate gardens. She is a Texas Master Gardener and Master Naturalist. In addition to providing garden education for thousands of children in the Houston area, she is a blogger and presenter for the Texas Home and Garden Show. Gardening is her passion and she loves to share it with others. Her mission is to reconnect city dwellers with nature including understanding how to grow food and how to garden for wildlife.

Shannon Lewis has been in early childhood for 16 years. She has taught pre-k in several Houston area schools and currently works at Westminster Weekday School. Her passion is helping children find their voice through story and play. She has completed the year-long storytelling project and is in her second and final year of the Early Literacy Leadership Academy offered through Rice University, School Culture and Literacy.

Sharon Young developed an Outdoor Coordinator position while consulting with 50 preschool and elementary outdoor programs. As a Texas Master Naturalist she volunteered in three dozen school habitats, installing and maintaining native plants. With an eye on quality improvements Sharon has conducted over 200 ECERS preschool classroom assessments and is a CDA Assessor.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A4	Connecting Motor to Math	Marilyn Bitsis	3 - K	Professional Practice, Methods & Curriculum

Come learn exciting ways to encourage math skills through movement. Ms. Bitsis will demonstrate energetic movement and music-oriented ways to introduce math in the preschool classroom.

Marilyn Bitsis, a Master Registered Trainer in the Texas Early Care and Education Development System, has co-authored a book *Sensational Beginnings – Sensory and Motor Activities for Infants and Toddlers*. She is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and has a combined twenty-seven years of business and teaching experience. She is owner of the motor skills company Kidbuilders.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A5	What is the Matter with this Kid's Brain?	Lauren Osborne Blaschke	3 - K	Child Growth & Development

Are your children whining or telling you "no" or constantly disobeying? What is in their brain that makes them this way? Join us as we discuss the fascinating way God designed these little brains and then discover how we can best "fix" these behaviors in our classroom! There is hope!

Lauren Osborne Blaschke is a wife, mom, teacher, and speaker. She graduated from Texas ATM with a degree in Early Childhood Education and then received her M. Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction from UTA. She loves working with women and has a deep desire to see them live out their passion for the Lord. Lauren wholeheartedly believes that teachers have a divine impact on each child in their classroom.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A6	Play a Song and Sing Along: The Power of Musical Play	Barbara Brandt	all	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

We all know that play is how children learn. Teacher led or child directed, musical play promotes learning in all the early childhood educational domains. It helps create a nurturing environment for students and guides them through their day at school. You don't need to be a music teacher—or sing well—to harness the power of musical play!

Barbara Brandt has worked with young children for many years in many places, including the Houston Zoo, where she was the early childhood educator. This is her thirteenth year at St. Luke's Day School: she began as a classroom teacher (3-year-olds and PreK), and is currently teaching music to everyone from infants through kindergarteners.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A7	Creating a Diverse Learning Environment	Ashley Cole	T - K	Culture & Individual Diversity

Incorporating diversity in your classroom through play, circle time activities, and stories will encourage children to acknowledge and accept the differences between themselves and their peers. Participants will leave with new tools and approaches to help young children celebrate diversity in a meaningful way.

Ashley Cole has 8 years of experience in early childhood education. She is currently a PreK teacher at Wesley Prep in Dallas, Texas. Ashley studied Human Resources at the University of Texas at Tyler and strives on making sure the learning environment is set up to make each child feel included, represented, and welcome. She has held multiple trainings on classroom setup and functionality.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A8	Phonological Fun!	Ashley Davis	I - K	Professional Practice, Methods & Curriculum

In this engaging and informative session, you will walk away with a grasp of how to support student's phonological awareness (the cornerstone of literacy) as well as activities to use in your classroom. We will also reiterate (using research and other forms of documentation) how important the role we play as early childhood educators is in creating young readers and writers!

Ashley Davis has been teaching preK for 5 years at St. Luke's Day School. As a graduate of the Early Literacy Leadership Academy (ELLA) at Rice University's School Literacy and Culture Program, she has garnered a wealth of knowledge about the implementation of various developmentally appropriate practices for early childhood development that creates solid foundations in reading. Ashley loves to share this information with everyone and anyone who is willing to listen!

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A9	Fine Motor Skills and More... Write Out of the Box!	Dr. Marianne Gibbs	3 - K	Professional Practice, Methods & Curriculum

NAEYC presenter and national early childhood speaker presents engaging hands-on presentation on the fine motor development of young children 3-6 years old. This session contains essential, rarely addressed, information for educators of ALL young children, which supports pencil grasp and pre-writing development across the curriculum. Session is fun, fast-paced, and includes NEW learning on scope/sequence of prewriting shapes and symbols not previously shared at this conference with activities and techniques ready to use in your classroom tomorrow!

Dr. Marianne Gibbs is an occupational therapist and dynamic, national early childhood educational speaker. Dr. Gibbs received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1985 from Claremont McKenna College, Master of Occupational Therapy Degree in 2000 from Texas Woman's University, and Doctorate in Educational Leadership with a Specialization in Curriculum and Instruction in 2010. In addition to being the owner of Gibbs Consulting, Incorporated, Dr. Gibbs is a contributing author to the Frog Street Press Pre-K curriculum and Benson Handwriting programs. As an entrepreneurial educator since 2004, Dr. Gibbs supports the appropriate development of young children by providing "once in a lifetime workshops – every time" with the goal of elevating educational practices and life-long outcomes for children beyond expectations!

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A10	Gearing Up with Loose Parts!	Anne Jackson	3 - K admin	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

Loose Parts can extend hands-on learning in any developmentally appropriate program. This presentation is everything you always wanted to know about Loose Parts; how to find them, how to use them, and how to convince administrators and parents of their value and potential to enrich your classroom. Loose Parts tap into early childhood design thinking where STEAM and learning across all domains can be amplified. Come and learn how the literacy of innovation and nurturing 21st century skills inspires creativity and joy in young students of all ages.

Anne Jackson has taught Pre-K and Kindergarten in the Houston area for thirty-two years. She holds a B.A. in Developmental Psychology from the University of the South, Sewanee, and a M.Ed. in Early Childhood from the University of Houston. Anne has spent her teaching career in private schools as well as teaching two years of undergraduate Curriculum and Instruction at U of H. She is currently a lead Kindergarten teacher at St. Mark's Episcopal School. She enjoys using the "hooks" of literature, music, puppets, blocks, loose parts, and art to inspire creativity and design thinking in her young students across the curriculum. Anne completed the Rice SLC three year ELLA program in 2018. The inspiration towards best practices through the ELLA community permanently transformed her teaching and further solidified her passion for developmentally appropriate practices.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
All	Social Competencies in Early Learners: Development and Strategies Birth to 7 years of age	Amy Lerman, MA, CCC-SLP	all	Child Growth & Development

A person's need to be social is as basic as our need to eat and drink. Come and learn about social development from infancy through early childhood and ways to support learning in your classrooms.

Amy Lerman has had the pleasure of serving in the field of speech and language for the past 17 years. Her years of education were spent at The University of Texas at Austin (GO HORNS) where she received a Bachelor of Science degree, and at The George Washington University in D.C. where she received a Master's in Speech-Language Pathology.

Amy's journey as an SLP began in Plano Independent School District, where she served in early childhood schools for 7 years. Later, she moved to Houston and spent 4 years working in The Parish School's Early Childhood program. Deciding to try something new, she moved to San Antonio, and went into private practice, mostly focusing on social groups and providing professional development and parent education at a variety of schools and organizations. Amy is thrilled to be back to Houston and to The Parish School in a new and exciting Community Outreach role.

Amy and husband, Marshall, have two girls, Lyla (10) and Sunny (5).

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A12	Purposeful Play in the Infant/Toddler Classroom	Kathryn Lew	I - 2	Professional Practice, Methods & Curriculum

This class will focus on play during open centers in your classroom. It will provide great ideas for fine motor, sensory, imaginative, block, playdough, and math play activities.

Kathryn Lew is currently in her 12th year of teaching. She has taught 2 and 3 year olds most of her teaching career. She is currently teaching the turning 3's class at Holy Covenant Child Development Center, where she is also the age level coordinator of the Mother's Day Out program. Kathryn graduated from Loyola University New Orleans with a Bachelors of Arts in psychology. She later received her teaching certification in Early Childhood Education - 6th grade through Region 4. She lives in Katy, TX with her husband, Alex, and her two children, Addie and Anderson.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A13	Fostering Language & Literacy Through Play for Infants, Toddlers, & Twos	Susan Meriwether	I - 2	Child Growth & Development

It is through play that infants, toddlers, & twos learn and develop. Come be inspired and learn ways to foster language and literacy through everyday moments of play.

Susan Meriwether is a teacher of two and three-year-olds at St. Francis Episcopal School in Houston. She is a recent graduate of the Early Literacy Leadership Academy at Rice University School of Literacy and Culture. Susan offers trainings to parents and teachers, speaking on a variety of topics.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A14	True Books for Curious Kids	Pat Miller	PK - K, admin	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

Curious young children need true books to answer their questions and encourage their curiosity. Yet, we mostly read fiction to them. This workshop will introduce you to more than 25 of the best in recent true books for young learners, along with some simple activities to do with them.

Pat Miller has taught reading to children aged preschool - 5th grade. She is an award-winning author of nine books for children. Pat has spoken about reading from Orlando to Anchorage, but especially loves doing school visits and reading to her nine grandchildren. Visit her at patmillerbooks.com

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A15	"On the Ball" in the Classroom and Beyond	Margaret Schafer	3 - K	Child Growth & Development

Are you looking for ways to incorporate more fun into your classroom routine while developing gross motor skills, too? Sure you are! Come learn how using a variety of balls, coupled with basic motor skills and classroom management techniques, can liven up your day and keep the children engaged in learning.

Margaret Schafer is a Master Level trainer with the Texas Early Care Professional Development System. She is a graduate of Converse College and a published co-author of Sensational Beginnings: Sensory and Motor Activities for Infants and Toddlers, and the KidBuilders curriculum. Margaret began teaching preschool in 1984, was director of Southwest Methodist Dayschool, and taught preschool motor skills and gymnastics for ten years.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A16	Handling the Hard to Handle	Tom Wilbeck	T - K admin	Child Growth & Development

Every human has needs. Our behavior is motivated by fulfilling these needs. This workshop will focus on the needs of humans and behaviors we use to have our needs met. Understanding the behavior we see will help us "handle the hard to handle" situations in our centers.

Tom Wilbeck has been a Licensed Professional Counselor and trainer for more than 20 years. You may also know Tom as "Mr. Tom" from Tom's Fun Band, a nationally ranked children's recording group. While on a stage or in a classroom, Tom brings humor and fun to audiences while teaching important lessons that will foster positive change in our lives.

Directors' Track

Designed for directors and administrators, this is a 4-hour long workshop (including lunch) and is offered on Friday only. Participants will still go to the keynote address on the day they attend this workshop.

Directors' Track Friday

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A17	Team Web	Chris Bernal	admin	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

The Team Web experimental learning workshop demonstrates the dynamics of successful organizations and teams. It gives participants an opportunity to experience the need and power of a clear vision; effective leadership; communication; teamwork; and a new paradigm of management. During the Team Web Workshop participants will feel and understand the necessity of working for a common vision and objective. They will experience the problems generated in any organization or team when people work with an individualistic approach and when they don't share a vision. In the second part of the exercise, participants will test the benefits obtained when the Team has a common objective and everyone works towards the same end. Participants will feel the motivation, commitment, quality, enthusiasm and productivity generated, and will understand the new role of a Leader and the positive impact on the members of the team.

Following lunch together, you will have an opportunity to "ask the experts." Chris Bernal, Anna Williamson (Managing Director, Center for Early Childhood Programs and Professional Development at Agenda for Children, New Orleans, LA), & Judy Carnahan Webb (Early Childhood Consultant) will answer your most pressing "Director" concerns.

Chris Bernal (MSOD) is an Organization Development Consultant and Executive Coach with more than thirty-one years of management and consulting experience. His experience includes executive and leadership development and coaching, talent management design and implementation, senior team development, employee engagement, performance management and work redesign of organizations. Chris' mission is to bring leaders to new levels of performance effectiveness.

Advanced Track

Designed for very experienced teachers, this is a 4 hour long workshop and will be offered on one day only.

Participants will still go to the keynote address on the day they attend this workshop.

If you choose the Advanced Track, please ensure that you **ONLY** attend the workshop that is relative to the age that you teach.

Thursday Advanced Track

#	Workshop	Presenters	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A18	Infants and Toddlers: Inspiring Brain Development and Learning	Thursday Advanced Track Cyndi Gostenhofer, M.S. & Carol Ortega, Ed.D.	I & T	Child Growth & Development

This presentation will include a variety of topics related to infant and toddler brain development and learning. Topics will include language and literacy development, diversity in infant and toddler care, and the latest research from Zero to Three: The Growing Brain. Participants will make and take curriculum materials to use in their classroom.

Cyndi Gostenhofer, M.S, is a retired Early Childhood community college professor. She has been teaching Early Childhood and Education courses for over 15 years, first at San Jacinto College and then at Houston Community College. She has taught infants, toddlers, and preschool children both in a childcare center and in her registered home. Ms. Gostenhofer owned and operated a NAEYC accredited childcare center for over 13 years. Infants and toddlers have always been her favorite age group, and these were the courses that she most enjoyed teaching.

Professor Gostenhofer's education includes a bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Studies from the University of Houston, and a master's in Early Childhood Education from the University of Houston, Clear Lake. She was previously a ZERO TO THREE Provisionally Certified Trainer: The Growing Brain.

Carol Ortega, Ed.D, is a community college adjunct professor with an interest in teachers' self-care. She has been facilitating students' learning about young children and the early childhood profession for over 25 years at San Jacinto College and Houston Community College. Previously, she operated an accredited home childcare and was the Toddler Lead Teacher in the San Jacinto College Lab School. Throughout this time frame, she has supported classroom caregivers by presenting numerous workshops such as Coping with Stress, Circle Time 'Fun'damentals, and Math for Young Children.

Dr. Ortega's education encompasses her doctorate from the University of Houston in Curriculum and Instruction, specializing in Early Childhood and Teacher Education as well as Parental Grief. She obtained both her master's and bachelor's degrees from Sam Houston University.

Friday Advanced Track

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
A19	Paving the Way for Successful Parent Teacher Communication	Friday Advanced Track Jan Flowers	PK - K	Child Growth & Development

In this interactive session, we will be discussing methods of communication that encourage a parent's trust in your ability. We will also learn how to have hard conversations with minimal conflict, while preserving the teacher/parent relationship.

Jan Flowers has always loved working with children. She has a degree in Health from The University of Houston and a master's in early childhood education from The University of St. Thomas. After being a nanny for nine years, she began her teaching career at St. Luke's Day School, where she taught 2s, Pre-K, and the Bridge class. She did private tutoring before starting at The Joy School, where she taught Kindergarten through 3rd grade for 19 years. Jan retired from The Joy School in May of 2019, and she now lives in Wiscasset, Maine, with her husband Larry and their two dogs, Lucie and Dahlia.

