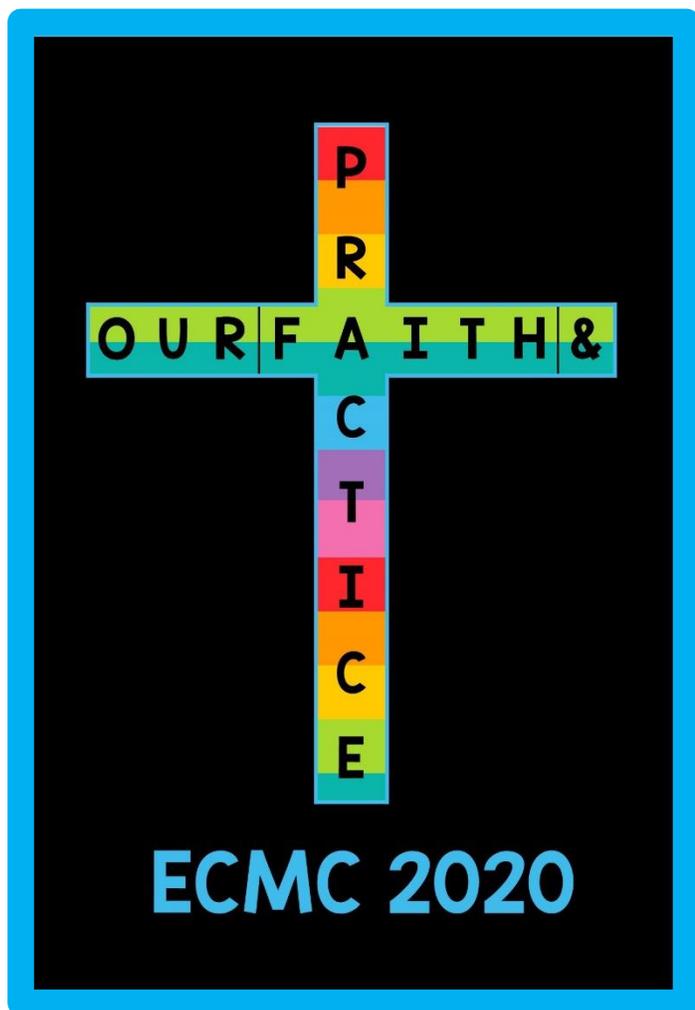




Early Childhood Methodist Conference Track B



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 2019 Track B

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

Please notice that the 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
B1	Igniting the Joy through Movement: preparing students for reading by creating new neural pathways explored through movement	Arts Alive!	all	Child Growth & Development

Come ready to play! Early childhood is the ideal time to prepare students for learning to read by developing their neural pathways. By incorporating movement, dance, music, and creative drama in your early childhood classroom, participants will learn how to open doors for students with various learning styles in ANY content area. After you experience and discuss the foundational strategies of our movement-based approach you will leave with a new bag full of tricks in your pocket and a smile in your heart! Join us as we share a plethora of research-proven tools that leverage the magic of the arts to unlock the potential of the brain! Join with us as we leverage the power of joy and the magic of the imagination to educate with exponentially increased effectiveness!

Arts Alive! teaches an innovative suite of play-based classes that support and nurture early childhood development through the lens of music, yoga and creative movement. Since 1994, Tina Sabuco, has been bringing life to her vision of an expressive arts program for children of all ages and abilities. Our goal is to share our philosophy of embracing the spirit in order to Ignite the Joy in you in your students!

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B2	Playful Literacy	Hugo Basurto	3 - K, admin	Child Growth & Development

One of the best ways to develop strong literacy skills is to allow and encourage children to play. With this interactive session, discover how to design an environment that produces desired literacy outcomes through child guided play. Learn how to identify key objectives and effectively document them in a natural, developmentally appropriate setting.

Hugo Basurto currently attends the University of Houston where he studies Interdisciplinary Studies with a focus in Math. In 2017, he participated in the Classroom Storytelling Project at Rice University. Hugo presented at a Region 10 conference in Dallas in the summer of 2019. He is currently a kindergarten teacher and has been working in early childhood education for 6 years.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B3	Blast Off Science!	Barbara Cargill	3 - K	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

5-4-3-2-1 BLAST OFF for a journey through space with an "out of this world" training! Prepare for space with gravity experiments and live like an astronaut by blasting rockets, tasting space food, space sleeping, and using astronaut tools. Walking on the moon and zooming cool comets make this session loads of fun!

Barbara Cargill earned her undergraduate degree in education from Baylor University and a Master of Science in Science Education degree from Texas Woman's University. Having taught high school science for almost ten years, she was the recipient of many teaching awards including a National Excellence Award for science teaching. Barbara's interest in creative learning for children and a love for science motivated her to found the WOW! program in 1995. With over 1,200 children, 3 year olds through 4th grade, attending Science Camp each summer, Barbara brings a wealth of experience to professional development! She has been training teachers for over 23 years. In addition to her passion for science education, Barbara also serves on the Texas State Board of Education. Barbara is honored to serve as a voice for teachers, parents, and children at the state level.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B4	Keep Calm and Carry On: Addressing Anxiety	Casey Casteel	3 - K	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

Anxiety in children and parents has increased and escalated beyond the expected separation anxiety of early childhood. Learn how to proactively support anxious students and parents, recognize behaviors related to anxiety, and create a climate of calm.

Casey Casteel has a Master's degree in professional counseling and is completing her license as a professional counselor and registered play therapy certification. Prior to working as a child and family therapist, Casey spent over twenty years in the education field in a various capacities as a teacher, school counselor, and enrichment business owner.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B5	It's Not a Kitchen! Exploring Dramatic Play	Courtney Challis	3 - K	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

Look into using your Dramatic Play center to further meaningful and intentional learning. Explore how to incorporate literature, writing and math into this center. Connect to children using hands on learning and fun to further academic goals.

Courtney Challis has a degree from the University of Houston in Interdisciplinary Studies and is a certified EC-4th grade teacher who has a passion for making sure a child loves learning! She has taught in a public Title I school in Second grade and Kindergarten. In addition, she has taught Pre-K at St. Paul's School. It was there that she completed the Story Telling Project from Rice University. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her three young children and husband.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B6	Attachment & Trauma: How We Understand Experiences Through Our Attachments	Nancy Illback Cook, Ph.D.	3 - K admin	Child Growth & Development

This participative workshop will present several key concepts in attachment theory as a way to more fully understand children's behaviors and our adult responses to their behavior due to our own attachment history. It will also highlight some of the recent research regarding trauma and its impact on children's ability to develop healthy social relationships and their potential limitations in exploring their own emotions.

Nancy Illback Cook, Ph.D. has a Child Development & Early Childhood Education, and a Ph.D. Psychology. She is currently in private practice, since 1994 and is former University of Houston faculty in Human Development where she researched The Transition to Parenthood & the Infant-Parent Relationship.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B7	When Children's Become Authors: Publishing Children's Work	Sharon S. Dworaczyk	3 - K	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

From the words of Vivian Paley, the author of Wally Stories, "What we value, we talk about;" and more importantly, what we value we publish. Children write with a defined purpose in mind from the beginning when they know their work will be published. Find out how to publish children's work in a variety of ways in the early childhood classroom.

Sharon Dworaczyk has worked with young toddlers through second grade age children for over twenty years. Her education background consists of an undergraduate degree in Elementary Education specializing in Early Childhood and English as a Second Language from Texas A & M University in College Station and a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Houston, Clear Lake. She has trained in the Classroom Storytelling Project from School Literacy and Culture from Rice University in 1996, and has continued with the project as a mentor teacher and seminar leader to date.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B8	Building Lifetime Relationships in Minutes	James Evans	all	Family & Community Relations

In this workshop we will teach how to effectively connect with all audiences regardless of background, ethnicity, and age. We will train on interpersonal skills and implement strategies that will develop long term relationships with very limited time.

James Evans is a teacher, articulate orator, clinician, and public speaker. He has a phenomenal way of explaining communication principles with a twenty-first century methodology. His unquenchable desire to bring harmony and unity to our society has made him find new and refreshing ways to relay the message of societal acceptance. James and his wife, Christina Brackens-Evans are the founder of JC Ministries, a nonprofit organization that hosts monthly nontraditional community events.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B9	Behavioral Interventions Based on Intrinsic Motivation	Gayle Y. Fisher, M. Ed.	T - K	Child Growth & Development

Why does a child make the behavior choices they do? This workshop is about understanding children's undesired behaviors, with and without learning differences. We will discuss age-appropriate re-directs using intrinsic motivation, multiple intelligences, classroom management, natural consequences, sensory integration, executive function, and behavior interventions built on best practices of trust, boundaries, mental health awareness and learning challenges.

Gayle Fisher is an educator, mom of a 6th grader with learning differences, author, learning differences consultant, and has been living in the spectrum 9+ years. She teaches non-credit workshops as an adjunct at LSC-M Academy of Lifelong Learning and out in the community. She is Founder at GettingSorted.com, Founding Co-Facilitator of SpecialNeedsSibs.org & OurTrainingCenter.org; and writes at IfWeLearnDifferently.com. She is on the Advisory Council of the Center for School Behavioral Health Collaborative. She loves to collaborate, and is always working on new projects. More can be found at GettingSorted.com.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B10	Heart and Soul: Building Character in Each Child	Janine R. Groth	all	Child Growth & Development

Spirituality is an essential part of each child's growth and development. Many times, it is confused with religion-based schools only, however, it is truly an important domain in all of our classrooms. Prosocial behavior needs to be intentionally taught within our curriculum. Service learning, care for others, sense of hope, self-awareness, optimistic perspective and a sense of humor all are areas we can developmentally and appropriately teach to our students. Our future society depends on our students having a voice of reason and a sense of being a part of the solution.

Janine Groth has been in the Early Childhood Field for over 35 years, starting as a teaching assistant and working up through the ranks to currently teaching college. She operated a large NAEYC accredited center for almost 5 years and then moved to the higher education arena in 2005. She's mentored teachers for a state research grant and worked in collaboration with many of the Houston and surrounding area school districts. Ms. Groth is an adjunct professor the University of Houston-Downtown and Lonestar College. Janine was an active member of HAAEYC since 1997, finishing her tenure as V.P. of Programs in 2015. Since 1998, Janine has been a Master Level Registered Trainer through the state of Texas. She has trained nationally, regionally and locally for over 24 years. Her passion is to motivate teachers to be professional and intentional within their classrooms.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B11	Math Matters!	Briccale King & Ashley Waite	3 - K	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

Math matters—and can be easily used throughout the day in every classroom! Let's explore math in ways that will ease transitions, enrich circle time, and turn snack and lunchtimes into learning opportunities. We will also provide make-and-take activities to help get you started.

Briccale King and Ashley Waite teach at St. Luke's Day School in the 3s and Infant departments respectively. With a combined total of 19 years of early childhood education experience, they are passionate about teaching - - - and including math wherever possible.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B12	Healthy Bodies & Senses, Too!	Aileen Kirkham	3 - K	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

This literature-based science workshop includes step-by-step lesson plans that use scientific observation and exploration strategies. The comprehensive biography is complimented by the interactive songs and games; a make and take activity; use of a pictography; and discussion based simple analogies.

Aileen Kirkham is an author, consultant, trainer, educator, and professional storyteller with 30+ years of experience. Visit her website at www.aileenkirkham.com.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B13	Circle Time Puppets: Enrich Literacy Skills with Puppetry in the Classroom	Jean Kuecher	ALL	Child Growth & Development

Get motivated, gain confidence and learn techniques for using puppets and stuffed animals, powerful teaching and learning tools! Enrich and nurture creative thinking, stretch the imagination, strengthen a love of language, motivate reading, and heighten visualization, critical thinking, listening, and communication skills. Incorporate art into literature's main character, goal, problem and solution.

Jean Kuecher, puppeteer and producer of the Marionette Playhouse, delights audiences with marionette, hand puppet and black light puppetry performances. Jean performs for schools, libraries, birthday parties, churches and corporate events. She is a performing and teaching artist with Young Audiences of Houston. Jean has a master's in education and is a Registered Trainer with the Texas Early Care and Education Career Development System. As a teacher she used puppetry to enhance her classroom curriculum. As a school counselor she developed weekly marionette shows on self-awareness themes. She is a charter member of the Greater Houston Puppetry Guild and a member of the National Puppeteers of America. Jean is the director of the annual Houston Puppetry Festival, providing quality performances and workshops for teachers, librarians, and puppetry enthusiasts. Jean's puppetry training workshops for educators are motivating and fun, while increasing literacy and science skills!

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B14	What Would Jesus Eat?	Laura Laine	all	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

God made us with the need to eat daily, and God supplies us with the food to eat. The food God gives us is not only delicious, but also provides every nutrient required to live a healthy life. Come learn from the example of Jesus how and what to eat to maintain health in body, mind, and spirit for yourself, your family, and the children you teach.

Laura Laine is a spiritual director, registered dietitian and owner of the Sophia Grace Center for Nutrition, Health and Spirituality. A gifted retreat leader and speaker, she has a passion for nourishing the whole self – body, mind & spirit. Following 22 years at Texas Children’s Hospital, she served as Parish Administrator of St. Laurence Catholic Church for 8 years.

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B15	S.T.E.A.M. Tools & Techniques	Susan MacHugh	T – K	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

Encourage children’s natural interest by providing opportunities to explore, identify, predict, investigate, and problem solve in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. See how to develop a variety of discovery centers inside the classroom and on the playground. Learn how to expand the curriculum by providing activities that encourage children to explore, take risks, and have a joyful experience.

Susan MacHugh has worked in the field of Early Childhood for over 30 years as a Preschool Founding Director/Head Teacher, Early Childhood Specialist, and Trainer with the Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System (TECPDS). She is the owner of The Singing Bag Solution and serves as a support group leader for the Kingwood/Humble/Atascocita Chapter of Attention Deficit Disorder-Southern Region (ADDA-SR).

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B16	Making Read-A-Louds ROCK!	Chris Smith	T – K	Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum

Together we will explore strategies for creating rich, engaging, and interactive Read-A-Loud experiences in your classroom that will foster imagination and creativity, exercise the brain, develop language skills and set the children up for success. Hands-on activities will accompany the stories to extend the learning and story “treasures” will enhance a memory and a love of reading.

Chris Smith is the Director of Early Childhood for Enid Public Schools in Enid, Oklahoma, a teacher, administrator, university professor, and national workshop presenter with over 45 years of experience. Her experiences and passion for educating young children, has led her across the country providing early childhood trainings that excite, inspire, and challenge her audiences. She combines current brain research and “best practice” strategies to create engaging and innovative learning opportunities for teachers and children.

Directors' Track

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

Thursday Directors' Track

#	Workshop	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B17	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 OD 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	Presenter	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B18	Paving the Way for Successful Parent Teacher Communication	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.

Friday Advanced Track

#	Workshop	Presenters	Ages	Core Knowledge Area
B19	Infants and Toddlers: Inspiring Brain Development and Learning	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.

