

Strengthening Children, Families, and Schools: The Family Engagement Summit

Join Arizona Department of Education's Early Childhood Unit to develop strategies to strengthen family engagement in early learning settings (birth to 3rd grade). Our goal is to support programs and families in forming strong partnerships that will improve outcomes for Arizona's children.

Sessions will provide opportunities for both practitioners and families with a focus on the image of families as their child's first and most important caregiver, utilizing a strengths-based approach to working with families, building relationships, and engaging fathers.

General Information

GOING GREEN

In an effort to reduce paper waste and promote quality use of technology to support PD, ADE ECE will provide the conference agenda/presentation materials electronically. A limited number of printed agendas will be available at the registration table.

SEATING

ADE ECE has tried to anticipate and plan for seating capacities, but it's likely that some rooms will fill up. Room capacities are set by the Fire Marshall. No standing is allowed in the rooms. We appreciate your cooperation and recommend you arrive as early as possible for sessions of highest interest on your personal itinerary.

PARKING, LODGING, MEALS

Parking is available in the conference center's lot at no cost. Participants must reserve their own lodging as applicable. [Nearby Accommodations](#). The registration fee includes breakfast, lunch, and snack for the date of the conference.

CERTIFICATE OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Registered participants will receive a certificate of professional development for 13 hours upon successful completion of this conference within 2 weeks after the scheduled conference date. Certificates can be accessed from a participant's ADE Events Management System (EMS) account: ems.azed.gov.

WI-FI/ CHARGING

ADE ECE recognizes that participants are busy professionals working to ensure quality programs for children and families, and we encourage participants to invest in their professional development by giving their fullest attention during keynote, featured speaker, and breakout sessions. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available throughout the conference center. Be sure that your electronics are charged before arriving as there may be no electrical outlets available.

KEYNOTE, FEATURED AND BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Session presentation overviews were reviewed by ADE ECE. Presentations were selected based on alignment of the submission with conference content focus areas and experience and community expertise of the presenters. The content, views, and opinions expressed in sessions are those of the presenters and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of Arizona Department of Education or the Early Childhood Education Unit.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Please be aware of emergency exits in your immediate surroundings at all times. In case of emergency, please call 911 and notify an ADE ECE staff member immediately.

For additional ADE ECE information and resources and to access electronic conference materials: www.azed.gov/ece.



Strengthening Children, Families, and Schools: The Family Engagement Summit

Friday, December 8, 2017

8:00-9:00	<u>Lobby/Black Canyon Ballroom:</u> Registration, Breakfast, Partner Booths			
9:00-10:30	<u>Black Canyon Ballroom:</u> Keynote: Dr. Steven Constantino			
10:30-10:45	Transition Break to Session 1			
10:45-12:15	<u>Arizona</u> <i>Asking for Help is Hard: Supporting Families in Times of Need</i> Sara Martinez	<u>Boulder</u> <i>Exploring Maternal & Paternal Parenting Styles</i> Neil Tift, MA & Denise Tift	<u>Echo Canyon</u> <u>Engaging Families in Early Math</u> Debbie McBee & Brenda Mann	<u>Library</u> <u>Can We Talk?</u> Ana Herron-Valenzuela & Stephanie Collier
12:15-1:15	<u>Black Canyon Ballroom:</u> Lunch, Networking, Partner Booths			
1:15-2:45	<u>Arizona</u> <i>The ACE Study: Childhood Trauma and Adult Health</i> Claire Louge, M.Ed.	<u>Boulder</u> <i>Girl Brain, Boy Brain</i> Neil Tift, MA	<u>Echo Canyon</u> <i>Engaging Families from the Start</i> Laura Landis & Brenda Mann	<u>Library</u> <u>Parent Ambassadors: Creating & Empowering Advocates for Healthier Schools</u> Cindy Quintero & Emily Flanigan
2:45-3:00	Transition Break to Session 3			
3:00-4:30	<u>Arizona</u> <i>Introduction to the Strengthening Families Protective Factors</i> Claire Louge, M.Ed.	<u>Boulder</u> <u>Close Your Eyes, Follow Your Heart: Trusting Relationships with Families and Children</u> Michele Rutin & Susan LaValley	<u>Echo Canyon</u> <u>Being Intentional with Your Power: Every Interaction Matters</u> Rhegan Derfus	<u>Library</u> <i>Batteries NOT INCLUDED: Building Toys That Build the Brain (for educators)</i> Regina Aldridge
*Indicates a session that will be repeated.				

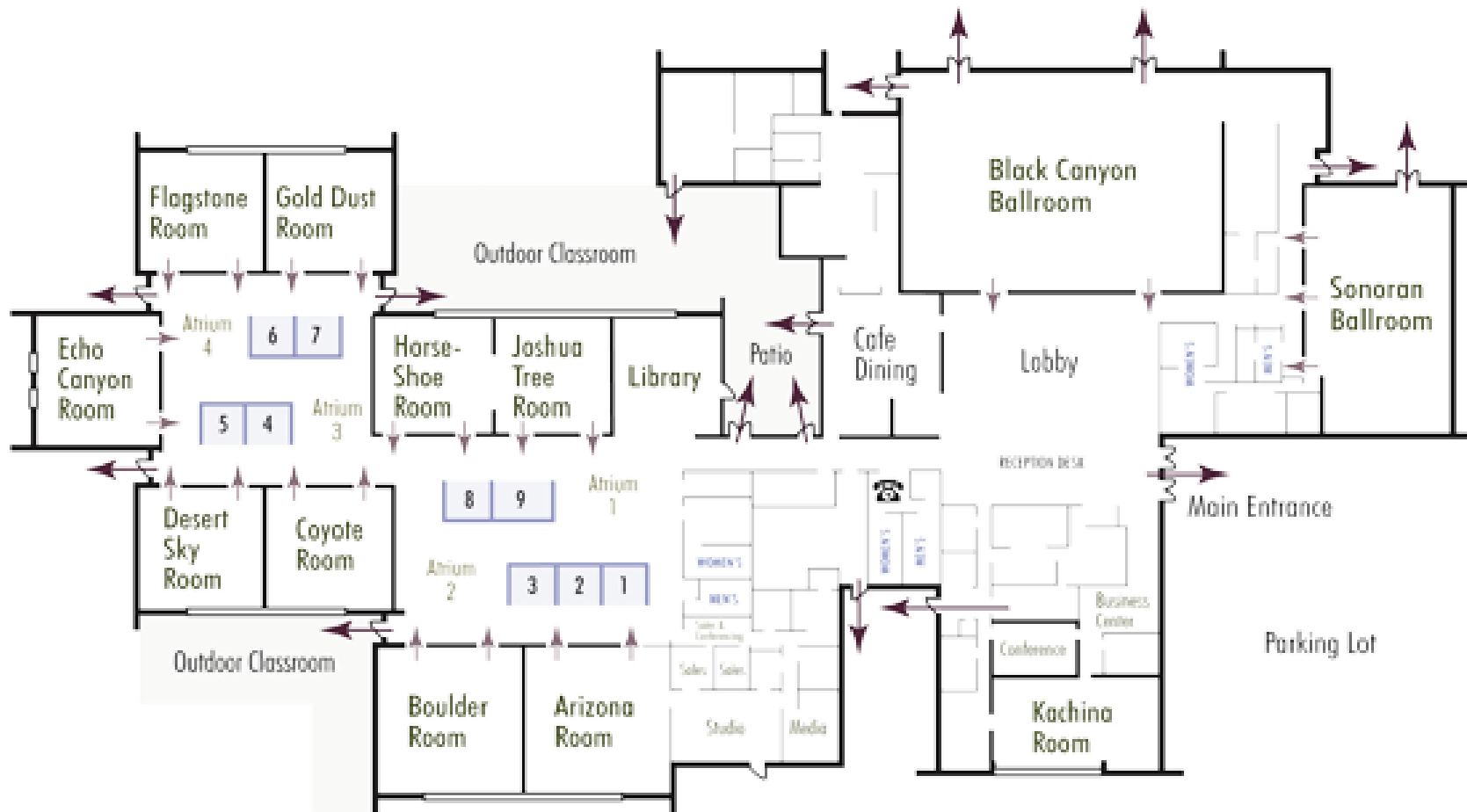


Strengthening Children, Families, and Schools: The Family Engagement Summit

Saturday, December 9, 2017

8:00-9:00	<u>Lobby/Black Canyon Ballroom:</u> Registration, Breakfast, Partner Booths			
9:00-10:30	<u>Black Canyon Ballroom:</u> Ed Talks and Panel Discussion			
	Adiba Nelson	David Jones	Dr. Isela Garcia	Jonathon Gonzales
10:30-10:45	Transition Break to Session 1			
10:45-12:15	<u>Arizona</u> <i>Fathering Me: A Journey into Fatherhood</i> David Jones	<u>Boulder</u> <i>Eat, Move, Love</i> Marissa Calderón	<u>Echo Canyon</u> <i>Parental Resilience</i> Neil Tift, MA	<u>Library</u> <i>Batteries NOT INCLUDED: Building Toys That Build the Brain (for families)</i> Regina Aldridge
12:15-1:15	<u>Black Canyon Ballroom:</u> Lunch, Networking, Partner Booths			
1:15-2:45	<u>Arizona</u> <i>Strengthening Family School Connections</i> Julie Carlberg	<u>Boulder</u> <i>21st Century Skills: Will Children Have What They Need to Succeed?</i> Dr. Isela Garcia	<u>Echo Canyon</u> <i>A Father's Place: The Importance of Male Involvement in the Early Years</i> Neil Tift, MA	<u>Library</u> <i>Batteries NOT INCLUDED: Toys for building 21st Century Brains</i> Debbie Everett, M.Ed.
2:45-3:00	Transition Break to Session 3			
3:00-4:30	<u>Arizona</u> <u>Strengthening Children's Social and Emotional Competence</u> Sandi Cimino	<u>Boulder</u> <u>Engaging Families in the Learning of Their Preschoolers through Funds of Knowledge</u> Dr. Alissa Gonzalez	<u>Echo Canyon</u> <i>Parent Empowerment Project: Strengthening Home School Connections Through Meaningful Interactions</i> Audra Damron	<u>Library</u> <i>Talk with Me: The Power of Talking with Your 0-3-Year-Old</i> Veronica Perrone, MA.Ed.
*Indicates a session that will be repeated.				

Black Canyon Conference Center Map



Summit Featured Speakers



Dr. Steven Constantino. For over 20 years, Dr. Steve Constantino has captivated thousands of teachers, administrators, school board members and business people from the United States and around the world. His amazing keynote presentations and workshops on the topic of family engagement have been featured in local, state, regional, national and international conferences. But, Steve didn't start out to be a national speaker. As a high school principal in 1995, he stumbled across research about the effects of family engagement on student learning and was immediately convinced that this was the missing ingredient in helping all children learn. Using his high school as a laboratory, Steve began to read more and more research and more importantly, figure out ways to apply it to his school. As a result of his work, Steve and his school were featured in numerous publications and appeared in both *Newsweek* and *Time* Magazines.

Steve's work quickly gained national prominence and soon he began traveling the United States speaking and working with all types of educators, school board members, and businesses to promote sound practices in family engagement that result in increased academic achievement for all students. His natural gifts as a captivating speaker coupled with his knowledge and practical experience make him the most sought-after speaker in the field of family engagement.

As a result of his experiences and his practical approach to engaging families, Steve has authored four books on the subject. His first book, *Making Your School Family Friendly* (NASSP, 2002) was published after being selected by the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the MetLife Foundation to create the first-ever family friendly schools national workshop, held in Washington DC. His second book *Engaging Every Family* soon followed. In 2008, Steve released his third book *101 Ways to Create Real Family Engagement* (Engage Press, 2008). Steve's fourth book, *Engage Every Family: Five Simple Principles*, was published in early 2016 and has quickly become a bestseller. Steve began his career as a teacher and moved through the ranks. In addition to teacher, assistant principal, principal, deputy superintendent and Superintendent, Steve has also been in the business world, launching a company and has authored numerous articles and blogs. Today, Steve is the Chief Academic Officer for the Department of Education, Commonwealth of Virginia and is an adjunct professor at the School of Education, College of William and Mary where he teaches courses in the Executive Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership. He still travels the globe bringing his unique message of family engagement as well as his practical processes to engage every family. The nation's leading practitioner still practices what he preaches.



David A. Jones, LMSW, Advocate, Consultant and Motivational Speaker was the former Division Director of Family Support Services at the Visiting Nurse Service of New York for 4 years and a Program Director for 12 years. He implemented their Early Head Start program, targeting adolescent parents providing home and center based services. He developed the nationally recognized Father's First Initiative and the Bronx Fatherhood Program one of NY City's most successful programs serving 16 – 24-year-old non-custodial fathers. He also provided mental health consultation for other Head Start Programs. He was awarded a William Randolph Hearst Foundation fellowship in 2001 and in 2005; The Visiting Nurse Association of America (VNAA) selected him as Innovator of The Year for his outstanding work with fathers. He recently completed his second documentary – *Fathering Me: The Long Walk Home*, which was recently accepted into the April 2018 Washington Film Festival.



Adiba Nelson. Adiba Nelson is a New York City girl turned desert dweller. She currently resides in Tucson, AZ and is the author of the popular children's book about inclusion, *Meet ClaraBelle Blue*. Adiba is also a contributing writer for online magazine The Mighty, My Brown Baby, and The Huffington Post. Her book, *Meet ClaraBelle Blue* is loosely based on her precocious 8 year old daughter, Emory, and for this reason she has made it her life's mission to ensure that children and adults of all abilities have access to the same opportunities in life. When she's not working you can find her spending time with her family, or ordering yet *another* pair of shoes online.



Dr. Isela Garcia. Dr. Isela Garcia is an inspirational and energetic speaker, trainer and consultant. Her 25+ years of experience has taught her the value of laughter, purposeful connections, and the art of listening intently. She is incredibly passionate and continually seeks to create innovative approaches to training and education. Love is the core of her philosophical foundation--belief in the goodness in all people.



Jonathon Gonzales

Jonathon Gonzales, manager, Center for Family Health and Safety, a native Arizonan, also actively serves in the Army National Guard as a Maintenance Control Officer. Jonathon previously served as the State Director of the Arizona Head Start Association (AHSA). He worked with his board to ensure AHSA strengthens member agencies and partners who enhance the lives of young children and families by serving as the unified voice of the diverse Head Start/Early Head Start community through advocacy, collaboration and education. Previously, he served in the capacity as the inaugural Regional Director with the South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council with First Things First. He led his council through a needs and assets, strategic and funding plan process that required consistent re-

evaluation to ensure the meeting of organizational benchmarks. In the past, he worked as the Director of Community Outreach with Children's Action Alliance and as a Prevention Specialist with Maricopa County Tobacco Education and Prevention Program.



Zarai Hernandez. Zarai Hernandez is a proud mother of three, a native Arizonan who is one of the newer additions to the team at Raising Special Kids. Zarai's experience with her own children with special healthcare needs, as well as growing up with a sister affected by autism, allows her to serve the families searching for supports at Raising Special Kids with empathy. Zarai is known for her bright red glasses, welcoming smile, and spirit of energy. She is able to transmit this through the telephone line, face-to-face conversations, and sincere responses she provides throughout her work in the disabilities field. Zarai is enthusiastic and passionate about assisting families and helping them become effective advocates for their children.

Session Descriptions

Asking for Help is Hard: Supporting Families in Times of Need

We all need a little help sometimes. This session will focus on Concrete Support in Times of Need, one of the five Strengthening Families Protective Factors. Participants will discuss examples of how to provide welcoming, non-judgmental support to families, brainstorm ways to better connect families to resources, and learn to recognize the early signs of child maltreatment.

Exploring Maternal & Paternal Parenting Styles

Research clearly indicates that, in many aspects, fathers' styles of parenting are different from mothers' parenting styles. This workshop will present a summary of results of current research on maternal and paternal parenting approaches, comparing and contrasting the two. It will present staff of early childhood organizations with opportunities to develop strategies to recognize and respect the benefits of these differences in their program delivery.

Engaging Families in Early Math

Early math knowledge is rooted in children's everyday experiences and interactions, beginning in infancy. We now know that, math scores for young children are one of the lowest areas as evidenced in recent child outcomes and not only is it important to alleviate some of the anxiety around math for the adults in the programs we have an opportunity to strengthen our family engagement and school readiness efforts as high priorities. This interactive hands-on session will support program staff with their use of early math strategies as an anchor to align school readiness developmental domains and effective teaching practices while keeping the main focus on engaging families as they support their child/children's early math development. Each participant and/or program will walk away with an action plan to enhance their connections to families and early math.

Can We Talk?

Parents see you as a trusted partner in their child's care and they look to you for information about how their child is developing. This interactive workshop will show how using good listening skills can make your conversations with parents easier and help you feel more confident.

The ACE Study: Childhood Trauma and Adult Health

Stress and trauma in childhood affects later adult health. This presentation focuses on the Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Study, an ongoing research study that demonstrates the link between early stress and adult disease. In addition, participants will learn a brief overview of the Strengthening Families Protective Factors, which work to both prevent ACEs from occurring and build resilience to their negative effects. Participants will learn about how trauma and toxic stress increases a person's risk of adult disease and dysfunction.

Girl Brain, Boy Brain

As girls and boys grow from infancy through childhood and adolescence and into adulthood, the gender differences become more apparent in how they each problem solve, communicate, express their emotions, perform academically and develop relationships. "Infants are not blank slates, on whom we scrawl instructions for sexually appropriate behavior. They are born with male or female minds of their own. They have, quite literally, made up their minds in the womb, safe from the legions of social engineers who impetuously await them." Anne Moir, Ph.D. This session will present information to help early childhood program staff to develop effective strategies to recognize and respond to these important distinctions.

Engaging Families from the Start

A strong relationship between families and staff is essential to promoting healthy child development and positive learning outcomes. Strong relationships are rooted in trust and comfort, which you can build by being genuine, sincere, curious about them and their goals, and supporting them as they work toward those goals. There are a number of communication techniques you can use to build relationships with families. While these techniques are especially relevant to the first visit with a family, they can be applied to all interactions with families. During this session, staff who work with families will learn through simulations on how to engage families from the start.

Parent Ambassadors: Creating & Empowering Advocates for Healthier Schools

This presentation will provide an overview of an innovative training design that supports parent advocacy efforts and how to adapt this model for various communities and settings. Well-informed parents are key for successful school initiatives, but are often missing from the process. By creating a culture of parent engagement, parents can champion policy, systems, and environmental solutions to positively impact schools. This interactive training for parents addresses how the school system works, advocacy skills and culminates in the creation of an action plan. Parents receive ongoing assistance from Maricopa County to help to implement the

action plans. By mobilizing families to create environments that support health, the program's outcomes contribute to the healthy development of children. This session will use lecture, video tools, and group discussion to familiarize participants with Parent Ambassadors and how it can be adapted for their setting and engage families.

Introduction to the Strengthening Families Protective Factors

Through this introductory training, participants will learn an overview of the five Strengthening Families Protective Factors, understand what it means to work with families in a strength-based way, and be able to identify strategies to help families become and stay strong. Participants will learn about the Strengthening Families Protective Factors framework, an approach to working with families in a strength-based way.

Close Your Eyes, Follow Your Heart: Trusting Relationships with Families and Children

When teachers close their eyes, and remember why they went into education, they will rediscover their passion for teaching. This workshop will address various ways to connect with not only students but their families. We will provide strategies for how to conduct a successful home visit by finding common ground and understanding the culture and essence of the family, leading to relationships that will last a lifetime. Participants will walk away with multiple methods to know each student as an individual and to use that knowledge to guide their learning. Strategies will be given to construct a strong learning community where students build relationships and an understanding of the similarities and differences between them and their peers. Research has shown that students who have strong relationships between teachers and their families have lower stress and higher attendance, grades, and participation in school.

Being Intentional with Your Power: Every Interaction Matters

This workshop will address challenges in family engagement, and how each provider/teacher/professional has the power to change interactions with families, change the culture of systems the families operate within, and grow their own strengths identifying skills and connect more intentionally with families. Information presented is evidence-based and research backed through the Center for the Study of Social Policy, following the Strengthening Families Protective Factors approach.

Batteries NOT INCLUDED: Building Toys That Build the Brain (for educators)

As early educators, it's important to provide the best experiences for our youngest of children and in our desire to create rich classroom environments and experiences, our go-to is often an early childhood catalog. What the research tells us is that children 0-

3 years of age benefit from exploration, discovery, and problem solving. This can happen with everyday objects without breaking the bank. With just a little ingenuity and creativity, you can make an array of meaningful materials that can support children's natural curiosities and their developing brain!

21st Century Skills: Will Children Have What They Need to Succeed?

Many of us appreciate the ways technology has impacted our world. We can now carry our music, our pictures, our schedule, and our street maps in one device. Technology has not only influenced our day-to-day lives, but it's changing our world. Every year one million jobs disappear and 3-4 million jobs emerge based on technological advances. Unfortunately, employers have difficulty filling positions because applicants don't have the skills required. In 15 years, our children will be entering a workforce that we can't even begin to imagine. In order to prepare children for this world, we must begin to understand the skills children will need given the inevitable changes that will occur. In this session, we will explore both the foundational skills children will need as well as the types of educational experiences that will support the development of these skills.

Fathering Me: A Journey into Fatherhood

This session takes participants on a journey through the hills and valleys, joys and pains of fatherhood. Participants will be more intentional and reflective in their efforts to engage fathers in partnership building in support of children's learning and development. They will also begin to view fatherhood as a major developmental trajectory adults face as they seek to embrace and to respond to the demands of the multiple roles they can play. Fatherhood, an awesome responsibility, requires commitment, dedication, effort, and preparation in order to be successful. David A. Jones, LMSW, (Family Engagement Specialist with a specific focus on Father Engagement) will discuss concepts, examples, and real life experiences that occur universally in all early childhood environments, to demonstrate how to strengthen relationships with parents, particularly fathers.

Eat, Move, Love

Creating healthy habits in the first 8 years of life is an important part of a child's healthy growth and development and making healthy choices is not as hard as you might think! Join us for this interactive and fun workshop about (1) making child-approved snacks that are not only healthy but delicious and (2) ways to engage in simple movement activities that keep us all physically active!

A Father's Place: The Importance of Male Involvement in the Early Years

Family service agencies and early childhood programs are in a unique position to encourage the involvement of fathers and other men in the lives of the children with whom they work. Many of the families whose children are in at-risk situations are young and therefore at a very critical age for impacting change in behavior, attitudes, and values. Family service agencies often focus on identifying and supporting public policies that promote the strengthening of families. However, many of these organizations would benefit from examining some of the barriers that exist that may inadvertently limit the involvement of men and fathers. They could also benefit from exploring how to encourage men and fathers, as well as how to provide opportunities for men in families to become more involved. This workshop discusses these issues and presents 15 strategies to promote and support male involvement in family service agencies and early childhood programs.

Batteries NOT INCLUDED: Toys for building 21st Century Brains

Incredible changes and growth are taking place in children during the preschool years. With the explosion of technological advances, it may be tempting to give children lots of “screen time” playing on cell phones, iPads, or computers, but brain research tells us that hands-on creative play is essential to support our children in becoming happier, healthier, complex thinkers and doers with the skills needed for the 21st century: communication, critical thinking, creativity and collaboration. Join us as we explore and make toys that support all areas of children’s development; and the best part is that we’ll do this with NO BATTERIES or a need to plug in!

Parental Resilience

Parenting is challenging. This session will focus on Parental Resilience, one of the five Strengthening Families Protective Factors. Participants will learn to define and recognize signs of parental resilience, identify actions they can take to help parents build their resilience, and provide examples of program efforts that value and support parents.

Strengthening Children’s Social and Emotional Competence

All children need to feel that they belong. This session will focus on Children’s Social and Emotional Competence, one of the five Strengthening Families Protective Factors. Participants will be able to list characteristics of children who are emotionally healthy and demonstrate strong social skills, learn ways to promote the social and emotional growth of young children, and recognize how this protective factor is linked to preventing child maltreatment.

Engaging Families in the Learning of Their Preschoolers through Funds of Knowledge

Preschool children with language delays often struggle to learn new concepts. This presentation focuses on the importance of social interactions and shared experiences with more knowledgeable persons to promote language acquisition. By focusing on Funds of Knowledge (FoK), the talents, traditions, and abilities families possess and pass down to their children, language acquisition is situated within a cultural context. However, FoK implementation had not been explored with parents of children with special needs.

Participants of this presentation will be asked to self-reflect on the talents, traditions, and experiences they learned from their families and the value language acquisition offers children.

Parent Empowerment Project: Strengthening Home School Connections Through Meaningful Interactions

During this session, we will establish the importance of empowering parents and families of students and identify strategies that will assist in building and/or strengthening home school connections. We will also put together a plan for implementing these strategies in attendee's site or program. In addition, a project will be presented put together to increase family involvement in a student's school readiness through developmentally appropriate, individualized activities that focuses on how to break down standards, assess students' current knowledge on given standard using classroom information and family feedback, and using this data to identify engaging, focused activities that families can do with their students at home. The goal for the session is to showcase how valuable a strong home school connection can be a student's educational success and demonstrate it does not have to be strenuous or all consuming, but rather efficient and purposeful.

Talk with Me: The Power of Talking with Your 0-3-Year-Old

Your baby's brain is developing faster now than it will any other time in his/her life. Although it feels too early to think about reading and writing skills, research tell us that exposure to complex and meaningful language is a critical foundation for reading success. Join us as we explore ways to talk with your child, especially during your regular daily routines, so they will develop the language skills they will need to become proficient readers!