



2019 Southern Conference on Children

“Innovations & Quality in Early Care and Learning”



January 26, 2019 | Nessmith-Lane Center | Statesboro, GA

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2019 Southern Conference on Children



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Fit to Fight GA
Mary Kay
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Black Child Development Institute - Atlanta
Cozy Bag of Holding

Thank you to our Committee Members!

Dr. Dina Walker-Devose
Georgia Southern University
School of Human Ecology

Michelle Smith-Lank
Kids World Learning Center

Kristin Goetz
Child Care Resource &
Referral of Southeast Georgia


Dr. Yvette Ledford
Bulloch County Schools

Rachale LaVoie
Child Care Resource &
Referral of Southeast Georgia

Julia Strickland
Bright from the Start:
Georgia Department of Early Care
and Learning

Kesha McNeal
Bright from the Start:
Georgia Department of Early Care
and Learning

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2019

7:00 - 8:00AM	Registration Lobby
8:00 - 8:30AM	Welcome Ballroom
8:30 - 10:00AM	Opening Session Ballroom Vernon Mason: Don't Waste a Crisis! A Story of Perseverance During Tough Times
10:00 - 10:15AM	Break Visit Exhibitors Concourse
10:15 - 11:45AM	Session I
11:45AM - 1:00PM	Lunch Dining Commons  (See page 9 for details)
1:00 - 1:15PM	Break Visit Exhibitors Concourse
1:15 - 2:45PM	Session II
2:45 - 3:00PM	Break Visit Exhibitors Concourse
3:00 - 4:30PM	Session III
4:35 - 4:45PM	Exhibitor Scavenger Hunt and Social Media Prize Drawing Concourse

Keynote: Vernon Mason Don't Waste a Crisis! A Story of Perseverance During Tough Times!

When bad things happen, we have a choice to either give up and go home or stand up and fight! Remember that saying, “fight or flight?” In this keynote presentation, Mason tells his story of being knocked down and how he decided to take control and do it on his terms. It wasn't always easy or pretty, but he fought his way back.

This is an inspiring story of a director who brought his early childhood program through a natural disaster and came out on top! According to Mason, “I didn't make it on my looks, brain, or my family's money because all 3 are mediocre!” Mason will also share stories of some of the most seemingly talented people, like Julia Child and Lucille Ball, and how they were discouraged and told they would never make it. Participants will leave uplifted with a sense that anything is possible as long as you have humor and perseverance!



Biography

With a \$5,000 credit card in 1991, Vernon Mason and his mother opened a small child care center with a capacity of 30 that grew to 125 children. In 1999, it was destroyed by a natural disaster. After rebuilding and starting over, Mason grew WEE SCHOOL Child Development Center to 248 children in just two years. When he turned 40, he purchased three troubled childcare centers in just 12 months. What a midlife crisis! He still wonders why he didn't have an affair or buy a sports car like everybody else. He is currently the owner of five centers with 100 staff caring for 600 children.

DIRECTOR AND ADMINISTRATOR TRACK

10:15-11:45AM

SESSION 1

Ballroom

Vernon Mason

*WEE School Child
Development Center*

Zero to Hero

Directing a childcare center has its challenges—one of the biggest is hiring and retaining staff. Even when we follow all the proper guidelines in hiring and interviewing, new employees can often turn out to be less than perfect. This workshop will guide a director through the steps of turning a less than acceptable staff member (either new or long-timer) into a valued staff member or learning to setting them free!

1:15-2:45PM

SESSION 2

Room 2905

Amy Kay,

*Child Development Lab
at the McPhaul Center*

When What is Under the Surface Bubbles Up

Lots of attitudes, beliefs and opinions come into the classroom with the teachers. What do you do when under-the-surface issues of discrimination become real actions and words?

3:00-4:30PM

SESSION 3

Ballroom

Todd Masburn,

Fit to Fight® GA

Surviving the Active Shooter

Fit to Fight®GA will be conducting an informative and interactive training session for attendees on how to survive an active shooter. Attendees will leave the session with a better understanding of the tools available to them should they become involved in an active shooter event. Discussions will be held on what to expect from public safety, what they may encounter should an active shooter enter their facility, implementation of the RUN/HIDE/FIGHT protocols, hardening their facility/work area, utilizing improvised weapons, and planning for the aftermath. Attendees will also participate in interactive training that will allow them to take part in learning lifesaving skills.



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SCHEDULE

7:00-8:00AM	REGISTRATION LOBBY
8:00-8:30AM	WELCOME BALLROOM
8:30-10:00AM	OPENING SESSION: DON'T WASTE A CRISIS! A STORY OF PERSEVERANCE DURING TOUGH TIMES BALLROOM
10:00-10:15AM	BREAK VISIT EXHIBITORS

10:15-11:45AM SESSION I

Room 2908

Jennifer Cluley,*Georgia State University***Why Do They Do That? Understanding the Causes of Challenging Behaviors**

Do you ever ask yourself, "Why do they do that?" Join this session to understand more about why children exhibit certain behaviors and learn strategies to help you be proactive in preventing challenging behaviors in the classroom.

Room 2903

Tatjana Elmore,*Black Child Development Institute (BCDI) - Atlanta***Lesson Plans and Accommodations for Every Child**

Learn to plan activities to promote young children's development through lesson plans and explore ways to connect them to the learning centers, daily activities, and routines of the children.

Room 2905

Paulette Harris,*Augusta University***Linda Smith,***Bettis Preparatory Learning Academy***Puppetry Path to Math**

Attendees will be shown how to make puppets that relate to developing math skills needed by pre-school, kindergarten and elementary age children. As the author of *Puppetry Path to Science and Math*, the presenter will share with teachers not only benefits of using puppets to teach math, but the importance of developing math, language, and vocabulary skills, which lead to solving word problems.

Room 2904

Jaime Dice,*Georgia Association for the Education of Young Children***GAEYC Presents Professional Development in Georgia**

Hear from GAEYC about early childhood professional development organizations in Georgia. Learn about the history and current state of the early childhood profession in Georgia. Participants will also develop a familiarity with agencies that can support them.

Room 2901

Samuel Marion &**Elizabeth Marston***Family Recovery of Southwest Georgia***Attachment-Seeking Behaviors: How Children Who Need Love Ask for It in Unloving Ways**

Attachment is a vital aspect of human development. Without healthy attachment, children attempt to connect through challenging behaviors. This workshop will present attachment theory, styles, and behaviors. We will also propose interventions that target healing attachment wounds through empathy and connection.

SCHEDULE

10:15-11:45AM

SESSION 1 (CONTINUED)

Room 2911

Marta Collier &

Willyerd R. Collier, Sr.

*Marta Collier Educational
Systems and Services, LLC*

Smart Play My Way

This presentation will explore the outcomes of a parent-child summer experience focused on the study of the rainforest and its treasures. Learn how relationships and knowledge-based outcomes grow and develop through project-based experiential learning.

11:45AM-1:00PM

LUNCH | DINING COMMONS



(SEE PAGE 9 FOR DETAILS)

1:00-1:15PM

BREAK | VISIT EXHIBITORS

1:15-2:45PM

SESSION II

Room 2908

Cheryl Turner,

Reach TLS, LLC

Three Strikes, You're Out: Now What? Rethinking the Effectiveness of Consequences

Experiencing consequences is a key part of the learning process when children make mistakes or exhibit inappropriate behavior. Used ineffectively, consequences rarely foster permanent behavior change or teach children what to do differently. The result is a recycling of challenging behavior and frustration for everyone involved. This session will focus on using principles of positive discipline and emotional intelligence to better understand the complexity of behavior and social learning. We will build a better understanding of consequences and how to use them as teaching tools to effectively and appropriately help children learn new skills.

Room 2903

Sheryl Burkett,

*Retired, Appling County
Public Schools*

Celebrate the Differences

This session will include music and movement, discussions and art. Attendees will compare, contrast and learn about other cultures. We will also discuss how bullying is related to a lack of acceptance for children's diversities.

Room 1909

Dwight Calhoun,

*Mr. Cardiotone
Enterprises, LLC*

STEM Readiness for Preschoolers

Mr. Cardiotone's STEM Fitness creative curriculum focuses on the developmental domains which are building blocks to equip children of all ages, but primarily those 3-5 years old, with basic academic and kindergarten classroom skills to enhance STEM readiness. Additionally, this revolutionary program offers a built-in interactive STEM fitness program through play.

Room 2904

Thea Stevens,

*Bright from the Start: Georgia
Department of Early Care and
Learning*

The Social-Emotional Development of Infants and Toddlers: Understanding Temperament

An introduction to the temperament's impact on behavior and how understanding temperament can help improve interactions with infants and toddlers.

Room 2901

Jo Crosby,
Five Stones Counseling

Helping Children Cope With Grief

Children grieve in childlike form. Their understanding of grief is shaped by multiple variables including age, family tradition and history. Children grieve within a family unit; therefore, as professionals working with children and families, we must help equip children with age-appropriate, healthy methods for processing grief while educating and involving the family as necessary. This informative and interactive workshop will focus on helping children (ages 3-12) cope with grief and loss. It is designed to be informative by providing technique and creative ideas while fostering an ongoing awareness of how, when and where children and families receive grief resources within the community.

Room 2911

Dr. Dina C. Walker-DeVose,
Georgia Southern University
Dr. Delton W. DeVose,
D.W. DeVose and Associates

“Not Me, I Love All Children!”: Reflective Experiences to Identify and Overcome Implicit Bias in Classrooms and Therapeutic Spaces

The face of the United States is changing. Black, brown and tan faces are becoming more plentiful, especially in the southern regions of the country. How do the changing demographics affect our work with children? Are we providing high-quality education and access to resources appropriate for all children? How do the implicit biases we all have affect the teacher/counselor-child relationship? The big IDEA is a model that attempts to address the issue of implicit biases in our professional work with children. In this session, participants will engage in reflective exercises and experiences designed to help them begin the work of recognizing and uprooting their implicit biases. Participants will leave with a new understanding and a plan of action for moving forward in a way that is supportive of all children.

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professional
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Join for access to a dynamic group of early childhood educators and resources.

VISIT OUR BOOTH ~ ATTEND OUR SESSION ~ VISIT GAEYC.NET



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gaeyc

Georgia Association for the
Education of Young Children

2:45-3:00PM

BREAK | VISIT EXHIBITORS

3:00-4:30PM

SESSION 3

Room 2908

Cheryl Turner,
Reach TLS, LLC

Safe Spaces for Learning: Creating Trauma Sensitive Learning Environments

Trauma has profound effects on children's development and can undermine their ability to thrive academically and socially. This session provides a framework for understanding trauma symptoms and for developing trauma-sensitive structures and practices in our programs. Participants will discuss brain-smart techniques for providing learners with tools needed for resilience and school success.

Room 2903

Jennifer Zorotovich,
Georgia Southern University

Exploring Basic Activities with Different Abilities: A Simulation of Vision, Hearing, and Mobility Abilities

This workshop will prompt participants to perform basic activities while simulating a range of vision, hearing, and mobility abilities. This is beneficial for educators and practitioners in achieving a meaningful connection with those under their care, while also experiencing a rejuvenated appreciation for the abilities they themselves still possess.

Room 1909

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Room 2904

Tinnie G. Simmons,
Tricia Marie James,
Britne M. McDuffie,
Georgia Southern University

The Day in the Life of a Toddler

This session is geared towards looking at a typical day in a Toddlers' classroom. Participants will discuss what is expected and how to enhance a toddler's learning environment with smooth transitions and less temperamental breakdowns. The participants will also participate in a variety of interactive activities scheduled throughout the life in the day of a toddler.

Room 2901

Kamilah Staggers &
Torah Speech,
WINGS for Kids

Ready, S-E-T, Go: Building a Culture of SEL

Social-emotional learning is not just for kids—in fact, it begins with adults! Learn how to develop your own social emotional skills and how to build a culture of SEL in your programs by being S-E-T: supportive, engaging and thoughtful. During this session, you will discuss specific ways to be S-E-T with the children you work with, including how to be supportive, engage kids during downtime, be thoughtful and observant role models, begin meaningful conversations, acknowledge behavior, and assign tasks to help kids build social-emotional skills. By developing your social-emotional skills around the S-E-T framework, you'll gain a strong understanding of what SEL looks like in action and leave the session with actionable skills and tactics to implement immediately in your programs and classrooms.

Room 2911

Marta Collier &

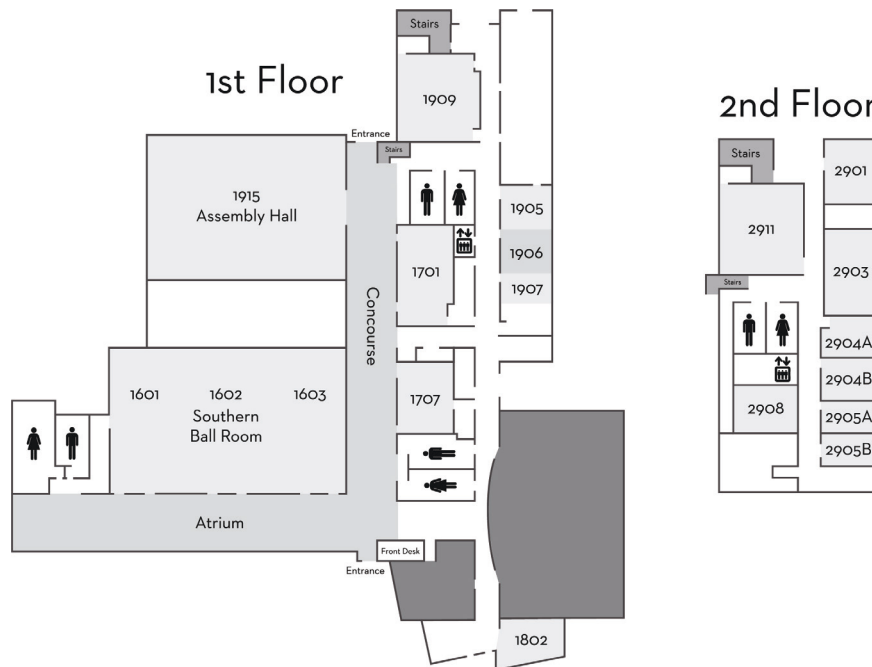
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MAP OF CONFERENCE CENTER



DINING



Be sure to take your ticket to lunch. Your lunch ticket will be found in your nametag. Please enjoy as much as you would like, but note, all food and drinks must be consumed in the Dining Commons. There are no take-outs allowed.

Location: Next to the University Store and across from Centennial Place

Enjoy Lunch in the Dining Commons!

You may choose to dine at any (or all) of the following:

- **Brick Oven:** made-to-order pasta and pizza by slice
- **Traditions:** home-style cuisine
- **No Why!:** special dietary needs
- **Today's Brew:** specialty coffee drinks and real fruit smoothies
- **Signatures:** fresh salads, soups and sandwiches
- **The Breakfast Club:** traditional breakfast food all day
- **Mongo's:** Asian themed Mongolian grill station
- **Sweet Shop:** glassed-in bakery and dessert area
- **Food Theater:** chefs prepare something special right in front of you
- **Backyard Gourmet:** grilled favorites like burgers, fries, chicken sandwiches and more

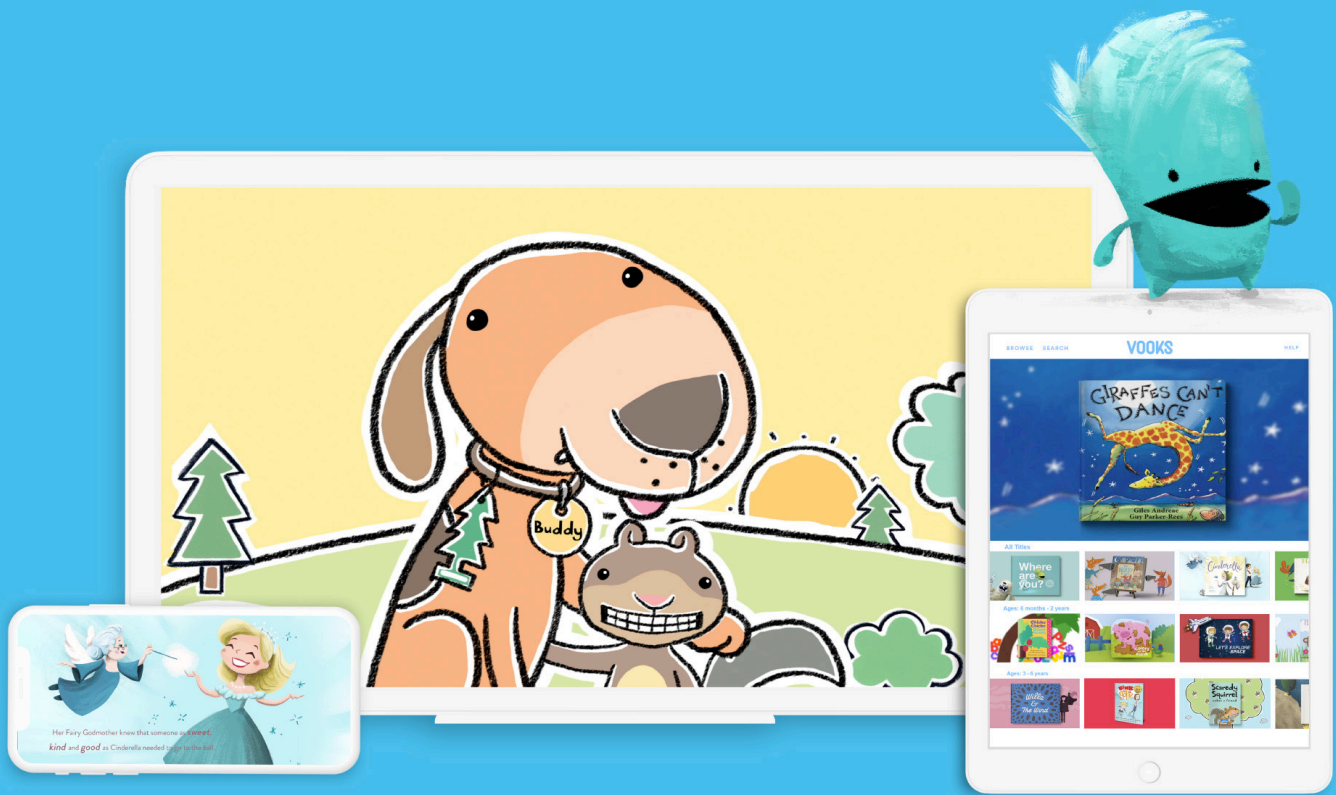
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