SOUTHERN CONFERENCE ON CHILDREN
Nessmith-Lane Conference Center, Statesboro, GA
Saturday, January 23, 2016

Sponsored by School of Human Ecology, College of Health and Human Sciences and The Division of Continuing Education at Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Presentation</th>
<th>Room</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 - 8:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration, Exhibits and Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:15 - 10:15 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Session 1</strong></td>
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<td><em>Ounce of Prevention: Pyramid Practices for Preventing Challenging Behaviors</em>, Brandy Locchetta</td>
<td>1909</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>No Fear Math</em>, Presenter: Rojalyyn B. Phillips</td>
<td>2901</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Darkness to Light’s Stewards of Children</em>, Allison Brown</td>
<td>2903</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Environmental Experiences in the Early Years with Project Learning Tree</em>, Randy Taylor</td>
<td>2904A</td>
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<td><em>Understanding Children’s Behavior: Supporting the Individual Needs of Infants and Toddlers</em>, Sharon Aston</td>
<td>2904B</td>
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<td><em>Communicating with the Adults in Your Child Care Life</em>, Lynn A. Manfredi-Petitt</td>
<td>2905</td>
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<td><em>Engineering: The E in STEM</em>, Wanda Muhammed</td>
<td>2908</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>STEM Using Normal Household Trash to Treasure</em>, Linda Taylor</td>
<td>2911</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 - 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>10:30 - 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Session 2</strong></td>
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<td><em>Director’s Panel with Coffee, Michelle Smith</em></td>
<td>1909</td>
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<td><em>Guidance &amp; Discipline with Infant and Toddler</em>, Cassa Andrews</td>
<td>2901</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>STEM - Environmental Education and Project Learning Tree</em>, Randy Taylor</td>
<td>2904A</td>
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<td><em>Math and Science with Infants and Toddlers</em>, Sharon Aston &amp; Katie Hagan</td>
<td>2904B</td>
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<td><em>Science Made Easy</em>, Vicki Watts &amp; Brian Griffin</td>
<td>2905</td>
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<td><em>Have a High Tech Classroom with Devices You Already Have</em>, Jeff Banks</td>
<td>2908</td>
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<td><em>STEM Using Normal Household Trash to Treasure</em>, Linda Taylor</td>
<td>2911</td>
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<td>12:30 - 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>1:30 - 2:45 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Session 3</strong></td>
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<td><em>Technology Matters: The Meaningful Integration of Technology in Preschool Classrooms</em>, Tinnie Lee, Jessica DeLaigle, Lauren Eades, Tina Johnson, Dina Walker-DeVose</td>
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<td>2901</td>
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<td><em>Design a #STEMaker Experience for Young Learners</em>, Ericka D. Tate Ph.D.</td>
<td>2903</td>
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<td><em>The Three P’s of Professionalism: Passion, Preparation and Presentation</em>, Kristin Goetz</td>
<td>2904B</td>
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<td><em>An Early Start in Comprehension Through Close Reading</em>, Mattie Brown, PhD.</td>
<td>2905</td>
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<td>2908</td>
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<td><em>Using Technology to Connect Home Culture to Classroom Community</em>, Phillip Baumgarner</td>
<td>2911</td>
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<td>2:45 - 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>3:00 - 4:15 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Session 4</strong></td>
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<td><em>STEM: How to Bring it into Your Preschool Class</em>, Marilyn Bordelon, Mother Goose, Woodbine, GA</td>
<td>1909</td>
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<td>2903</td>
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<td>2904A</td>
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<td>2904B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>2905</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>2909</td>
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<td>2911</td>
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Room 1909  
**Ounce of Prevention: Pyramid Practices for Preventing Challenging Behaviors**  
An introduction to the Pyramid Model for Supporting Social Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children. This session also includes an overview of the practices within the first tier of the Pyramid, including nurturing responsive relationships and high quality supportive environments.  
*Brandy Locchetta, Inclusion Specialist, Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, Atlanta, GA*

Room 2901  
**No Fear Math**  
Do your feel a little anxiety when you think about planning math for your classroom activities? It is easier than you think to infuse your classroom with math language and literacy. Come and learn simple hands-on activities that you can use right away in your classroom, all for little to no cost.  
*Rojalyn B Phillips, Technical Assistance Coordinator/Team Leader Trainer, Early Start Child Care Resource and Referral at Savannah Tech, Savannah, GA*

Room 2903  
**Darkness to Light's Stewards of Children**  
Stewards of Children is an evidence-informed program that teaches adults how to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. Participants will gain knowledge through two video segments and take part in large group discussions while obtaining new skills on the prevention of child sexual abuse.  
*Allison Brown, Technical Assistance Coordinator, Child Care Resource and Referral Agency of Southeast Georgia, Statesboro, GA*

Room 2904A  
**Environmental Experiences in the Early Years with Project Learning Tree**  
The early years are full of potential for experiencing the environment through hands on work and creative exploration. We will participate with the activities developed by Project Learning Tree for the early preschool years and leave with a wealth of gifts to take to the young ones.  
*Randy Taylor, Early Childhood Care and Education Faculty, Georgia Piedmont Technical College, Clarkston, GA*

Room 2904B  
**Understanding Children's Behavior: Supporting the Individual Needs of Infants and Toddlers**  
The session focuses on recognizing and understanding individual and developmental issues which impact the emotional messages and behavior of infants and toddlers in group care. Concepts and training strategies for helping teachers understand and respond appropriately to infants and toddlers are introduced. Materials are discussed that are designed to assist with recognizing the possible reasons for children's behaviors and identifying strategies appropriate for working with different behaviors.  
*Sharon Aston, Infant Toddler Specialist, Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, Atlanta, GA*

Room 2905  
**Communicating with the Adults in Your Child Care Life**  
We know how to communicate with children – but what about their parents? Constructive communication between adults is a critical component of high quality care in any ECE setting. Effective engagement between adults requires more than a 2 minute “hand-offs” or occasional email. Authentic relationships are established through honest, daily communication – which begins with YOU!  
*Lynn A. Manfredi-Petitt, Quality Care and Early Childhood Education Consultant, Lynn’s NET: Nurturing Education & Training Services*

Room 2908  
**Engineering: The E in STEM**  
Identify ways engineering is happening every day in the classroom and how to facilitate and build on those experiences through play and investigation to intentionally foster STEM skills in children. Come learn with hands on materials!  
*Wanda Muhammed, Kodo Certified Trainer/consultant, Kodo Kids*

Room 2911  
**STEM Using Normal Household Trash to Treasure**  
Ever wondered if you could teach STEM to preschoolers? In this innovative session, easy STEM projects will be created from regular household items. Tried and tested on preschooler.  
*Linda Taylor, Technical Assistant Co., Early Start Child Care CCRR, Pooler, GA*

10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.: Break
Room 1909
**Director’s Panel with Coffee**
Speakers will go over various pressing issues that all Director’s and Trainer’s face in the field of early childhood education and child development. These topics include but are not limited to: Staff Motivation, Retention, Professionalism, Family Engagement and Changes to DECAL.
*Michelle Smith*

Room 2901
**Guidance & Discipline with Infant and Toddler**
In this session participants will be introduced to the Pyramid Model for Promoting Social Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children. Participants will explore the importance of social emotional development and strategies for developing nurturing and responsive relationships with infants and toddlers. In addition, participants will learn the basics of infant and toddler behavior, and how a building relationships and focusing on social emotional development can prevent challenging behaviors.
*Angela Walker & Cassa Andrews, Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, Atlanta, GA*

Room 2903
**Intentional Hiring Practices: Children Deserve More Than Just a Warm Body**
Participants will engage in hands on practical, relevant and timely activities and discussions that will have them to reflect on their current hiring practices as well as explore techniques to ensure that the right staff joins their team. They will discover that being intentional in their hiring practices will set the stage to decrease turnover, well trained staff & a stable classroom and work environment. Come discovery why children deserve more than just a warm body.
*Allison Price, Lead Coach & Consultant, Diverse Solutions, Douglasville, GA*

Room 2904A
**STEM - Environmental Education and Project Learning Tree**
Environmental Education is part of the STEM initiative. We will explore the use of the activities developed for Project Learning Tree to enhance the learning of school-age children. Be ready to be active, interactive, creative, scientific, and analytic in experiencing the out of doors.
*Randy Taylor, Early Childhood Care and Education Faculty, Georgia Piedmont Technical College, Clarkston, GA*

Room 2904B
**Math and Science with Infants and Toddlers**
This session focuses on how your environment, practice and routines benefit the learning potential of young children in Math and Science. We will relate key concepts of the GELDS to better understand the continuum of development. Participants will demonstrate an understanding of how to use GELDS to help guide Math and Science planned activities with young children.
*Sharon Aston, Infant Toddler Specialist, Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, Atlanta, GA*

Room 2905
**Science Made Easy**
During this session, you will learn how to incorporate science into the Pre-K classrooms. This will be a hands-on session, where participants will have the opportunity to explore science standards. Come and learn how Pre-K children explore every day.
*Vicki Watts, Pre-K Consultant, Bright From the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, Atlanta, GA*

Room 2908
**Introducing Technology in the Classroom with Things You Already Have**
Do you want a high tech classroom, but don’t know where to start? This presentation is designed to get you started with the most common tools most teachers already have, or other low cost options you may want implement.
*Jeff Banks, Owner/Tech Support, Kidovations Educational Experience, Statesboro, GA*

Room 2908
**STEM Using Normal Household Trash to Treasure**
Ever wondered if you could teach STEM to preschoolers? In this innovative session, easy STEM projects will be created from regular household items. Tried and tested on preschooler.
*Linda Taylor, Technical Assistant Coordinator, Early Start Child Care CCRR, Savannah, GA*

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.: Lunch
Room 1909

**Technology Matters: The Meaningful Integration of Technology in Preschool Classrooms**

In this multi-media session, participants will follow the journey of preschool teachers as they meaningfully and intentionally work to overcome barriers and integrate technology into their classrooms. Participants will leave with strategies to enhance the technology in their own classrooms.

Tinnie Lee, Jessica DeLaigle, Lauren Eades, Tina Johnson, Dina Walker-DeVose, Early Childhood Educators, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA

Room 2901

**STEM in the Preschool Classroom**

Join us for an introduction to STEM in the preschool classroom setting! This course will explain each of the STEM categories and give examples and activities that can be used in the classroom with materials you already have on hand and some that can be easily attained.

Carol Fordham & Jennifer Starling, 3-5 Year Old Teachers, Brooklet United Methodist Preschool, Brooklet, GA

Room 2903

**Design a #STEMaker Experience for Young Learners**

Description TBD

Ericka D. Tate Ph.D., CEO | STEM Education Researcher, bluknowledge llc, Savannah, GA

Room 2904B

**The Three P’s of Professionalism: Passion, Preparation, and Presentation**

Training session to discuss three aspects of professionalism: passion, preparation, and presentation. Activities will be done to help participants realize the effect of their conduct on the program they work for and on the children/families that they serve. Information will be presented regarding how professionals should prepare and present themselves as a representative of the early childhood profession, and action plans will be created to help participants improve in specific areas of professionalism in the future.

Kirstin Goetz, Training Coordinator, Early Start Child Care Resource and Referral, Savannah, GA

Room 2905

**An Early Start in Comprehension Through Close Reading**

Georgia's Standards of Excellence requires educators to take students beyond the surface of text and reading materials. Participants will learn the dynamics of the close reading process by using storybook to point out specific ways to improve comprehension of young learners.

Mattie Brown, PhD., CEO, Cirrius Press, LLC, Hinesville, GA

Room 2908

**Recycle Your Way to STEAM**

Discover the STEM learning opportunities in your classroom! Using recycled material, cardboard and other simple items you have in your classroom, combining imaginative exploration and hands-on problem solving. As we twist, bend, tear, cut and decorate, real-world STEM experiences are brought to life for all participants. Small groups will collaborate in the creation of simple machines, design cause & effect experiments, building one-of-a-kind constructions. Prepare for fun as our creations spark STEM learning through play!

Terry Elliott, Regional Manager, Lakeshore Learning Materials, Carson, CO

Room 2911

**Using Technology to Connect Home Culture to Classroom Community**

Embracing the cultural diversity of the classroom community instills tolerance and helps children and their families feel comfortable in the learning environment. This presentation explores several methods used by a preschool classroom to connect home culture to classroom community by incorporating technology as a tool.

Phillip Baumgarner, Teacher, The Child Development Lab at the McPhaul Center, University of Georgia, Athens, GA

2:45 - 3:00 p.m.: Break
Room 1909
**STEM: How to Bring it Into Your Preschool Class**
An overview of what STEM is. How to implement in the classroom and a project using all facets. Why a science center is important and how to make one.
*Marilyn Bordelon, Owner & Director, Mother Goose, Woodbine, GA*

Room 2903
**Path 2 Math 4 Girls**
Description TBD
*Paulette Harris, Georgia Regents, Augusta, GA*

Room 2904A
**High Quality Inclusion Using the Inclusive Classroom Profile**
An introduction to the Inclusive Classroom Profile, a measure of high quality inclusive classroom practices. This session will review a brief history of inclusion, followed by an overview of each of the 12 inclusive practices within the Inclusive Classroom Profile.
*Brandy Locchetta, Inclusion Specialist, Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, Atlanta, GA*

Room 2904B
**DECAL Provider Portal and Registry Updates**
Come learn more about how updates to the Professional Development Registry and how you search for trainings will be changing. We will talk about the benefits of having an update PDR profile, the new way directors can get staff registered for trainings, and how easy it will be in the future for trainers to print rosters and mark attendance.
*Micca Burris, Professional Development System Coordinator, Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, Atlanta, GA*

Room 2905
**Parent and Family Engagement: Beyond Donuts for Dad & Muffins for Moms**
Parents & families are the cornerstone in preparing children for school and life and children benefit when all of the adults that care for them work together. Learn the difference between parent involvement & family engagement. Discover relationship-based practices with families that will move you behind donuts for dads and muffins for moms’ events. Dig deep in exploring strategies to increase family engagement in your center or school which will improve relationships and help children have happy and healthy early education experiences.
*Allison Price, Lead Coach & Consultant, Diverse Solutions, Douglasville, GA*

Room 2909
**Understanding the Impact of Adverse Childhood Experience**
Stressful events that happen in the early years of development affect us in ways that last our entire lives. Science tells us that from birth, our brains are growing and adjusting to our environment. Concurrent advances in the NEAR sciences - Neuroscience, Epigenetics, ACE’s, and Resilience have given us, not only evidence that these statements are true, but also provide mechanisms by which traumatic, friendly, threatening or soothing experiences get wired into our biology.

This presentation will review results of the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study, define the different types of stress including toxic stress, and describe how the fields of neuroscience and epigenetics have helped us understand the mechanisms by which toxic stress occurs and continue to inform ways of reducing toxic stress.
*Kathy M. Anderson, MD, FAAP, North Dakota American Academy of Pediatrics, Bismarck, ND*

Room 2911
**I Can Do This!**
This will be a discussion and presentation on Science/STEM being integrated with special needs students. We will discover how to integrate science/STEM with some of the more common assistive technology devices. We will have some items for hands on demonstrations.
*Rhonda Gedward, EED., Owner of Educationally Complete, LLC, Stone Mountain, GA*