SESSION I (8:30-10:30 am)

Workshop A1
Keeping Children Safe Outside
Joan Nicolson, Early Childhood Specialist, Child Care Resources Inc.
Statistics show that injuries that occur in child care are much more likely to happen on the playground. Come learn why, and how to keep your children safe. ALL

Workshop A2
Review of North Carolina Rules Governing the Sanitation of Child Care Facilities
Charlotte Keziah, REHS, Children’s Environmental Health Program Specialist, Environmental Health Division of Union County Public Health
You may know the rules that govern the sanitation of child care, but do you know why? This will be the objective of this workshop. Topics include communicable disease control, diapering procedures, hand washing, food safety, proper storage of hazardous products and medication, outdoor learning environments, integrative pest management, minimizing asthma/allergies in child care facilities, and common rule violations. During the workshop, you will have a chance to perform a mock inspection and hopefully see your facility through the eyes of an inspector. ALL

Workshop A3
We’re NOT Babysitters - We Don’t Sit on Babies
Sharon Little, Faculty/Program Lead, Early Childhood & School Age Education, SPCC; Tonya Silas, Faculty, Early Childhood and School Age, SPCC
Let’s put the “P” in profession. In this training, you will learn the essential functions and soft skills of an early childhood professional. This hands-on interactive workshop will leave you wanting more. Move over, Wonder Woman and Superman! ALL

Workshop A4
There Is No “I” in TEAM
Merrily Watts, Director, Avondale Children’s Center
It is important to create a positive work environment where staff functions as a TEAM. Feeling like you are a part of a TEAM adds to staff longevity and retention. In this session, see how building a strong TEAM fosters creativity, blends complementary strengths, encourages healthy communication, and gives your staff a sense of ownership. ADMIN.

Workshop A5
“It’s Your Choice: When is Enough, Enough?”
Kristen Monteith, Faculty, and Jasmine Green, Early Childhood Education Student, both from Central Piedmont Community College
When it comes to challenging behaviors, we know that punishment is not effective. So how do we manage our classrooms and show respect for the children without losing control or our own sanity? This session will present strategies to guide children’s behavior by setting limits. Participants will learn the benefits of limits over rules, as well as study five ways to set limits. You will be equipped to know when and how to set limits. Your outlook on the classroom will improve. It’s your choice, after all! ALL

Workshop A6
How Are You? How Am I?
Ellyn Andrews, Healthy Social Behavior Specialist, Child Care Resources Inc.
Most preschool teachers are diligent about introducing their students to a large variety of literature and pre-literacy activities. But emotional literacy — the ability to identify, understand and respond to emotions in yourself and others in a healthy manner — is even more basic to school readiness. We’ll examine the many benefits to children who gain a strong foundation in emotional literacy, explore simple ways in which you can foster emotional literacy in your classroom, and share some excellent resources for tools and activities teachers can incorporate into their daily classroom curriculum to make intentional teaching of emotions fun and easy. PS

Workshop A7
The Brain Architecture
Donna Brown, Preschool Disabilities Coordinator, Exceptional Children’s Office
This training builds the understanding of the powerful role of experiences on early brain development: what promotes it, what derails it, and what the consequences might be for society. ALL

Workshop A8
Understanding Monitoring and Developmental Screening
Karen Mintz, Region 6 Infant Toddler Specialist, Child Care Resources Inc.
Have you ever been approached by a parent who had concerns about their child's development? Have you ever struggled with talking to a parent when you had concerns about their child's development? This training is designed for early childhood educators to provide an overview of monitoring children's developing milestones and developmental screening. The training will explain your role in developmental monitoring and the importance of promoting developmental screening when there is cause for concern. Participants will learn the difference between developmental monitoring and developmental screening, why each is important in supporting children birth to 5, how to communicate effectively with parents, and how to assist them through the referral process. I/T

Workshop A9
Use the Box: Exploring the Endless Possibility of Loose Parts
Kristin Gartner, MA, Director of Education; Kristen Giuliana, Educator; Lindsay Faulkner, Educator and Rachel Lowder, Educator; Laurelwood Community Preschool
Loose parts are natural or synthetic found, bought, or upcycled materials that children can move, manipulate, control, and change within their play. Alluring and captivating, they capture children’s curiosity, give free reign to their imagination, and motivate learning." (Daly, Lisa; Beloglovsky, Miriam; Daly, Jenna. Loose Parts: Inspiring Play in Young Children. St. Paul: Red Leaf Press, 2014.) Together, we will discover why these open-ended materials enrich an environment and stimulate imagination. Come join us as we explore loose parts and their role in the Reggio Emilia approach. PS

SESSION CODES: Wondering if a session is right for you?
ALL - Appropriate for all participants
FCCH - Appropriate for Family Child Care Home providers
ADMIN - Appropriate for administrators of child care programs
PS - Appropriate for preschool teachers
I/T - Appropriate for infant/toddler teachers
SA - Appropriate for school age teachers
SESSION II (12:30-2:30 pm)

Workshop B1
Exploring Social Emotional Development within the Context of Relationships
Karen Mintz, Region 6 Infant Toddler Specialist, Child Care Resources Inc.
Through supportive relationships, infants and toddlers develop a sense of trust, how to interact with others, and eventually how to express empathy. Strong, nurturing relationships are key to healthy development for infant and toddlers. This training will explore social emotional development within the context of relationships. Participants will learn how providing responsive care through the process of getting in-tune will help infants and toddlers form secure relational attachments and develop a strong foundation for which they can explore their environment. This training provides information that supports the ITERS-R subscales: Listening and Talking and Interactions. I/T

Workshop B2
Teaching Terrific Transitions: Make Your M.O.V.E.
Anne N. Wimmer, M.Ed. Behavior Intervention Specialist, Thompson Child and Family Focus - IMPACT
Still in traffic… even after you arrived to your classroom? Come learn some terrific transition techniques that will keep your day running smoothly! We will explore strategies that will actively engage children during transitions to promote successful movement and reduce challenging behavior. From large group ideas to creating individualized support, we will see how visuals will guide you to the end of the day! Participants will be given strategies, materials, and techniques that will help promote successful transitions. Everything from drop-off to pick up will be covered! FCCH, I/T and PS

Workshop B3
Developmental Milestones and Red Flags
Donna Brown, Preschool Disabilities Coordinator, Exceptional Children’s Office, and Teresa Toms-Gillespie, EI Program Supervisor, Concord CDSA
Division of Public Health, Early Intervention Branch, NC Department of Health and Human Services
Research indicates that the first five years of a child’s life are critical to brain development, academic achievement, and later life outcomes. ECE providers are on the front lines of watching children develop. You are also a partner with families. As a child care provider and partner, making sure you talk to families about their child’s development is important. Because you spend many hours with children, you may be the first to observe potential delays. If developmental concerns are caught early, you can help ensure that children receive the extra support they need while in your care and are linked to the appropriate services. Partnering with families and specialists to identify possible delays and intervening early will assure that children have the best possible start to a bright future. The objectives of this training are to provide information about healthy development, developmental and behavioral red flags, where to go for help, how to talk to families, and tips on how to best support children. ALL

Workshop B4
Beyond the Page: Building Early Literacy in the Preschool Classroom
Liza Stahnke, M.S. CCC-SLP, Community Outreach Manager – Union Co., Charlotte Speech and Hearing Long before reading letters on a page, the brain is busy analyzing the sounds of words and the meanings behind them. Considering 90% of brain development is complete before the age of 5, preschool teachers and caregivers have a unique opportunity to influence future readers during the most crucial period of brain development. In this research-informed workshop, participants will gather practical ideas to build their students’ language comprehension, vocabulary skills, and phonological awareness through engaging activities. FCCH, PS, ADMIN.

Workshop B5
STEM – aka: STEAM
Grace Horsman, Early Childhood Specialist, Child Care Resources Inc.
Have you heard of STEM? Are you curious as to what it means in an early childhood education classroom? STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. This concept has been expanded to include the Arts, so the new acronym is STEAM! This workshop will address how children learn best; how to integrate learning across all dimensions of growth; and how to follow children’s interests, the foundation of STEAM. The principles and practices of STEAM will be addressed, including identifying materials and activities to reinforce STEAM concepts with young children. Join us in learning about how to support and apply STEAM in your classroom. 5A

Workshop B6
Strategies for Challenging Behaviors
Elyn Andrews, Healthy Social Behavior Specialist, Child Care Resources Inc
This session will focus on difficult behaviors in the classroom. Participants will have a chance to discuss the frustrating behaviors they face in their classrooms, and explore techniques and resources for supporting social emotional development and addressing challenging behavior. ALL

Workshop B7
Effective Child Care Leadership - Exceptional Child Care Leadership
Mellonia Hemphill, Director, Childtime #2014
As a child care program administrator, you wear many hats, making your role complex and challenging – and making turnover at the leadership level difficult for your program. This training will address techniques and strategies for implementing effective coaching, communication, and team building skills to support and coordinate the work of your staff. ADMIN.

Workshop B8
Using Children’s Literature in Early Literacy: A Librarian’s Perspective
Shelley Fearn, Juvenile Services Coordinator and Roxie Inga, Children’s Library Assistant, Union County Public Library
Do you want to learn how to make reading to children a more impactful experience? This session is a librarian’s guide to choosing and using children’s literature in the pre-school and early literacy setting. Using library programming, we will give tips and have a practice session on how to read aloud to children. I/T, PS, FCCH

Workshop B9
Dealing with Stress in the Early Childhood Profession
Resha K. Washington, Early Childhood and Professional Development Specialist, Smart Start MASTERS program Thompson Child and Family – Union County Alliance for Children
Do you ever feel like you are one incident report away from losing your mind? Do you ever have days that feel like, “If it could happen, today it did happen?” If so, this workshop is for you. This interactive training will assist early childhood professionals with identifying ways to effectively deal with stress, encourage others who are dealing with stress, and provide a healthy environment for children/families who are dealing with stressors outside the classroom setting. ALL