



2022 School Readiness Summit

7 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. | Friday, October 14
John S. Knight Center, Akron

BREAKOUT SESSIONS (TOTAL)

Full Day Attendees: Please select two (2) sessions when you register

Life Savers for Administrators

Cari McCrork, Early Childhood Specialist, Early Childhood Resource Center
Elizabeth Schilling, Regional Coordinator, Early Childhood Resource Center

Max: 50 per session (will be presented twice)

Not enough hours in the day? No time for yourself? Join other professionals as we dive into “Lifesavers for Early Childhood Managers” by Sue Baldwin. We will float through communication techniques, team building, delegation, and using humor to splash every day!

Math Around the Room

Rania Fowler, Early Childhood Specialist, Early Childhood Resource Center

Max: 50 per session (will be presented twice)

Participants will be able to identify and discuss the importance of incorporating math through everyday activities. Participants will also gain the knowledge to implement strategies for creating a math rich environment. Participants will engage in hands on activities to support and build math skills for young children.

Worms, Shadows, and Whirlpools – Science is Everywhere!

MaryBeth Bush, Owner, and Administrator at Mary’s Little Lamb Child Care and Preschool

Max: 50 per session (will be presented twice)

Do you want to make your program an amazing place to enhance children's scientific spirit? In this training, you will learn how to implement the science domain throughout your entire classroom. You will be able to engage in hands-on science inquiry activities that support and build science skills for young children.

Bouncing Back 1: How Resilient Are You?

Amy Wise, Regional Coordinator, Early Childhood Resource Center

Max: 50 per session (will be presented twice)

In this interactive session, you will learn the meaning of resilience, calculate your own resiliency score, and understand why self-awareness is vital to your role as a teacher! You will also explore five ways to nurture your resilience to improve yourself personally and professionally.

Bouncing Back 2: How do you Build Resilience?

Megan Elkins, Training Consultant

Max: 50 per session (will be presented twice)

In this session, you will learn why building resiliency in your students is vital to their success! You will learn the seven C's of Resilience and how to build intentional resiliency activities into your daily routines to positively impact your students. We will also discuss several read-aloud books that promote resiliency.

StoryWalk®: An Adventure in Literacy!

Jessica Ellis, Early Childhood Librarian, Akron-Summit County Public Library
Diane Nagy, Early Childhood Librarian, Akron-Summit County Public Library

Max: 50 per session (will be presented twice)

In this fun, interactive session, participants will learn about the StoryWalk® project created by Anne Ferguson, how Diane & Jessica got started, the steps to make a StoryWalk® book, and the many ways you can use this interactive literacy experience in your classrooms, schools, or communities.

Why Appreciation is More Than a Thank You

Sara Kantorik, Childcare Director, Adventure Place

Max: 75 per session (will be presented twice)

In today's workplace, it is crucial for employees to feel valued. But that's a challenge when you and your employees communicate differently. In this training, participants will gain knowledge on how to effectively show gratitude to employees by speaking their language of appreciation.

Prescription for Play: Encouraging Risky Play

*Traci Buckner, Executive Director, Akron Children's Museum
Kat Dunlap, Education Coordinator, Akron Children's Museum*

Max: 50 per session (will be presented twice)

Risky play—oftentimes we hear objections: “It’s too messy, too dangerous, and too time consuming.” How can we harness the benefits of risky play and break down these barriers? Early learning educators have countless tools to teach children in a traditional classroom setting. However, as the pandemic has taught us, learning can occur in a variety of places outside of the classroom. After two years of digital learning and social distancing, it’s time to learn to play again! During this session, the presenters will share the current academic research on the benefits of what is known as “risky play.”

Why Do Babies Chew on Books: Understanding the Importance of Early Literacy Experiences During the Infant/Toddler Years

Laura McFalls, Early Childhood Specialist, Akron-Summit Country Public Library

Max: 50 (will be presented twice)

Join the Akron-Summit County Public Library to discover how you can incorporate developmentally appropriate early literacy skills. Learn how to engage infants and toddlers with meaningful experiences through movement, rhymes, stories, and songs.

Essential Elements for Successful Inclusion

Georgi Hudson Smith, Community Support Specialist, Head Start, Summit DD

Max: 50 (will be presented twice)

Have you ever struggled to include a child into the everyday routines of your classroom? To truly create an inclusive environment, a classroom must embrace children of varying abilities, delays, or who are medically fragile. Ingredients for a successful recipe include: Exploring your attitude, defining what true inclusion involves, resolving myths, and the realistic expectations regarding people with disabilities.

Essential Elements for Designing an Inclusive Classroom

*Lynnette Klejka, Community Supports and Development, Summit DD Senior Manager
Lisa Gibson, Community Support Specialist, Early Childhood Birth-3 years, Summit DD*

Max: 50 (will be presented twice)

Does your early childhood environment meet the needs of ALL children? Through engaging activities, discussion, and knowledge sharing, participants will explore the various components of a high-quality early learning environment, including Characteristics of a high-quality inclusive environment, DAP, the importance of Play, Universal Design, Universal Design for Learning, and Least Restrictive Environments. Additionally, participants will explore specific strategies and supports to enhance the classroom environment.

Creating the School Family through the Environment

Malory Zaun, Clinical Manager/Early Childhood Initiatives Senior Clinical Consultant, Child Guidance & Family Solutions

Laura Franczak, ATR Coordinator, Child Guidance & Family Solutions

Max: 50 (will be presented twice)

Participants will utilize the Conscious Discipline self-assessment rubric for the School Family to identify areas in which they can further develop. Each area of the rubric will be examined and discussed: structures, rituals, and routines. Opportunities to share ideas already being implemented as well as to obtain new ideas and practice skills will be provided.