



# Agenda for CHILDREN

*...a voice for Louisiana's children and families*

## EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR



**Saturday, March 25th, 2017**

**8:00 am – 3:30 pm | Registration begins at 7:30 am**

**First United Methodist Church  
1255 Canal Blvd | Thibodaux, LA 70301**

Dear Colleague,

I am pleased to announce that we are changing our approach to providing professional development opportunities to better serve the early childhood community. In much the same way that everything you do in the classroom is intentional and designed to maximize children's learning, we want to make sure that all of our professional development offerings are designed specifically to maximize your learning and effectiveness in the classroom.

In the past, we mostly offered "stand-alone" three-hour workshops in the evenings and on Saturdays, as well as targeted trainings for centers participating in technical assistance. We found that most people were not registering for our training workshops in a manner that could maximize their classroom teaching/and or understanding of child development.

Going forward, we want to provide you with a cohesive learning experience, so most of our workshops will be offered through all-day seminars on Fridays and/or Saturdays. Rather offering a random assortment of workshops throughout the year, our seminars will give you the option of registering for up to four related two-hour workshops in a single day, letting you earn up to eight clock hours of professional development in one day. Each seminar will give you a "deep dive" into a theme related to CLASS so that you can gain the knowledge and skills you need to improve your interactions with children.

We hope that you are as excited by this new approach as we are! We believe that this change will create a better learning experience for you, as well as free up more of your time throughout the year to enjoy your evenings and weekends with your family and friends.

We look forward to receiving your feedback on our new approach to providing improved professional development opportunities for you.

Sincerely,



Dr. Anthony Recasner  
Chief Executive Office

## Changes to our Approach: the Nuts & Bolts

- ⇒ **We will regularly offer one- or two-day seminars on Fridays and Saturdays focused on specific CLASS-aligned themes.**
- ⇒ **Seminars will be held at different locations throughout the region that can accommodate several workshops at the same time.**
- ⇒ **We will no longer offer evening workshops** because we saw that it was just too hard for educators to engage in meaningful professional development activities after they had already had a full day of working.
- ⇒ **We will continue to offer Saturday morning workshops**, but we won't offer quite as many so that we can concentrate on the full-day seminars.
- ⇒ **We will offer fewer Health and Safety classes** because the Louisiana Department of Education will offer these classes.
- ⇒ **All workshops will be two (not three) hours in length.**

# AT-A-GLANCE SCHEDULE

## MARCH 25TH

Sessions will begin promptly at the scheduled time. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of the session.

**Open Registration** **7:30 am - 1:00 pm**

**Session 1** **8:00 am - 10:00 am**



**Fostering Connections**

*Holly Harris*



**Asking Questions**

*Brandi Joshua*



**Real Talk: Expanding High Quality Conversations**

*Dianna Constant*

**Session 2**

**10:15 am - 12:15 pm**



**Following Children's Leads**

*Holly Harris*



**Engaging Children in Conversations**

*Brandi Joshua*



**The Child Centered Classroom**

*Dianna Constant*

**Lunch (on your own)**

**12:15 pm - 1:15 pm**

**Session 3**

**1:15 pm - 3:15 pm**



**Being Aware of Children's Needs**

*Holly Harris*



**Building Collaborative Relationships with Families**

*Brandi Joshua*



**Emergency Preparedness**

*Dianna Constant*

# CLASS DESCRIPTIONS



Click on a title to register for the class!

## Fostering Connections



**Age Group:** Infant, Toddler, Preschool

**CDA Areas:** 1- To establish and maintain a safe, healthy, learning environment, 2- To advance physical and intellectual competence, 5- To ensure a well-run, purposeful program responsive to participant needs

In this training you will learn to define what it means to create meaningful connections with children, to identify why building positive relationships with children is important and to highlight effective ways to cultivate connections with children.

## Asking Questions



**Age Groups:** Infant, Toddler and Preschool

**CLASS Alignments:** **Instructional Support** (Concept Development and Language Modeling)

**CDA Areas:** 2- Advancing children's physical and intellectual development; 7- Observing and recording children's behavior; 8- Understanding principles of child development and learning

Asking children questions helps them process information and develop critical thinking skills. In this session, we'll learn how meaningful questions increase the quality and duration of conversations with children to encourage higher-level thinking. By the end of this session, you will understand how asking questions can enhance conversations; you will know how to identify qualities of questions that extend rather than limit conversation; and learn about the types of questions that strengthen conversation and that promote higher level thinking.

## Real Talk: Expanding High Quality Conversations



**Age Group:** Preschool

**CLASS Alignments:** **Instructional Support** (Concept Development and Language Modeling)

**CDA Areas:** 2- Advancing children's physical and intellectual development; 8- Understanding principles of child development and learning

This workshop will provide Pre-K teachers background knowledge, exploration, and real-life application in developing techniques for expanding feedback loops with preschoolers. Participants will identify key research-based components of high-quality adult-child interactions, practice applying best practices to adult-child conversations in the classroom, and determine strategies to expand feedback in the classroom conversations.

## Following Children's Lead



**Age Groups:** Toddler and Preschool

**CLASS Alignments:** **Emotional Support** (Regard for Student Perspectives)

**CDA Areas:** 2- Advancing children's physical and intellectual development; 3- Supporting children's social and emotional development; 8- Understanding principles of child development and learning

There are many different ways teachers can engage children in learning by following children's lead. This session will introduce you to three main strategies: building on children's interests; providing children with choices; and encouraging children to express ideas.

## Engaging Children in Conversations



**Age Groups:** Infant, Toddler and Preschool

**CLASS Alignments:** **Emotional Support** (Positive Climate) and **Instructional Support** (Concept Development and Language Modeling)

**CDA Areas:** 2- Advancing children's physical and intellectual development ; 7- Observing and recording children's behavior; 8- Understanding principles of child development and learning

Have you ever found yourself struggling to think of ways to keep a conversation going with a toddler or preschooler? Or even how to begin a conversation with an infant? This session focuses specifically on how to increase the length and quality of conversations with children, including infants and toddlers. During this session, you will learn the key elements and benefits of meaningful communication and conversations with infants, toddlers, and preschool children; learn strategies to engage young children in conversation, and identify opportunities for conversations during daily activities and routines.

## The Child Centered Classroom



**Age group:** Preschool

**CDA Area:** 1, 2, 3 To establish and maintain a safe, healthy learning environment. 4, 5, 6, 7 To advance physical and intellectual competence.

Research shows that positive teacher and child interactions are one of the most important aspects of an early learning environment. In this workshop, teachers will learn appropriate and meaningful ways to interact with the children in their care to ensure optimal social and emotional development.

## Being Aware of Children's Needs



**Age Groups:** Infant, Toddler and Preschool

**CLASS Alignments:** **Emotional Support** (Teacher Sensitivity)

**CDA Areas:** 2- Advancing children's physical and intellectual development; 3- Supporting children's social and emotional development; 8- Understanding principles of child development and learning

The early childhood classroom can be a very busy place! It isn't always easy to see everything that might be happening, but this session will help you learn new strategies you can use to notice and respond to children's needs in the moment. This will help you build the positive relationships with children that are a hallmark of a high-quality classroom.

## Building Collaborative Relationships with Families



**Age Group:** Infant and Toddler

**CLASS Alignments:** **Emotional & Behavioral Support** (Positive Climate)

**CDA Area:** 4 Strategies to establish productive relationships with families

Early childhood professionals build partnerships with families as an important strategy to promote healthy child development. Building effective relationships with families is the foundation for these partnerships. This session supports relationship building with families by helping professionals to define and practice active listening skills, explore the parallel process, and the importance of reflection. Participants will learn strategies for establishing effective relationships with families.

## Emergency Preparedness



**Age Group:** Infant, Toddler and Preschool

**CDA Area:** Strategies 1-Health and Safety ; 5-Effective program operation

Prepare your early learning center or family child care home for disasters or general emergencies. The first tool of preparedness is having a plan before emergencies arise.

# Resources for Early Childhood Professionals

## Professional Development Credentials

### Louisiana Pathways

<https://pathways.nsula.edu>

(800) 245-8925

Louisiana Pathways is Louisiana's career development system for early childhood professionals. Pathways verifies training and credentials for teachers and directors, which is a key part of getting your School Readiness Tax Credits. Pathways also provides scholarships for CDAs, as well as college degrees!

### Frequently Asked Questions about Ancillary Certificates

<http://bit.ly/2ahykjm>

Beginning on June 30, 2019, all lead teachers in publicly-funded centers (Type III) will be required to have a current Early Childhood Ancillary Teaching Certificate as a minimum credential. Read this F.A.Q. for valuable information about how to get your ancillary certificate.

### Council for Professional Recognition

[www.cdacouncil.org](http://www.cdacouncil.org)

202-265-9090

The Council for Professional Recognition administers the Child Development Associate® (CDA) National Credentialing Program. The Council awards and renews CDAs. Visit their website to learn more about the requirements for attaining a CDA or to find a Professional Development Specialist to verify your educational documentation and observe your teaching practice for the CDA credential.

## Useful Early Childhood Web Sites & Resources

### Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL)

<http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu>

CSEFEL offers teachers, trainers and coaches information on how to promote young children's social and emotional development. Teachers might be especially interested in their "book nook," which gives you ideas on how you can use specific books to promote social-emotional development. They also have downloadable resources, such as feeling charts and solutions kits, to help build children's social-emotional development.

### Zero to Three

[www.zerotothree.org](http://www.zerotothree.org)

Zero toThree offers a broad range of information for teachers and parents about early learning and early development. They have a big selection of videos and their series, *Your baby's development: age based tips from birth to 36 months*, would make great handouts in your program's "Parent Corner."

### Learn the Signs. Act Early.

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/ccp>

"Learn the Signs. Act Early." is a campaign by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to increase public awareness of the full range of child development. They have some excellent free materials on developmental milestones for you to share with families. All of their publications are available for free download, and many can be mailed to you as hard copies. They even have tip sheets you can use to help you talk to parents when you have concerns about a child's development.

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Register for more seminars at <https://training.agendaforchildren.org>

[www.agendaforchildren.org](http://www.agendaforchildren.org)