

Native American Child and Family Conference

March 13-16, 2023

Isleta Resort & Casino, Albuquerque, NM

“Rooting Language and Culture in AIAN Early Childhood Education”

Monday, March 13

9:00 am – 4:30 pm Pre-Conference Intensive

Tuesday, March 14

9:00 am – 10:00 am Opening Session
10:30 am – 11:45 am Keynote – Importance of Culture in ECE
11:45 am – 1:00 pm Lunch Break (on your own)
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm Sessions
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm Sessions
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm Directors Listening Session

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm ACF Listening Session

Katie Hamm, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development, Ruth Friedman, Director of the Office of Child Care, and Tala Hooban, Acting Director of the Office of Head Start, are interested in hearing from Tribal Leaders, Elders, and program administrators on issues related to AIAN Head Start/Early Head Start, Tribal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), and Tribal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) programs. The leaders look forward to hearing about any early childhood issues affecting Tribal communities and are particularly interested in hearing feedback about the Tribal early childhood workforce, integration of Native language and culture, Tribal early childhood and child care facilities, mental health, coordination of Tribal early childhood services and systems, and the recent increases in Tribal early childhood funding (including challenges with utilizing the increased funding to support the development and well-being of Native children and their families).

The registration deadline is March 3. There is no cost to attend this listening session, and you do not need to be registered for the NACFC. ([register here](#))

Those who are unable to attend are welcome to provide written feedback by April 14, 2023 to occtribal@acf.hhs.gov.

Wednesday, March 15

9:00 am – 9:45 am General Session
- *Katie Hamm, Deputy Assistant Secretary*
- *Ruth Friedman, OCC Director*
- *Tala Hooban, OHS Acting Director*
- *Todd Lertjuntharangoon, Regional Program Manager*
10:15 am – 11:45 am Session
11:45 am – 1:00 pm Lunch (on your own)
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm Sessions
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm Sessions
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm Management Staff Listening Session

Thursday, March 16

9:00 am – 9:45 am General Session - Educating Families to Educate Their Children
10:15 am – 11:45 am Session
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm Plenary/Lunch & Learn/Closing (Comedian Mitch Factor)

	Monday 3-13-23 9:00 – 11:45	Monday 3-13-23 1:00 – 4:30	Tuesday 3-14-23 9:00 – 10:00	Tuesday 3-14-23 10:30 – 11:45	Tuesday 3-14-23 1:00 – 2:30	Tuesday 3-14-23 3:00 – 4:30
Grand A	Take a Look at the Big Picture: Management Team Roles and Responsibilities TTA	Culturally Grounded Curriculum and Individualization Renetta Goeson	Opening Session	Keynote – Importance of Culture in ECE	It Takes a Team! Supporting New (and Veteran) Education Staff with Classroom Challenges Beth Vorhaus, Heidi Hagenson	
Grand B		Mental Health Is Everyone's Business: Integrating Mental Health into Education and Disabilities Manisha Tare, Carol Bellamy			Culture & Language Make & Take for Teachers Michelle Tsosie, Carol Bellamy	
Grand C		TRAUMA AND RESILIENCE: Drivers of Children's Behavior Janet Humphries			All Staff Onboard for Safety: Designing Systems that Work for Child Safety Racquel Martinez, Betsy McDougall, Ron Ransom	
Rio Grande		Building Positive Goal-Oriented Relationships Through the Family Partnership Agreement (FPA) Process Alexis Tarbin, Jennifer Olson			Culturally Responsive Coaching: One Program's Journey Heidi Roibal, Bettina Sandoval	ABC's of Immunizations Janet Schultz
Bosque		Effective Communication Skills Support Governance Planning and Reporting Requirements Roxanne Wells, Ron Ransom			Boosting Your Enrollment with an 8-Step Recruitment Strategy Alejandra Davis, Jennifer Olson	From the Beginning to the End: On Father and Male Engagement We Depend Alexis Tarbin, Jennifer Olson
Manzano	Enhancing Early Childhood Systems in Tribal Communities Pt 1 Char Schank, Kimber Olson, Melissa Madrid, Sara English	Enhancing Early Childhood Systems in Tribal Communities Pt 2 Char Schank, Kimber Olson, Melissa Madrid, Sara English			Supporting IEP and IFSP Goals through Classroom Activities and Routines Leslie Norman, Dannetta Tate	Responsive Coaching Strategies – Panel of Expert Coaches Janet Humphries, Genevieve Jaramillo-Padilla
Sunrise		Planning an Annual ERSEA Recruitment Plan Rosa Vasquez			Creating a Climate of Trust for Infants and Toddlers Danielle Grimaldo	Planning and Recall with Older Toddlers Danielle Grimaldo
Seminar Rm		Meal Planning: CACFP Compliance/Incorporating Cultural Meals David Castro, Charlotte Cruz			Sensory Processing Disorder 101 Ingrid Kanics	
					FIELDTRIP TO ISLETA HS Enhancing your Programs with Culture Takes Teamwork <i>*limit 1 person from each program</i>	

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Grand A	General Session – OHS/Child Care	Building Resilience: Supporting Young Children Impacted by Trauma in Developing Social Emotional Skills Amy Wolferman	Plant Teachings for Growing Social-Emotional Skills Elise Krohn, Elizabeth Campbell		General Session: Educating Families To Educate Their Children Mitch Factor	Solid Leadership Through Healthy Communication Mitch Factor	Closing Lunch and Comedy
Grand B		Making the Shift from Expensive Ongoing Assessment Tools to Responsive Indigenous Assessment Practices Jackie Bird, Cresencia Tenorio	Promoting Healthy Social Behaviors - Addressing Behaviors that Challenge Sheila Sellers, Patrice Griffin			Head Start Enterprise System (HSES) Todd Lertjuntharangool, Theresa Rowley	
Grand C		Managing Depression and Stress: Practical Tips and Strategies for Staff in HS and EHS Alma Sandoval, Manisha Tare	Setting Limits with Love: Support Strategies for Educators and Parents Janet Humphryes	Using Laughter to Lead, Because Laughter is Medicine Kassy Lopez		Safely in this Together: Everyone is needed for a healthy and safe Head Start program! Jenifer Lipman, Candace Shelton	
Rio Grande		Play for the Win: Building Regulation Skills and Supporting Trauma-Informed Healing Maria Eugenia Vazquez Betancourt, Candace Shelton	Documentation and Follow-up of the Family Goal Rosa Vasquez			We are all Head Start Ambassadors: Recruiting New Families by Telling our AIAN Story Betsy McDougall, Racquel Martinez	
Bosque		Indigenizing Special Olympics Programming for Head Start Classrooms Jennifer Hansen, Kassy Lopez	The Power of Early Childhood and the Journey of Building Authentic EC Plans through EC Collaboratives in Tribal Communities Anna Marie Garcia, Jovanna Archuleta	Designing Mental Health Consultation Services Manisha Tare		The Power of Peers: Strategies to Support Appropriate Behavior and Social Development Sheila Sellers, Patrice Griffin	
Manzano		Back to Basics: Home Visiting Effective Practices to Support Staff, Families, and Children Renetta Goeson	Preventing Safety Violations in Head Start Alma Sandoval, Michelle Tsosie, Racquel Martinez			Supporting Children's Development through Authentic Assessment Leslie Norman, Danna Tate	
Sunrise		Infant and Toddlers: When Feeding is Challenging Janet Schultz	Community Assessment and Program Redesign Tim Adams, Jacquie Davis, William Maes	Fiscal/HR Sustainability – Using the Wage Study Tim Adams, Jacquie Davis, William Maes		Implementing Peer Coaching to Support Staff Retention Janet Humphryes, Genevieve Jaramillo-Padilla	
Seminar Rm		Pottery: Journey of self-reflection, healing and reshaping Evone Martinez	Using Message Board to Help Children Resolve Classroom Conflicts Jessica Logan	When Push Comes to Shove: Conflict resolution for preschoolers Jessica Logan		Developing Meaningful Family Connections Jessica Begay	
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Monday, March 13, 2023

9:00 AM – 11:45 AM

Take a Look at the Big Picture: Management Team Roles and Responsibilities

Join us to take a big picture look at the responsibilities of the Management Team based on the Head Start Program Performance Standard 1302 Subpart J. Head Start Management team members will be given opportunities to practice how to coordinate systems that involve multiple staff members and work across service areas. Consider bringing your full management team to allow both new and experienced team members to “get on the same page” in understanding roles and responsibilities related to management systems, program goal and implementation of program performance standards. This session will be a unique way for existing management teams to welcome new managers and/or new directors into their teams, build relationships and develop effective communication habits to support the provision of high-quality services focused on school readiness and reflecting the needs of the AIAN community.

CHILD CARE

Enhancing Early Childhood Systems in Tribal Communities Pt 1

Char Schank, Kimber Olson, Melissa Madrid, Sara English

The recent funding increases in the Tribal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program present an opportunity for Tribes to enhance their early childhood systems to meet their goals, promote child development, and support integration of services to improve child and family outcomes. Tribes have an opportunity now to leverage the increased Tribal CCDF resources to sustainably invest in coordinated early childhood systems in a focused and intentional way. In this session we will explore strategies, which include, aligning policies to encourage stability and continuity of care, streamlining administrative procedures, and identifying opportunities to support the integration of services. We will highlight areas in which CCDF and Head Start and Early Head Start policies closely align and can support the Tribe’s early childhood system.

1:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Culturally Grounded Curriculum and Individualization

Renetta Goeson

Are you looking for a way to connect cultural practices, heritage language and intentional curriculum planning together? Join this two-part session and explore tools that can assist you in individualizing your curriculum to be reflective of and honor your culture, language, community, families, and most importantly, the children. Examine how intentional planning using Making It Work and Early Learning Outcomes Framework can be used in the process. Learn about Individualizing your lessons using the Making It Real tool and resources.

Mental Health Is Everyone's Business: Integrating Mental Health into Education and Disabilities

Manisha Tare, Carol Bellamy

It may not be obvious how mental health can be integrated across service areas though we know it impacts everyone from staff to children to families. In this session, we will explore the intersection among mental health, education, and disabilities services for children and identify opportunities for collaboration in order to maximize program resources. Examples include but are not limited to, the administration and use of data from social-emotional screenings, classroom observations, referrals to disabilities services, and integrating wellness throughout the program. Participants will leave with tangible ideas for how to integrate a mental health approach into their education and disabilities services. In Part 2 of this session, participants will be offered case studies to review to create a program design that identifies a coordinated approach amongst education, disabilities, and mental health services that is in alignment with the HSPPS. Participants are invited to bring their program's policies and procedures for review and to see where they can start integrating mental health across their service areas in real-time in order to provide more seamless and collaborative services to children and families.

TRAUMA AND RESILIENCE: Drivers of Children's Behavior

Janet Humphryes

We know many young children are struggling; they were before the pandemic. It's time to re-develop strong relationships and recognize, develop, plan and use resilience strategies for ourselves, each other, children and families. Throughout this session we will explore strategies for supporting children developing the self-regulation skills to become their best authentic selves, enhancing learning potential through the brain's limbic system development, fostering self-esteem, and cultivating executive functioning skills. Join this session to learn how trauma affects children and explore strategies for re-building their resiliency and bringing us all back to our human-ness!

Children and adults are struggling; they were before the pandemic. It's time to re-develop strong relationships and recognize, develop, plan and use resilience strategies for ourselves, each other, children and families. Explore strategies for supporting children/adults developing the self-regulation skills to become their best authentic selves, enhancing learning potential through the brain's limbic system development, fostering self-esteem and cultivating executive functioning skills. Join to learn how trauma affects us all and explore strategies for re-building resiliency and re-turning to human-ness!

Building Positive Goal-Oriented Relationships Through the Family Partnership Agreement (FPA) Process-

Alexis Tarbin, Jennifer Olson

A strong, authentic relationship between staff members and the family is the cornerstone of the Family Partnership Agreement (FPA) process. A successful FPA process is based on a relationship-based approach that values different perspectives and contributions, explores options, and honors all types of family progress. As staff and families build these relationships, they can combine their strengths, skills, and resources to accomplish a common goal. This kind of planning and goal setting with individual families is critical in making progress toward outcomes with children and families.

Six phases make up the FPA process and Head Start staff can follow these phases to build relationships and partnerships with families over time. Such partnerships support family well-being and support families in their goals for themselves and their children. Join NCPFCE to explore how the application of effective communication strategies can influence the success of each of the six FPA phases including: recruitment and enrollment, assessment, ongoing communication, goal setting, follow-up and review and program improvement.

Effective Communication Skills Support Governance Planning and Reporting Requirements

Roxanne Wells, Ron Ransom

Tribal leaders, directors, managers, and frontline staff are all invited to explore active communication strategies. During the two-part series, participants will practice communication strategies while engaging in activities focused on governance planning and monthly reporting requirements.

Planning an Annual ERSEA Recruitment Plan

Rosa Vasquez

Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance (ERSEA) systems require programs to develop recruitment efforts that reach and inform families with eligible children. This two-part series will explore intentional strategies while creating a data-informed and measurable year-round recruitment plan to help programs meet their enrollment goals.

Meal Planning: CACFP Compliance/Incorporating Cultural Meals

David Castro, Charlotte Cruz

We will be learning strategies and skills on meal planning for the Head Start menu. We will be discussing Child and Adult Care Food Program compliance regulations to include - serving sizes, food components, creditable foods, whole grain rich breads, cereals, yogurt, best practices, and meal time service. We will also be discussing cultural meals and how to incorporate them into your menu. We will also be making Native American Blue Cornmeal Pancakes.

CHILD CARE

Enhancing Early Childhood Systems in Tribal Communities Pt 2

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

It Takes a Team! Supporting New (and Veteran) Education Staff with Classroom Challenges (Part 1)

Beth Vorhaus, Heidi Hagenson

Beginning with Reflection and Connections we will lay the foundation of why it takes a team, with an overview of the Head Start framework of effective practices and the importance of reflective practice when addressing behaviors that challenge adults. We will explore how adult-to-adult relationships can impact interactions between adults and children and the difference an effective team makes when challenges arise. It takes a team! From there we will Review and Learn how to ensure that education staff receive the support they need to establish and maintain a positive climate in their settings. We will discuss materials and environmental considerations that build responsive relationships through clear expectations, creating engaging environments and teaching social and emotional skills. When challenges happen, infants, toddlers and preschoolers use behavior to communicate their wants and needs, intentions, and emotions. As leaders and staff, participants will learn how they can help education staff effectively respond to these communicative attempts and offer appropriate responses to behaviors that challenge for all children, including those with disabilities or suspected delays. Participants will have an opportunity Consider and Plan what do you do when behavior happens. Working with scenarios of behaviors that are challenging education staff in the region participant will have time to share ideas and strategies with colleagues. Sharing of resources and strategies for understanding young children's behavior, skills to teach, and ways to respond to the behavior will occur.

Culture & Language Make & Take for Teachers (Part 1)

Michelle Tsosie, Carol Bellamy

Culture and language are the heart of every classroom. During this session, teachers will create activities to use in their classrooms that embrace their community's unique culture. These activities will be based on the OHS tool, Making It Work!, which helps programs intentionally connect culture and language to their classroom activities.

All Staff Onboard for Safety: Designing Systems that Work for Child Safety (Part 1)

Racquel Martinez, Ron Ransom, Betsy McDougall

Whether you are a teacher, Tribal Leader, or member of the management team, your voice is important in designing, implementing and monitoring systems that ensure the safety of every Head Start Child. Utilizing the Head Start Management Systems Wheel, we will explore ways to strengthen individual systems to ensure all employees understand the "culture of safety" in our programs. Our discussions will focus on some of the systems that can trip up programs: annual training for staff in active supervision strategies, ongoing monitoring of established systems, onboarding new employees including substitutes to ensure child safety, updating of policies and procedures dedicated to active supervision, and documentation of incidents.

Culturally Responsive Coaching: One Program's Journey

Heidi Roibal, Bettina Sandoval

Embarking on a coaching journey can be intimidating. Tapping into historical and cultural knowledge is a strategy to help Head Start professionals feel successful. This workshop will follow the steps of one program's journey into culturally responsive coaching for a tribal Head Start Program. We will highlight celebrations and challenges and offer some ideas for embracing culturally responsive coaching and family engagement that lead to successful outcomes for children, families, and professionals.

Boosting Your Enrollment with an 8-Step Recruitment Strategy

Alejandra Davis, Jennifer Olson

Head Start grant recipients continue to prioritize reaching and maintaining full enrollment. Preparation and planning to achieve enrollment goals takes time, but the result is an effective recruitment strategy that you can implement and evaluate. Join NCPFCE to walk through an eight-step process that can help ERSEA staff prepare and plan their outreach efforts. Receive planning tools and resources to share with your program.

Supporting IEP and IFSP Goals through Classroom Activities and Routines

Leslie Norman, Dannetta Tate

During this session, we will discuss how HS and EHS classroom teachers individualize experiences and materials for children with an IFSP or IEP. Participants will explore strategies to create classroom activities and routines that meet the needs of young children in their care. Teachers will leave with information to enhance children's learning in the classroom and at home.

Creating a Climate of Trust for Infants and Toddlers

Danielle Grimaldo

Establishing trust in the classroom and helping infants and toddlers build positive relationships with others supports children's development and sets them up for future success. So how do caregivers create this climate of trust? What techniques can be used with the youngest of children? In this session we will look at the stages of attachment and provide strategies caregivers can use to build trust with the infants and toddlers in their care.

Sensory Processing Disorder 101 (Part 1)

Ingrid Kanics

Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD) is a term we are hearing more and more in our world today. In this presentation, we will explore what sensory processing disorder is, explore the causes, prevalence within indigenous communities, describe the different types of SPD and how they are expressed in everyday behaviors in the classroom. The presentation will focus on how to design the environment and provide activities that will benefit all children in the classroom.

***FIELDTRIP TO ISLETA HS* 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM**

Enhancing your Programs with Culture Takes Teamwork

**limit 1 person from each program*

Learn how teams can work together to Enhance the language and the culture beyond the classroom. Different roles in the center take an active part in enhancing the environment. Brainstorm various implementation activities to take back to your center.

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

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ABC's of Immunizations

Janet Schultz

There are so many vaccines Are they really necessary? American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) immunization guidelines for children birth to five years will be reviewed. Best practices and tips on overcoming parental hesitancy for routine immunizations will be shared.

From the Beginning to the End: On Father and Male Engagement We Depend

Alexis Tarbin, Jennifer Olson

Father and Male engagement are vital and integrated aspects of parent, family, and community partnerships in Head Start and Early Head Start AIAN communities. Staff members look for genuine opportunities to engage fathers and other male figures as advocates, lifelong educators, and the first teachers of their children. Men play key roles in the healthy development of their children and families and have many contributions to share with their communities. Join NCPFCE to reflect, share, and explore ways to enhance your program's fatherhood engagement efforts.

Responsive Coaching Strategies – Panel of Expert Coaches

Janet Humphries, Genevieve Jaramillo-Padilla

The challenges staff incur working with children, inclusive of high expectations for their success, can fall onto coaches in the field to support. Our diverse panel of coaches will share a bit about how they implement a coaching mindset and the strategies they use when such challenges occur with their coaching partners (parents, co-workers, colleagues, administrative staff, etc.). They will also be prepared to respond to participants', "What can I do when...?" questions! Join this panel of certified coaches for this Zoom session to engage in higher level thinking around the challenges we all incur in early childhood and get your questions asked and answered!

Planning and Recall with Older Toddlers

Danielle Grimaldo

Not sure what to do with those older twos who have not quite moved out of toddlerhood and into preschool? Want to add planning and recall into your schedule but not sure where to start? In this session we will look at the signs of

readiness for planning and recall, go over the "how tos" for implementing them, and share concrete planning and recall strategies.

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Ingrid Kanics

Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD) is a term we are hearing more and more in our world today. In this presentation, we will explore what sensory processing disorder is, explore the causes, prevalence within indigenous communities, describe the different types of SPD and how they are expressed in everyday behaviors in the classroom. The presentation will focus on how to design the environment and provide activities that will benefit all children in the classroom.

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Wednesday, March 15, 2023

10:15 AM – 11:45 AM

Building Resilience: Supporting Young Children Impacted by Trauma in Developing Social Emotional Skills

Amy Wolferman

This workshop will focus on how to support young children in developing social and emotional skills that counter the impacts of trauma, such as feelings identification, self-regulation, helpful thinking strategies, and positive identity. Hands on activities and resources will be shared.

Making the Shift from Expensive Ongoing Assessment Tools to Responsive Indigenous Assessment Practices

Jackie Bird, Cresencia Tenorio

At a time when every dollar can impact the desperately needed retention of qualified staff, why are precious funds being paid to publishers? How can the 1302.33 (b) HSPPS (Assessment for individualization) be met in a manner that frees educators to be fully responsive to children's post-pandemic distressed needs and developmental delays? Entering massive amounts of data in a computer does nothing to address the tremendous needs children are expressing now, and actually leads to staff departing! Join this session and learn how one Pueblo Head Start is making the shift to more responsive practices supporting children's development!

Managing Depression and Stress: Practical Tips and Strategies for Staff in HS and EHS

Alma Sandoval, Manisha Tare

A recent study showed that childcare professionals endured higher rates of depression and stress during the pandemic. If you come to this session, you will be able to recognize symptoms of depression and stress and learn some essential tools and strategies to support your physical and mental well-being. Our goal will be to help you reconnect with your why for working with children and families.

Play for the Win: Building Regulation Skills and Supporting Trauma-Informed Healing

Maria Eugenia Vazquez Betancourt, Candace Shelton

Learn how movement, music, rhythm, and play can support regulation skills while building the capacity for wellness and healing. In this session we will explore how regulation skills are fostered through relationships, highlighting the importance of adult emotional regulation and co-regulation. Discover strategies to build staff's capacity for self-regulation and teach children to do the same. Get ready to learn and play new games to share with your programs! Gain

an understanding of how rhythm, movement, and music can offer unique ways to support adult and child self-regulation.

Indigenizing Special Olympics Programming for Head Start Classrooms

Jennifer Hansen, Kassy Lopez

Special Olympics might not be the first organization that comes to mind when you think of a local partner but they have so much to offer! In this session you will learn about the Young Athletes program from Special Olympics which provides FREE training and classroom resources to educators on inclusive play. Even better Special Olympics has made a commitment to supporting tribal communities through a process of indigenizing Young Athletes. Special Olympics not only hopes to reach children with intellectual disabilities but support the preservation of language, culture, and indigenous games.

Back to Basics: Home Visiting Effective Practices to Support Staff, Families, and Children

Renetta Goeson

Home Visitors have a unique role with opportunities to support families to foster secure parent-child relationships. They also support families to facilitate quality learning experiences in the home. Home visitors and families work together to strengthen relationships and promote positive child outcomes. In this session explore research, strategies, and resources that support social and emotional learning through intentional parent-child interactions.

Infant and Toddlers: When Feeding is Challenging

Janet Schultz

We often hear of EHS staff faced with fussy eaters. This session will help participants learn of the characteristics of infants and toddlers with challenging feeding behaviors. Discussions will focus on the mechanics of breastfeeding and the dynamics of mother-child interactions and the impact on development. Join us to learn practical strategies for helping caregivers manage challenging feeding.

Pottery: Journey of self-reflection, healing and reshaping

Evone Martinez

Working with traditional clays and pottery, workshop walks you through journeys of how we form our children,, and our own lives by shaping of pottery, how we impact the lives as we add various clays and or medias, using pots to describe each of as unique by the shapes, colors firing process and outcome of firing, some cracks may happen as well as the pot getting broken in the process, how we tend to the instances and how we handle them , as with a pot, durable but delicate. The presentation is open for discussion and experiences and ideas, how pottery are like us with our life's journey of experience s no matter the trauma and situation.

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Plant Teachings for Growing Social-Emotional Skills (Part 1)

Elise Krohn, Elizabeth Campbell

Many Native Elders remind us that plants are teachers. When we awaken our senses and observe nature, plants can lead us in being healthy and resilient. For example, willow shows us how to flexible and strong, while yarrow reminds us of the importance of boundaries. In this interactive workshop, presenters will share two educational resources including Plant Teachings for Growing Social-Emotional Skills Toolkit and the Tend, Gather and Grow Curriculum. Stories and activities including movement, cooking, medicine making, artwork, and games are included as well as posters, plant cards, and videos. Many of the plants featured grow throughout the United States and the materials can be utilized in program serving early childhood through elders. Participants will learn how to access these resources, as well as practice some of the activities.

Promoting Healthy Social Behaviors - Addressing Behaviors that Challenge (Part 1)

Sheila Sellers, Patrice Griffin

Behaviors that challenge adults can be a difficult part of working in an early learning environment...but they don't have to be. Our job as early childhood professionals includes tapping into constructive ways to support children as they learn to process their big emotions and deal with the challenges of peer relationships in a group environment. This workshop session will focus on preventative and responsive strategies participants can use when responding to behaviors that challenge us as adults.

Setting Limits with Love: Support Strategies for Educators and Parents

Janet Humphryes

What limits need to be set for children? Why are limits important? Is it better to let children discover limits on their own? Why is it critical to stay consistent with those limits? What is inner discipline and intrinsic motivation and how can children learn this? What can I do with young children to ensure they love learning and thus succeed in life joyfully? Join this session to engage in learning and dialogue about these questions and more.

Documentation and Follow-up of the Family Goal (Part 1)

Rosa Vasquez

Discover how to create and document measurable goals with families. Why measurable goals? Measurable goals can be incredibly motivating for families as they see progress toward their goals. In this two-part series, you explore different ways of writing them in a way that keeps families increasingly engaged in reaching obtainable milestones, whether it's a short-term or long-term goal.

The Power of Early Childhood and the Journey of Building Authentic EC Plans through EC Collaboratives in Tribal Communities

Anna Marie Garcia, Jovanna Archuleta

Experiences matter. These early experiences, which can be positive or negative, shape the developing brain by providing a range of social, emotional, motor and cognitive experiences that will literally impact the number and density of synaptic connections, neurons and neural networks in the infant brain. Culture and traditions are crucial in this process. This presentation will discuss the vital importance of supporting and fostering brain development from infancy throughout early childhood by supporting the communities in which these children live by assuring that all young children, especially children in Tribal communities, can thrive. The journey that will be presented to support this initiative are the strategies that were used to build authentic Early Childhood Collaboratives in Tribal communities, leading to actionable and meaningful Early Childhood Strategic Plans. These strategic plans guide families, caregivers, tribal leaders and communities in building and strengthening enriching environments for young children and their families through the use of story-telling art and conversation. These plans are developed by the members of the community and have proven to be successful because of the relationships that were built with understanding, trust and respect for the unique culture and traditions of each Tribal community.

Preventing Safety Violations in Head Start (Part 1)

Alma Sandoval, Michelle Tsosie, Racquel Martinez

In this session, we will examine resources you can use to create a program-wide culture of safety. Participants will learn strategies to keep children, staff, and families safe in their program. Participants will also learn the role of Head Start program staff in reporting health and safety incidents, the federal staff to whom programs must report, and the reporting time frame.

Community Assessment and Program Redesign

PMFO

Community assessments drive decision-making for Head Start recipients. This session will explore how the community assessment can be used to generate the key data needed to inform responsive program planning and service system design.

Using Message Board to Help Children Resolve Classroom Conflicts

Shannon Lockhart

How do you resolve conflicts when it involves a large group of children or is it a whole class issue? How do you determine if a conflict should be brought up to the whole classroom? This workshop will focus ways to determine if conflicts should involve the whole class and strategies of engaging all children in resolving classroom conflicts during the Message Board.

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Plant Teachings for Growing Social-Emotional Skills (Part 2)

Elise Krohn, Elizabeth Campbell

Many Native Elders remind us that plants are teachers. When we awaken our senses and observe nature, plants can lead us in being healthy and resilient. For example, willow shows us how to flexible and strong, while yarrow reminds us of the importance of boundaries. In this interactive workshop, presenters will share two educational resources including Plant Teachings for Growing Social-Emotional Skills Toolkit and the Tend, Gather and Grow Curriculum. Stories and activities including movement, cooking, medicine making, artwork, and games are included as well as posters, plant cards, and videos. Many of the plants featured grow throughout the United States and the materials can be utilized in program serving early childhood through elders. Participants will learn how to access these resources, as well as practice some of the activities.

Promoting Healthy Social Behaviors - Addressing Behaviors that Challenge (Part 2)

Sheila Sellers, Patrice Griffin

Behaviors that challenge adults can be a difficult part of working in an early learning environment...but they don't have to be. Our job as early childhood professionals includes tapping into constructive ways to support children as they learn to process their big emotions and deal with the challenges of peer relationships in a group environment. This workshop session will focus on preventative and responsive strategies participants can use when responding to behaviors that challenge us as adults.

Using Laughter to Lead, Because Laughter is Medicine

Kassy Lopez

Humor, and the following laughter it creates, has many therapeutic effects on the body. Laughing is known to relieve stress, improve your mood, and emotional state. It also has many social and physical health benefits. If you have heard that "Laughter is the best medicine," it is true.

This session provides an overview of the many benefits of laughter and includes practices you can begin using immediately. As leaders, there are multiple stressors that exist. These stressors can inhibit the success of a program. Why not find a fun way to engage in self-care and overcome the barriers of success with laughter?

Documentation and Follow-up of the Family Goal (Part 2)

Rosa Vasquez

Discover how to create and document measurable goals with families. Why measurable goals? Measurable goals can be incredibly motivating for families as they see progress toward their goals. In this two-part series, you explore different ways of writing them in a way that keeps families increasingly engaged in reaching obtainable milestones, whether it's a short-term or long-term goal.

Designing Mental Health Consultation Services

Manisha Tare

Mental health consultation is an indirect service that works with staff and families to support children's social-emotional development and well-being through reflection, feedback, skill building, and programmatic recommendations. This session will support directors and program managers to assess the needs of their staff, children, and families so they can design their mental health consultation services to maximize their resources. Examples of services mental health consultants offer and the structure of an MOU will be shared to support program planning. Participants will have an opportunity to review their current consultation structure and ask the group for reflections and ideas.

Preventing Safety Violations in Head Start (Part 2)

Alma Sandoval, Michelle Tsosie, Racquel Martinez

In this session, we will examine resources you can use to create a program-wide culture of safety. Participants will learn strategies to keep children, staff, and families safe in their program. Participants will also learn the role of Head Start program staff in reporting health and safety incidents, the federal staff to whom programs must report, and the reporting time frame.

Fiscal/HR Sustainability - Using the Wage Study

PMFO

When considering an increase in staff compensation, OHS encourages programs to use findings from their wage comparability study to help support their decisions. OHS IM 22-06 strongly encourages Head Start grant recipients to permanently increase compensation. Join us as we focus and share insights on workforce sustainability from the perspective of wage comparability. Participants will analyze sample wage comparability studies from a variety of sources.

When Push Comes to Shove: Conflict resolution for preschoolers

Shannon Lockhart

Preschool children encounter conflicts on a daily basis and resolving them can either be empowering or frustrating. When teachers adopt a problem-solving approach to resolving conflicts with children they will find that the process benefits children and empowers them to become confident problem solvers now and in the future. In this session, participants will examine their own feelings and ways of dealing with conflicts and learn the benefits of involving children in the process of resolving conflicts. In small groups they will practice supportive strategies that assist children in resolving conflicts with other children. Teachers will then develop an implementation plan they can use to apply these strategies with their children and when used consistently will observe as the children begin seeing themselves as successful "problem-solvers."

Thursday, March 16, 2023

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Educating Families To Educate Their Children

Mitch Factor

The keynote is an in-depth review of the importance of educating families to educate their children. It is important to establish healthy habits within the family for the child's educational journey. The topics will include sleep, nutrition, social skills, involvement in child's education and respect to name a few. Get ideas to connect with families, parent meetings success and raise family involvement numbers within the program. Keynote includes humor so be prepared to smile.

10:15 AM – 11:45 AM

Solid Leadership Through Healthy Communication

Mitch Factor

The way we communicate with each other can be a positive or a negative experience. If you look back at previous years and you found your program wasn't running smooth due to communication issues, then this break out is for you. Join Native American Comedian Mitch Factor on a path to create a solid healthier communication foundation. Topics include less stress when communicating, balanced talking and listening, problem solving, creating a positive atmosphere to allow input, raising family involvement numbers through communication and gossiping and breaking confidentiality to name a few. Be prepared to laugh while getting the tools to create a healthier environment through communication.

Head Start Enterprise System (HSES)

Todd Lertjuntharangool, Theresa Rowley

In this session, participants will receive an overview of the Head Start Enterprise System (HSES) which will include guidance on navigating through HSES and step by step instructions on how and where to submit required reports to the Office of Head Start, submit requests for federal funding, formally correspond with assigned Specialists and Regional Office leadership, and access resources available within HSES.

Safely in this together: Everyone is needed for a healthy and safe Head Start program!

Jenifer Lipman, Candace Shelton

Everyone has a role in establishing a culture of safety in your program to keep children, families, and staff healthy and safe. Pandemic recovery has now heightened the importance of effective safety practices in our programs. In this workshop, we will explore actions that support a culture of safety, active supervision strategies to keep children safe inside, outdoors, and during transitions, and infection control strategies to reduce transmission of infectious disease. Key resources will be shared from the Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center, Caring for our Children, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to support programs in establishing and maintaining these safety practices.

We are all Head Start Ambassadors: Recruiting New Families by Telling our AIAN Story

Betsy McDougall, Racquel Martinez

AIAN RXI Head Start and Early Head Start programs offer families of young children a unique opportunity to be involved in a locally designed early childhood program built on a foundation of tribal culture and language. Join in discussions about how to share our stories in ways that attract new families to enroll in our programs. Share recruitment successes and bring examples of what is working for you. Consider when, where and how often to tell our stories. This session is open to all Head Start staff and Tribal Leaders! We are all Head Start Ambassadors.

The Power of Peers: Strategies to Support Appropriate Behavior and Social Development

Sheila Sellers, Patrice Griffin

With a little help from friends, children can create and sustain meaningful relationships with adults and other children. Through these interactions with peers, critical social skills such as compromising, sharing, cooperation and problem solving are developing. This workshop session will examine how positive peer relationships contribute to healthy social-emotional development, and examine strategies for creating experiences for young children to engage positively with peers.

Supporting Children's Development through Authentic Assessment

Leslie Norman, Dannelta Tate

Authentic assessment is an ongoing process of observing a child's development that enables teachers to plan and prepare age and developmentally-appropriate activities and experiences to support children's learning development. During this session, we will explore the key characteristics of early childhood authentic assessment practices and observe a child in a variety of everyday activities and routines.

Implementing Peer Coaching to Support Staff Retention

Janet Humphryes, Genevieve Jaramillo-Padilla

Directors, supervisors, coaches and all staff in early childhood are needing support to respond to the current high needs of children and families. Peer-coaching involves all staff familiar with basic coaching skills that promote more effective communication throughout the program. This offers a network of support for all, which leads to higher retention of staff. What are the skills needed to make this happen at the organizational level? Join this session to discover how to implement peer coaching in your program.

Developing Meaningful Family Connections

Jessica Begay

Family and kinship are at the center of our tribal communities and value systems. Participants will have the opportunity to reflect on their personal and work experiences as it relates to family engagement. This session will cover information about the connection between staff well-being and family engagement efforts.