

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Friday, April 12

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Teaching Play in Preschool Classrooms (this is a day long session) | Mt. Hood A

Dr. Rick Solomon

This workshop is designed for professionals who teach and/or support autistic children in preschool and kindergarten. The 7 Circles of Teaching PLAY is an application of The P.L.A.Y. Project's evidence-based autism intervention model that focuses on the autistic child's functional development and interaction so that she will be more successful in school both socially, and academically. This workshop will use video case studies of school staff and child interaction, as well as interactive learning activities based on the course objectives. The Teaching PLAY model is practical and efficient without disrupting the classroom routines or curriculum; in Teaching PLAY, we believe that, for children with ASD, "Engagement leads to educational readiness." *Part 1 of 3, participants are encouraged to attend all sessions.*

Understanding Challenging Behavior in the Classroom | Mt. Hood B

Nicole Stutte

Come hear about an eclectic approach to understanding challenging behavior as it presents itself in the early childhood classroom settings. Using current research and frameworks, we will explore why challenging behavior occurs and what can be done to reduce it. *Part 1 of 2, participants are encouraged to attend both sessions.*

Friendships in Early Childhood | Mt. Hood C *

Tim Andrews

In this session we will examine key skills that lead to friendships in early childhood. We will discuss how to teach these skills, and importantly how to embed them into routines in order to give children many opportunities throughout the day to connect and form friendships.

Intentional Support Plans: Going from Triage to a Plan for Students who Struggle with Regulation | Cascade AB *

Kourtney Ferrua, Kellie Morris, Emma Velazquez

In this session we will share a tool that we have developed for primary classrooms to support PreK leaders and K teachers who are helping our youngest students build skills. In this session we will help educators move from triage to a thoughtful plan that connects problems to solve with meaningful interventions and supports that promote growth and learning.

Panel Discussion: Leadership in Early Learning, What Principals and Leaders Need to Know | Cascade C

Kristi Byfield, Sarah Dunkin, Jen Burkhart,
Andre Goodlow, Kendra Hughes, Kristina Kurtz

Come hear from a variety of Early Learning administrators in small, medium and large school districts about the work they are doing. Ask questions and gather ideas around what it takes to effectively run an Early Learning program.

Leveraging the Power of Home Visits | St. Helens AB

Heather Kilgore, Yesenia Ramirez, Manisone Xaybanha, Mary Nesmith

Founded and grounded in the lived experiences of parents and educators, the parent-teacher home visit (PTHV) is a proven family engagement strategy that builds and activates relational trust to strengthen school-family partnerships, shift educator and family mindsets, and improve student outcomes. Join this interactive session to learn more about PTHV's five core practices and associated outcomes, all while listening to engaging personal testimonies on the transformative nature of this intentional relationship-building strategy. Participants will reflect on lessons learned about the value of trust in teaching and learning and identify action steps to better build productive school-family relationships.

Blended Learning - A New Way for Pre-k | St. Helens CD

Emily Cadiz

At the end of the presentation, participants will be able to define and articulate concepts of preschool-blended learning systems, including language-first instruction and inclusive music. Participants will know the difference between passive versus active screen time; identify key classroom and online components for successful blended learning systems; recognize the potential benefits and challenges to current screen-based learning products; and explore ways to encourage collaboration between families and educators using multi-media instructional tools.

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

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Unpacking Oregon's Early Literacy Framework | Mt. Hood C *

Holly Dalton, Jenny Pond and Amber Gardner

During this session, participants will become familiar with ODE's Early Literacy Framework, and explore how the eight sections of the framework help reinforce culturally responsive practice and reading science as fundamental to children's literacy.

Finding the Right Books for Your Program | Cascade AB

Jennifer Butler-Brown

Finding the resources for classrooms, libraries, and educational programs can be challenging and time consuming. I do research, and help educators find the books they need to share with children. This includes books that represent a variety of cultures, languages, and topics. Books about challenging topics, such as neurodiversity, family types, divorce, and grief can be difficult to find. I will be presenting a collection of the latest books to help build and update educator libraries. Join me to be inspired by some of the best tools for any education program: BOOKS!

The Development of a Robust Memorandum of Understanding: A Head Start and EI/ECSE Collaboration | Cascade C

Rachel Elliott, Kara Williams

This session will share the journey of collaboration between the Oregon Head Start Collaboration Office and the Office of Enhancing Student Opportunities' Director of Inclusive Services. This collaboration invited Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education and Head Start providers to reexamine their partnership in the creation of a robust memorandum of understanding that supports high quality inclusive partnerships in local community

Strengthening Relationships with Children and Families Using a Racial-Equity Lens | St. Helens AB

Darcell Dance, Gianna Solomon

During the session, we will use a self-inventory approach to explore racial equity and how it impacts relationships with black and brown children and families. Participants will be able to identify ways to positively impact current and future relationships with children and families in their programs.

Turbo Charge the Essential Components of Literacy | St. Helens CD

Maria Russo

Be inspired and informed with a fun and engaging presentation on best practices using evidence-based reading strategies designed to support the acquisition of oral language, phonological and phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension with daily differentiation tips to meet the needs of diverse learners.

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

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Health Emergency Ready Oregon (HERO) Kids Registry | Mt. Hood B

Brittany Tagliafaro, Tamara Bakewell

In an emergency, every moment counts. HERO Kids Registry is a voluntary, no-cost system that lets any Oregon family share critical information about their child's health before an emergency. The information can be quickly and easily accessed by emergency medical services and hospital emergency department providers, so they have the information they need when they need it. Attendees will come away from this presentation understanding the purpose and use of the Health Emergency Ready Oregon (HERO) Kids Registry as well as how to incorporate HERO Kids into their schools and communities.

Kindergarten Innovation: Bridging Pre-K and K Educators | Mt. Hood C

Katrina Edwards

Through our Kindergarten Innovation Cohort, Pre-K and kindergarten educators in PPS are learning from each other and exploring promising practices to embed playful learning and build continuity between Pre-K and kindergarten experiences for children and families. Learn about our educators' discoveries and discuss opportunities for innovation in your Pre-K contexts.

Centering Equity in Early Learning: Utilizing our Department Mission, Vision, Values as a Guide to Intentionally Plan | Cascade AB

Sara Snow- Director EI/ECSE program, Molly Hulett- Inclusion Coach,
Andrea Rapp- Inclusion Coach, Stephanie Rund- Inclusion Coach,
Raelene Gilmore- Inclusion Coach

Come hear how Clackamas ESD Early Learning Department is aligning their vision of supporting equitable access to high quality early learning opportunities and providing inclusive, culturally responsive early learning services for all children through Clackamas County. They will discuss aligning their work with the department's mission, vision and values, and discuss challenges and breakthroughs they have experienced since the creation of the program support team. You'll learn more about the journey to creating these positions and how the team uses their work plan to guide their work.

Fostering Authentic Engagement in Classroom Routines for Autistic Children | Cascade C *

Fawn Anderson

In this session, we will explore ways to foster engagement for autistic children within classroom routines. We will discuss naturalistic interventions that promote growth in early communication, social behaviors, and play skills.

Keep Calm and Schedule On | St. Helens AB

Mary Anne Killpack, Tim Andrews

Adults staying regulate, emotional literacy and co-regulation for kids by scheduling or embedding calm down routines into the day.

Growing with Farm to Early Care & Education:

Resources and Strategies for Nourishing and Educating Young Children in the Garden, at the Table, and in the Classroom | St. Helens CD

Angela Hedstrom

Farm to Early Care & Education (ECE) connects early childhood professionals to local food producers and community partners with the goals of serving culturally relevant, locally produced foods to young children; providing hands-on experiences with food and gardening; and improving child nutrition. Farm to ECE is a national movement with deep roots in Oregon. Explore opportunities for starting or expanding Farm to ECE efforts in your program.