

WELCOME TO

# CULTIVATING STRENGTH

in Early Childhood Education Practice



Milwaukee  Succeeds  
*cradle to career*



DANIEL  
EDUCATIONAL  
SERVICES

# About this Conference

## What Makes This Conference Unique?

### Supporting Emerging Trainers

This conference creates space for emerging trainers with real-world expertise in early childhood education to share their knowledge while receiving mentoring and coaching.

A key goal is to expand the number of Black and Brown trainers who can serve as trusted messengers at both local and statewide events while providing Wisconsin Registry-approved training.

**Bilingual and Inclusive by Design** As a fully bilingual conference, every session offers real-time English/Spanish interpretation through headsets. This ensures participants can choose sessions based on interest, not language, fostering true inclusivity and shared learning.

**Prioritizing Educator Well-Being** Educator mental health and self-care are built into the day. Breaks for emotional regulation, energizing and calming activities, and resource spaces staffed by mental health professionals create opportunities to recharge. To further support access, a children's activity area is available so participants who may not have secured child care can still fully participate in the event.

# Conference Host



## **About Milwaukee Succeeds**

Milwaukee Succeeds was launched by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation in 2011 as a way to unite the community around a common goal: bringing about lasting change to the way education works for children in Milwaukee. Milwaukee Succeeds collaborates with local and national partners to enact a common agenda, prioritizing community voice, racial equity and systems change. Since 2019, their efforts have focused on two key areas of importance: early childhood education (ECE) and high school success. To learn more, visit:

[milwaukeesucceeds.org](http://milwaukeesucceeds.org)

## **About Milwaukee's ECE Coalition**

Led by Milwaukee Succeeds, Milwaukee's ECE Coalition collectively advocates for increased resources and support for the ECE sector. This coalition, comprised of a diverse group of child care providers, nonprofits, philanthropists and civic leaders, has brought a unified voice to decision-making tables to expand access to quality, affordable child care for Milwaukee's Black and Brown families. To learn more, visit: [milwaukeesucceeds.org/ece-coalition](http://milwaukeesucceeds.org/ece-coalition)

## **Get Involved!**

To join the ECE Coalition, email Yimma Davila-Castro at [ydavila-castro@milwaukeesucceeds.org](mailto:ydavila-castro@milwaukeesucceeds.org).



Greater Milwaukee  
**FOUNDATION**  
*greater together*

# Conference Host

## About Daniel Educational Services, LLC



Daniel Educational Services is an organization dedicated to enhancing the well-being of children and young adults by equipping educators, families, child-serving organizations, and communities with the knowledge and tools to foster emotional regulation and healthy, connected relationships.

We provide engaging, interactive professional development, coaching, and consultation that inspire positive cultural and organizational change, leading to improved outcomes for students, staff, and families.

Services are offered both on-site and virtually, in English and Spanish, providing flexible learning opportunities tailored to each team's unique needs.

Clients can also leverage Daniel Educational Services' instructional design expertise to develop comprehensive organizational training plans and customize professional development programs aligned with their goals and priorities.

### **Get resources!**

*Join the Daniel Educational Services list for free tools and resources to support children's and adults' mental health and well-being.*

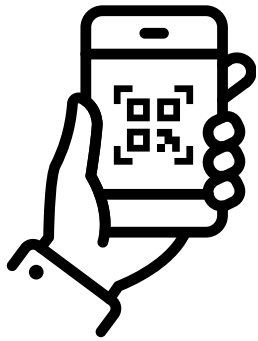
[danieleducationalservices.com/resources](https://danieleducationalservices.com/resources)



# Agenda

<b>8:00 – 8:30</b>	Registration & Breakfast
<b>8:30 – 9:15</b>	Opening Remarks (main room) Keynote – The Power of You
<b>9:15 – 9:35</b>	Regulation and Wellness Activity and Vendors
<b>9:35 – 10:20</b>	Breakout Session #1
<b>10:20 – 10:40</b>	Regulation and Wellness Activity and Vendors
<b>10:40 – 11:25</b>	Breakout Session #2
<b>11:25 – 11:55</b>	Lunch (main room)
<b>11:55 – 12:25</b>	Raffle (main room) Afternoon Keynote: Passion, Motivation, and Purpose: Choosing the Leadership Path in Early Childhood Education
<b>12:25 – 12:45</b>	Regulation and Wellness Activity and Vendors
<b>12:45 – 1:30</b>	Breakout Session #3
<b>1:30</b>	Take home adult regulation kits pick up (4th floor elevator area)

# Keynote and Breakout Session Materials



Or

Download  
by session



# Keynote Speaker

## Morning Keynote

### **Kanisha Phelps, MS** **The Power of You**

Presenter Language English, Main Room



In this inspiring keynote, early childhood educators will be reminded of the incredible impact they have on the lives of young children. Through stories, reflection, and encouragement, we'll explore how lasting change begins within. You are not just shaping minds — you're shaping futures. But to lead with purpose, you must first recognize the power, passion, and potential that already lives inside you. Get ready to feel recharged, reignited, and reminded of just how much you matter.

**About Kanisha Phelps, MS:** With over 20 years of HR leadership and a decade in the classroom, Kanisha has always believed in the power of people — and what happens when they lead with purpose. She's the founder of Kaykenal Inc., where she helps mission-driven business owners tackle the hard parts of running a business so they can stay focused on what matters most. From HR consulting to executive coaching, Kanisha specializes in guiding leaders to their next level of greatness.

In 2015, Kanisha was honored as Teacher of the Year, a recognition rooted in my passion for advocating for youth often labeled as “the bad kids.” During her time away from corporate America, she dedicated herself to teaching and championing young people with behavioral struggles, ensuring they were seen, heard, and treated with dignity.

Whether in a boardroom, a classroom, or coaching one-on-one, her work is driven by one belief: when people feel valued, they show up as their best selves — and that changes everything. When she's not trying to change the world, she enjoys music, travel and spending time with her children.



# Keynote Speaker

Afternoon Keynote

**Luis Godinez**

**Passion, Motivation, and Purpose:  
Choosing the Leadership Path in Early  
Childhood Education**

Presenter Language Spanish, Main Room

This motivating keynote explores how early childhood educators can channel their personal drive and values into impactful leadership. It highlights the importance of self-awareness, professional purpose, and advocacy in shaping a meaningful career. Attendees will be inspired to reflect on their own journeys and consider how they can lead with intention in their roles. This session encourages a deeper commitment to making a difference in the lives of young children and the field as a whole.

**About Luis Godinez:** Luis has dedicated over 15 years to ECE as a family child care provider, a K4 public school teacher, and now as an instructor at both Milwaukee Area Technical College and Madison College. He guides future educators as they prepare to enter the classroom, helping them build not just skills, but confidence, purpose, and heart. His work is grounded in the belief that relationships, reflection, and emotional intelligence are at the core of meaningful teaching. He encourages students to see every child as a whole person and to approach their work with compassion, curiosity, and humility. He sees teaching as a human profession that requires us to be present, empathetic, and always learning.

Luis believes that leadership is not always something we seek, but something we step into because we must. In ECE, we are often called to lead to advocate for children, families, and our profession. Luis continues to grow as a leader, even when it stretches him. He encourages others to do the same, to find their voice, and to lead with integrity and purpose, especially when it's difficult.

As a first-generation college graduate, Luis carries the values his parents instilled in him: the importance of work, self-improvement, and honoring the connections we share with others. He believes that diversity is not just something to acknowledge but something to embrace and learn from. Every child, every family, and every aspiring teacher brings a story worth hearing, and he is committed to creating spaces where those stories are respected and celebrated.



# Session Descriptions

## **Breakout #1**



### **1A. Pyramid Model Program Overview** – Lisa Garlie, Presenter Language English, Room 4004

If a participant wants to learn more about the Pyramid Model framework and how this framework can be embedded in their program, this is the place to be! In this session we will take a deep dive into Pyramid Model Program Wide Implementation, the benefits to programs that go program wide with Pyramid Model and the connection Pyramid Model has to quality care.



### **1B. Intentional Shelves: Bias, Representation, and Equity in Early Literacy** – Kelly Melton, Presenter Language English, Room 4005

In this engaging and reflective session, early childhood professionals will explore the power of intentional book selection in shaping inclusive, equitable, and culturally responsive learning environments. Participants will examine the connection between early literacy and the school-to-prison pipeline, and how representation in books supports identity development, empathy, and belonging for all children.



### **1C. Setting Professional and Personal Goals for Well-Being in Early Childhood Education** – Ivonne Caceres, Presenter Language Spanish Room 4006

Early childhood educators shape young minds, but sustaining their own well-being is key to lasting impact. This interactive session offers practical strategies for setting SMART goals that support personal and professional growth. Educators will explore ways to balance responsibilities with self-care, build a growth mindset, and create a mini vision board to visualize their goals. Participants will leave with renewed purpose and clear, actionable steps to support their well-being.

# Session Descriptions

## **Breakout #2**



### **2A. Smooth Transitions During Daily Routines in ECE,** Marisela Carpio Presenter Language Spanish Room 4004

Join us for this engaging workshop where we will discuss supporting smooth transitions in childcare. We will discuss how to identify a transition and how to take advantage of these to have a change from one activity to another in your child care routines in a smoother and (why not) fun way. There will be opportunity to share your own transitions and hear from others.



### **2B. Differences in the process for acquiring your Family Child Care and Child Care Center license.** Maria Ramírez-España Presenter Language Spanish Room 4005

In this session we will discuss the different agencies involved in obtaining a DCF license to open a family childcare or group childcare. We will also Explain the differences in education requirements between Family Childcare and Childcare Centers. As well as analyze and compare the different types of support for child development in family care vs. group care.



### **2C. Classroom, Community, Culture Strengthening Home School Connections** – Jeremy Walton, Presenter Language English Room 4006

Home and school greatly shape a child's development, and strong communication between them is key. Building relationships and a classroom culture that reflects each child's background strengthens this connection. This session explores how culturally responsive practices support collaboration and student success.

# Session Descriptions

## **Breakout #3**



**3A. Signed, Sealed and Protected**, Anita Ramirez,  
Presenter Language Spanish Room 4004

In this workshop, participants will acquire the fundamental knowledge to implement safe practices in child care centers, integrating them into their policies and contracts. Key concepts and essential elements that strengthen the protection of children and educators will be covered, while ensuring compliance with DCF, YoungStar, and food program regulations.



**3B. Relax, Recharge, Revive. Self-care for the heart of ECE**, Sandra Hernandez Presenter Language English  
Room 4006

In this workshop, you'll explore powerful techniques for managing stress. Not just by reducing it, but by discovering how to balance your stress load in ways that encourage growth, enhance performance and promote a deeper understanding of your own limits. You'll learn how to embrace productive stress and use it as a inspiration for development while mastering effective stress reduction techniques. Building resilience and adapting to challenging situations. This workshop will help you gain the tools to improve mental clarity, and boost your overall well-being.

# **Regulation and Wellness** **Sessions**

## **Regulation Rooms:**

1. Sound Bowls with Dr. Shanice: Room #4015  
(Capacity 10 people)
2. Energizer Room with Milwaukee Succeeds  
Ambassadors: Room #4020
3. Calming Room with Milwaukee Succeeds  
Ambassadors: Room #4021

## **Wellness Rooms:**

1. Sponsored by Hope and Healing Mental  
Health Counseling Wellness Room 1 #4022
2. Sponsored by Therayology Wellness Room 2  
#4023
3. Quiet space/ Resource Room #4025



# Map of the Venue (4<sup>th</sup> Floor).

Private  
office  
space

Children's Activities

Bathrooms

Vendor Area

Regulation  
Room #1  
4015

Regulation  
Room #2  
4020

Main Room

4004

4005

4006

Regulation  
Room #3  
4021

Wellness  
#1  
4023

Wellness  
#2  
4022

ELEVATORS

Stairs to main  
lobby  
EXIT

4025  
Quiet  
Room /  
Resources

Registration and welcome on first floor

# Thank you to Our Partners



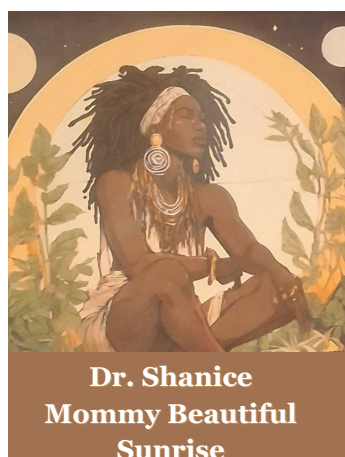
Greater Milwaukee  
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**Therayology**  
YOU AT YOUR BEST.



**4C For Children**



Dr. Shanice  
Mommy Beautiful  
Sunrise

**Satellite**  
FAMILY CHILD CARE SYSTEM

**Bernie's**  
**BOOK BANK**



**Hope and Healing Mental Health**

**Counseling, LLC**

Meg Hammes, LCISW

[www.meghammes.com](http://www.meghammes.com)

licensed in Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota



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# Other Information



Wifi Network: GMF Guest  
Password: foundation

## **Children's Activity Area:**

The activity area is staffed by volunteers and is designed to provide entertainment for your child(ren) so that you may enjoy the conference.

It is not licensed child care, and our volunteers are not child care professionals. For that reason, volunteers will not provide: diaper changing, toileting assistance, dispensing medication or using medical devices, bottle feeding. Children will never be one-on-one with an adult.



While we will make every effort to provide safe supervision, by using the children's activity area for your child, you acknowledge and agree that:

- You will not hold Milwaukee Succeeds, Daniel Educational Services, LLC, The Greater Milwaukee Foundation, or Betty Brinn Children's Museum responsible or liable for any injury.
- You remain responsible for your child(ren)'s needs and care.
- You agree to promptly respond if contacted by text message to assist your child.
- You may check on or remove your child(ren) from the activity area at any time.



A special thank you to our team of volunteers and the **Milwaukee Succeeds ECE Ambassadors** and **Mental Health Workgroup**. This would not have been possible without you!!