

**4<sup>th</sup> Annual Western Maryland Early Childhood Conference**  
**“All for One, One for All: Investing in Our Future”**  
**Agenda for Saturday, October 1, 2016**

- 8:30-9:00**                    **Check in / Coffee**
- 9:00-9:15**                    **Opening Remarks:** Steve Rohde, Deputy Director, Maryland Family Network
- 9:15-11:00**                    **Keynote: Effective and Engaging Curriculum: How Do We Get There?**  
Speaker: Carol Aghayan  
Core of Knowledge: Curriculum  
With so many confusing messages about expectations regarding curriculum, teachers are becoming more and more frustrated with their day to day classroom requirements. Creating meaningful experiences can be confusing however, for curriculum to be effective and engaging we have to touch children's minds AND their hearts. Join us to learn strategies to strike a balance between productive play and improving child outcomes. Oh yes we can have joyfulness and learning at the same time!
- 11:00-11:15**                    **Break**
- 11:15-12:30**                    **Breakout session 1**
- “Project Practice for Toddlers Curriculum”**  
Presenter: Carol Aghayan  
Core of Knowledge: Curriculum  
If you’re tired of lessons that use boring or inappropriate themes for toddlers and two’s, maybe it’s time to explore a new way of planning that helps to develop and strengthen skills necessary for sustainable academic success. Project Based learning approach to support planning, engagement and thinking skills for toddler and two's. If you're ready to move past theme based curriculum, join us for an interactive, engaging discussion.

**“Supporting Social Foundations: Strategies for Encouraging Social Emotional Development in Young Learners”**

Presenter: Michelle Baisey

Core of Knowledge: Child Development

Explore the social foundations domain of early learning and deepen your understanding of the learning progressions, essential skills and knowledge associated with the components of social emotional development in young children. Engage in collaborative conversations and activities to identify best practices for supporting students in developing the social emotional skills needed for school success.

**“Child Engagement in Learning as an Indicator of Program Quality”**

Presenter: Alan Guttman

Core of Knowledge: Child Development

Monitoring protocols and quality rating systems focus primarily on a program's physical environment and structure; adult-child interactions; staff qualifications; care and education practices; and child outcomes. This workshop will consider the importance of child engagement in learning as an indicator of program quality. In this interactive session participants will learn how to define and identify the types and quality of a child's engagement with adults, peers, play activities and instructional tasks. Typical classroom activities will be analyzed and discussed to broaden and deepen participant understanding of how best to support and promote high quality child engagement in learning.

**“Communication is More than Talking”**

Presenter: Sandy Corridon

Core of Knowledge: Professionalism (Directors/Administrators Track)

Have you ever wondered why you have two ears and only one mouth? Do you know anyone who is always ready to respond in a conversation even though you've not stopped talking? To be really effective in our relationships, we need to be aware of process of communication, which includes active listening and being clear in our verbal communication. We'll explore the art of communication and have fun learning more about methods to enhance this skill.

**12:30-1:30**

**Lunch**

**1:30-2:45**

**Breakout session 2**

### **“Nurturing Infant and Toddler Self-Confidence”**

Presenter: Amy Weaver

Core of Knowledge: Child Development

It’s all about the relationships. For infants and toddlers to grow into successful social and academic learners a strong sense of self confidence must be built into the child’s world. Sometimes called executive function, self-confidence is the way that the infant/toddler approaches new experiences and is critical. What can you do to promote this skill? How the daily routines and interactions of the child care experience impact the development of self-confidence will all be explored.

### **“Maryland Program Accreditation Overview”**

Presenters: Petrea Fletcher/Darlene Schmidt

Core of Knowledge: Professionalism

This workshop presentation is designed to help participants understand the Maryland Program Accreditation process. Participants will learn what a program needs to do to go through the process; and learn what validators do as the program go through the process. At completion, programs will be able to make an informed decision about their Accreditation readiness and when to begin the MSDE Accreditation process.

### **“Navigating the IFSP/IEP Process as Partners”**

Presenter: Mariam Robbins

Core of Knowledge: Special Needs

This workshop will provide the participants with the knowledge regarding how and why to refer young children with suspected developmental delays to the Washington County Public Schools Birth through Five Program. The participants will learn the process of establishing eligibility for specialized services for children birth to kindergarten. Additionally, participants will learn how they can actively engage intervention strategies to support children in their programs.

### **“Team Work and Team Play for Success”**

Presenter: Sandy Corridon

Core of Knowledge: Professionalism (Directors/Administrators Track)

Very often we forget the importance of having fun while connecting with others to accomplish a common goal. Through a series of facilitated team building initiatives and guided reflection, we’ll explore the roles of team members while having fun and learning to appreciate unique individual strengths.

**2:45-3:00**

**Break**

3:00-4:15

### **Breakout session 3**

#### **“Maryland Program Accreditation Overview”**

Presenters: Petrea Fletcher, Darlene Schmidt Rena Dubensky, Sharon Vance

Core of Knowledge: Professionalism

This workshop presentation is designed to help participants understand the Maryland Program Accreditation process. Participants will learn what a program needs to do to go through the process; and learn what validators do as the program go through the process. At completion, programs will be able to make an informed decision about their Accreditation readiness and when to begin the MSDE Accreditation process.

#### **“Balls in the Sky – I Live in Space”**

Presenter: Akil Rahim

Core of Knowledge: Curriculum

From the Ice Age to the Space Age, using replicas and digital visuals, participants will discover, investigate, simulate, and create opportunities (DISCO™) that can help young children explore the wonders and mysteries of astronomy and the earth sciences. Each participant will receive a follow-up, take-home handout.

#### **“Teaching Early Math Through Children’s Literature”**

Presenter: Stacy Wallach

Core of Knowledge: Curriculum

Participants will use interactive materials to create meaningful math experiences for early learners. Concepts addressed will include number recognition, counting, shapes, measurement, sorting, patterns, math vocabulary and more. One, two, three, let's read!

#### **“Creative and Budget Friendly After School Activities to Keep those School-Agers Engaged”**

Presenter: Amy Weaver

Core of Knowledge: Curriculum

Creating fun and interesting activities for after school is always a challenge, especially on a budget. This training is designed to give providers fun and engaging activity ideas for planning school age activities that encourage involvement and learning. Prepare to get messy in this fun make and take session.