



WESTERN MD

# early childhood conference

*“Building Our Profession:  
Putting Excellence into Practice”*

September 23, 2017

Hagerstown, Maryland

# Schedule

- 8:00 – 8:30 Registration & Vendor Exhibits
- 8:30 – 9:00 Welcome & Opening Remarks
- 9:00 – 10:30 General Session
- 10:30 – 11:15 Move to Career Programs Building & Vendor Exhibits
- 11:15 – 12:30 Breakout Session 1
- 12:30 – 1:30 Lunch & Vendor Exhibits
- 1:00 – 4:15 Special Session
- 1:30 – 2:45 Session 2
- 2:45 – 3:00 Break & Vendor Exhibits
- 3:00 – 4:15 Breakout Session 3
- 4:15 – 5:00 Closing Remarks & Door Prizes

# Conference Information

## Selecting Breakout Sessions

To plan for comfortable learning spaces, with room for everyone, please limit capacity of the room to the seating provided. We appreciate you being mindful of constraints of the space, and choosing an alternate session to avoid overcrowding.

## Continuing Education Units

0.6 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are being offered by Hagerstown Community College, an accredited provider.

## Social Media

During this conference, please feel free to post photos, share your thoughts on sessions, and interact with other attendees on Facebook.

**WMDECC**onference

## Handouts

Handouts will be made available at each session (if applicable). Copyright laws apply to these materials. Seek permission of the author/presenter before duplicating any items.

## Photography & Videography

By registering for and attending this event, you agree that your image and voice recording may be used at any time, without further notification, for printed materials, web sites, social media, and other marketing and educational purposes.

## Opening Remarks Presented by:

**Arlene F. Lee**

**Executive Director**

**Governor's Office for Children**



Arlene F. Lee re-joins the Governor's Office for Children after a successful term at the National Academy of Sciences as the board director for the Committee on Law and Justice (CLAJ) where she worked to improve governmental decision making and public policy and to promote the understanding and dissemination of research in matters involving law and justice. Prior to joining CLAJ, Ms. Lee was the Director of Policy at the Center for the Study of Social Policy, where she focused on helping federal and state elected officials develop research-informed policies and funding to improve results for children and families. In this capacity, she oversaw PolicyforResults.org, a leading national resource for results-based policy. Previously she was the Executive Director of the Governor's Office for Children from 2005 until 2007, where she chaired the Children's Cabinet and was responsible for administration of the Children's Cabinet Fund. She has served as the Deputy Director of the Georgetown University Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, Director of the Federal Resource Center for Children of Prisoners and Youth Strategies Manager for the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention. Ms. Lee started her career as an attorney representing children and youth in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, and became the first director of the Kent County Local Management Board. She is the author of numerous articles and co-authored *The Impact of the Adoption and Safe Families Act on Children of Incarcerated Parents*. She has a B.A. in Sociology from Washington College and a J.D. from Washington College of Law, American University. As a result of her work, Arlene was named one of Maryland's Top 100 Women and has received three Governor's Citations.

## Featured Speaker

### Kurt Schwengel



**Kurt Schwengel** has been teaching Kindergarten in Santa Monica, Ca since 1995. He is also a national presenter for a variety of topics ranging from technology to creative teaching. He is an "NBC Crystal Apple" winner, eHow education expert, Google Certified Teacher and SMUSD "Teacher of the Year". His Ted Talk "Occupy Kindergarten" has reached thousands of teachers across the country.

Kurt attended and played baseball for UCLA from 1988-93 earning a B.A. in Anthropology and went on to earn a Master's in Education and an M.B.A. from Pepperdine in 1995. And after Kindergarten gets out every day, Kurt is the head varsity baseball coach at Santa Monica High School.

In 1995, Kurt created his original Kindergarten curriculum, "Rock and Roll Kindergarten" and has traveled to almost every state in the country introducing his curriculum to over 20,000 teachers. In 2011 he began his grassroots movement "Occupy Kindergarten" in an effort to "bring the fun back to Kindergarten".

Kurt can also relate to any K-12 audience as he explores the similarities between how we reach Kindergarteners and how we can reach High School Students. Its all about Student Engagement and Kurt knows how to engage regardless of the age of the student or teacher.

# Breakout Session 1

11:15 – 12:30

1 A

**Super Science**

Room 125

COK: Curriculum

Limited to 65 seats

Join Kurt for a fun and innovative approach to teaching science in your classroom. We will be going over more than just a list of experiments; we will be discussing integrating science into your daily routines.

**Presented By:**

**Kurt Schwengel, Featured Speaker**

1 B

**Ready at Five – Helping Educators Put Excellence into Practice**

Room 210

COK: Curriculum

Limited to 40 seats

In this session participants will be provided with an overview of the resources and evidence-based training offered through Ready at Five [www.readyatfive.org](http://www.readyatfive.org) including PEEP and the Big Wide World, STEM, and Math Institutes, cultural and linguistic competencies, VIOLETS literacy program, and family engagement resources. The latest research on brain development will be presented along with interactive activities will show how to effectively engage preschoolers and their families in learning.

**Presenter By:**

**Steven Hicks, Executive Director, Ready at Five**

Steven Hicks, Executive Director, has spent nearly 30 years teaching and working to build and improve quality early learning systems for America's young children. Most recently, he served as Senior Policy Advisor on Early Learning at the U.S. Department of Education, where he focused on advancing the national early learning agenda through, among other areas, the Preschool Development Grants and Early Learning Challenge programs. Prior to that, he was a Teaching Ambassador Fellow at the Department following 20 years as a preschool, kindergarten and early elementary school teacher. He is a frequent speaker on early childhood topics across the U.S. and internationally.

Hicks holds a Master's degree in Early Childhood and Primary Education from California State University in Los Angeles, and Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of California in Santa Cruz.

**1 C                    Who's There to Protect the Children – Strategies  
for Supporting Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse**

Room 213

COK: Professionalism

Limited to 50 seats

Early development and learning occurs when children are healthy and safe. This workshop will ensure that programs establish policies, procedures and strategies that protect children when abuse is suspected. It is vital that programs support mandated reporters via training, consistent mandates reporting policy implementation and post-report procedures to ensure that staff feel safe. In this highly engaging workshop, learn why staff sometimes don't report suspected child abuse. Video vignettes and research will be presented to inform discussions around the development of strategies, policies and procedures to ensure consistent reporting.

**Presented By:**

**Alan Guttman, Program Manager, Early Childhood Initiatives, Johns Hopkins University Center for Technology in Education**

Alan Guttman holds a Masters Degree in Early Childhood Education from New York University. He began his career as a preschool and public school kindergarten teacher in New York City and Los Angeles. Alan has served children birth to 12 years old, their families, and programs for 37 years, including 20 years leading and managing Head Start, preschool, and child care programs. He is currently the Program Manager, Early Childhood & Special Education Initiatives at Johns Hopkins University Center for Technology in Education where he supports Maryland EXCELS, the state's QRIS initiative. Alan worked with the Maryland State Department of Education during the initial revision of the Maryland EXCELS standards, and he was recently elected as a Central Maryland Regional Officer on the MDAEYC Board of Directors. Alan is also a member of the Maryland Early Childhood Research Advisory Group. From 2001 to 2012 he served on federal review teams evaluating the quality of education services and program management in Head Start and Tribal Head Start programs across the United States.

**1 D                    How Can You Support Young Children in Your  
Classroom with Sensory Processing Disorders?**

Room 123

COK: Special Needs

Limited to 25 seats



Have you ever observed young children in your classroom having meltdowns, biting themselves, or running around the room with their hands over their ears? Have you been at a loss on how to support these young learners who cannot communicate what is bothering them? This workshop will provide an overview of the 7 sensory systems that may be under responsive or over responsive causing young learners to engage in challenging behaviors. Participants will learn strategies to meet the needs of children who may have sensory processing disorders.

**Presented By:**

**Dr. Janet A. Mattern, Assistant Professor, Frostburg State University**

Dr. Janet A. Mattern is an Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education at Frostburg State University. She has over 30 years of experience in the early childhood field serving as a teacher and administrator. She serves as NCATE Coordinator at Frostburg State University, a National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Specialized Program Association Reviewer, and a Professional Development Instructor/Peer Reviewer for the state of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Mattern has a B.S. in Elementary Education, M.Ed. with a concentration in Elementary/Middle School Mathematics, and Ed.D from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Mattern's areas of interest include neuro-cognitive research, which improves learning and increases student achievement for all learners, teacher's effectiveness, early intervention, and digital literacy in early childhood classrooms. Dr. Mattern has published in Early Childhood Education Journal and presented at several conference on digital literacy, early childhood literacy, school transition and early intervention implementation.

**1 E**

**Credentialing Made Easy**

Room 124

COK: Professionalism

Limited to 25 seats

Confused about the Maryland Credentialing Program? Don't know where to begin? Join this interactive workshop for an overview of the Maryland Credentialing Program, the application process, and tips and tricks for a smooth process. Let's get you to a level 2 so you can take advantage of the training vouchers and better yet, let's make a plan to move up the levels so you can take advantage of that bonus money! Do not let your hard work go unrecognized!

**Presenter By:**

**Laura Kefauver, Child Care & Infant/Toddler Support Specialist, APPLES for Children, Inc.**

Laura Kefauver is the Child Care Support and Infant Toddler Specialist at APPLES for Children, Inc. in Washington County, Maryland. She has a BS degree in Liberal Arts and Technology and a MS degree in Curriculum and Instruction. Prior to joining APPLES, Laura taught Preschool for 10 years in Frederick and Washington Counties. She has a passion for helping to improve the quality of centers and family child care programs and helping them to succeed in child care by modeling best practices. Laura



works with providers in the areas of Maryland Child Care Credentialing, Maryland EXCELS, lesson planning, Curriculum, and Professional development opportunities. In her spare time Laura is an active volunteer with the University of Maryland Extension 4-H Youth Development program. She is a volunteer in both Baltimore County and Washington County and holds numerous jobs within the two counties.

1 F

**Health and Safety Regulations Meet  
Respectful Caregiving for Infants and Toddlers:  
How to Make These Two Considerations Work Together**

Room 214

COK: Health, Safety & Nutrition

Limited to 40 seats

The topic may not seem exciting but don't miss your chance to laugh, gain valuable knowledge and strengthen your infant and toddler program at the same time. This session examines how the Health and Safety requirements may seem cumbersome but they are an important part of protecting the health of our youngest. Discussions and suggestions are offered to provide high quality programming with respectful and meaningful care while still meeting and surpassing the requirements outlined by the Office of Childcare.

**Presented by:**

**Amy E. Weaver, Educational Consulting**

Amy E. Weaver is a childcare professional who specializes in training programs for caregivers, teachers, management and childcare program developers. She is a nationally certified trainer for WestEd's Program for Infant and Toddler Caregivers and the Program Administration Scale. She also has extensive experience in many curriculum and assessment systems.

Amy has more than 25 years of experience working in, running and owning childcare centers in the Washington-Baltimore metropolitan area. She is a tireless advocate for young children and has consistently spoken out about the need for proper environments for young children. She has taught dozens of early childhood education courses at the community college level, and has conducted training classes and speeches in 33 states and District of Columbia. She has worked with children ages birth through 14 years, and designed and led discussion groups to help parents and caregivers understand specific aspects of childhood development. Her writings on curricula, programs and environments for infants and toddlers appear in textbooks internationally.

# Special Session

1:00 – 4:15

## Basic Health and Safety

(MSDE Required)

Room 122

COK: Health, Safety & Nutrition

Limited to 32 seats

This training will provide an overview of basic health and safety topics including prevention/control of infections diseases, SIDS, shaken baby syndrome and head trauma, food allergies, vehicle and transportation safety, child abuse, and emergency management. This workshop will satisfy the pending regulation requiring all child care providers, including all center staff and family providers to complete this workshop. This workshop was developed in partnership with the National Center for Early Childhood Health and Wellness, Child Care Aware of America, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and Maryland Family Network, with support from the Maryland State Child Care Association.

### Presenter By:

#### **Robin Kerr, Child Care Support Specialist, APPLES for Children, Inc.**

Robin Kerr has over 20 years in education and training staff in the fields of early childhood and disabilities. She holds a degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education from Frostburg State University. She worked in the Head Start Program and was responsible for the education, nutrition, and disability aspects of the program, which served 300 children ages 0 to 5. After ten years working with Head Start, Robin began working with disabled adults and children. Currently, Robin is an employee of APPLES for Children, a child care resource center, as a trainer and a support specialist. Robin also works for Resources for Independence, a Center for Independent Living, located in Cumberland, Maryland. She is an Americans with Disabilities Act and a State of Maryland approved Person Centered Planning trainer.

# Breakout Session 2

1:30 – 2:45

## 2 A Technology in the Early Childhood Classroom

Room 125

COK: Curriculum

Limited to 65 seats

Technology can be fun! Join Kurt to learn the basics of setting up and using computers in your classroom. Explore the dos and don'ts of having technology, like digital cameras and I{ads, in early childhood environments. And, discover fun ideas and activities for integrating technology into all subject areas. Plus learn loads of wonderful online teaching resources.

**Presented By:**

**Kurt Schwengel, Featured Speaker**

## 2 B Child Engagement in Play and Learning as an Indicator of Program Quality

Room 213

COK: Child Development

Limited to 50 seats

This workshop will consider the importance of child engagement in play and learning as an indicator of program quality. In this interactive session, participants will learn how to define and identify the types and levels of a child's engagement with adults, peers, materials, play activities, and instructional tasks. Participants will learn how to use R.A. McWilliam's "Scale for Teachers' Assessment of Routines Engagement" (STARE)

**Presented By:**

**Alan Guttman, Program Manager, Early Childhood Initiatives, Johns Hopkins University Center for Technology in Education**

Alan Guttman holds a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education from New York University. He began his career as a preschool and public school kindergarten teacher in New York City and Los Angeles. Alan has served children birth to 12 years old, their families, and programs for 37 years, including 20 years leading and managing Head Start, preschool, and child care programs. He is currently the

Program Manager, Early Childhood & Special Education Initiatives at Johns Hopkins University Center for Technology in Education where he supports Maryland EXCELS, the state's QRIS initiative. Alan worked with the Maryland State Department of Education during the initial revision of the Maryland EXCELS standards, and he was recently elected as a Central Maryland Regional Officer on the MDAEYC Board of Directors. Alan is also a member of the Maryland Early Childhood Research Advisory Group. From 2001 to 2012 he served on federal review teams evaluating the quality of education services and program management in Head Start and Tribal Head Start programs across the United States.

## 2 C

### **D.E.A.R. Drop Everything and Read**

Room 123

COK: Curriculum

**Limited to 25 seats**

You have all heard the advice: "Read with a child every day!" And those who suggest doing so are absolutely right! Come learn about the importance of read alouds and how to model the concepts of print during a read aloud. These skills will help prepare a child for kindergarten. You will also have an opportunity to participate in a literacy make and take.

**Presented By:**

**Kelly A. Longerbeam, Early Childhood Teacher, Washington County Public Schools**

Kelly A. Longerbeam's passion is Early Childhood Education. She has had the opportunity to teach kindergarten for seven years and Pre-K for three years in Washington County Public Schools. She is currently a lead teacher at Funkstown School for Early Childhood Education and early childhood lead teacher for Pre-K programs in Washington County. Kelly is the mother to an active one year old who keeps her on her toes.

## 2 D

### **Developing Provocative Thinking Skills in Preschool Children Through STEAM**

Room 124

COK: Curriculum

Limited to 25 seats

From coding to ultraviolet light, participants explore fun STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art & math) investigations that can help young children use their words to analyze, synthesize and evaluate their observations. Participants will learn how to construct STEAM learning objectives that promote children's higher order thinking skills (HOTS).

**Presented By:**

**Akil K. Rahim, Learning Design Specialist, GWCIIS @ AC Learning Design Studios**

Akil K. Rahim is the Founder, Director and Chief Learning Officer for the George Washington Carver InVenTures Institute for STEAM at the AC Learning Design Studios. He has been conducting family engagement training for Head Start and early childhood staff and parents since 1995 and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art & math) training since 2007. Currently, he travels to programs and conference in MD, DE, PA, NJ and NY conducting his trainings. Akil holds a Master's degree in HRD Training and Development.

## 2 E

### **The Early Childhood Family Engagement Framework: Maryland Vision for Engaging Families with Young Children**

Room 210

COK: Community

Limited to 40 seats

Participants attending this session will learn more about Maryland's Early Childhood Family Engagement Framework and the resources developed to highlight supported strategies, processes, and techniques for explicitly implementing all the goals within the Framework. Additionally, we will discuss Maryland's next steps to further the work of the Family Engagement Coalition. Participants will have the opportunity to work in groups and share successful family engagement strategies that can be implemented in programs.

**Presented By:**

**Cyndi La Marca Lessner, Branch Chief, Collaboration & Program Improvement,  
Maryland State Department of Education**

Cyndi La Marca Lessner is the Branch Chief for the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Collaboration and Program Improvement Branch, Division of Early Childhood Development. Cyndi has presented on Maryland's Family Engagement Framework for the Maryland State Early Childhood Advisory Council as well as several conferences, including Maryland Head Start conferences, the

Maryland Family Engagement Summit, the NAEYC National Institute and the National Family and Community Engagement Conference. Before coming to MSDE, she worked for Head Start as the Mental Health and Disabilities Coordinator for 10 years. She received her Master's degree from John Hopkins in Early Childhood/Special Education.

2 F

## Learning Styles – A Tool Not A Rule

Room 212

COK: Curriculum

**\*\*\* This is a double session and runs from 1:30 – 4:15\*\*\***

**Limited to 40 seats**

In this highly interactive session you will explore the Learning Styles of students/children. Learning Styles vary significantly in today's classroom. Child Care professionals will be presented with resources, information, and strategies that explore the four basic learning styles and develop creative ways to implement strategies that make your students excited about learning!

### **Presented By:**

**Thelma Hayes, M.S. Ed, Hayes Education Resources, LLC & Erica Bates, Visionary Artistic Design, LLC**

Thelma Hayes is a licensed Family Childcare Provider since 1997, with a Master of Education Degree in Reading and Literacy. As an educator for over 25 years, Thelma has served as a classroom teacher, FCC mentor, and consultant to support and encourage the inclusion of all children in the learning process. She is a six time recipient of the Howard County Celebrating Success nomination. She currently serves as a mentor and facilitator in Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties while working with teachers in the classroom to support the best practices for creating an enriched learning environment.

With over twenty years of classroom experience and a Masters Degree in Education, Erica Bates strives to generate in each student a joy of learning. She has a Maryland Educator Certificate in Early Childhood Education Pre-K-3 and an Association of the Christian Schools International Educator's Certificate for teaching elementary. As a passionate and dedicated teacher, Erica Bates continues to seek to apply her extensive experience and knowledge in the area of Early Childhood education to create stimulating and enriching learning environments that provide children with a solid educational foundation. By utilizing learning styles, Erica's goal is to have a positive impact on student's lives so they can take what they have learned and apply it to the real world successfully.

## 2 G

### Leading and Managing Child Care Staff

Room 121

COK: Professionalism

**\*\*\* This is a double session and runs from 1:30 – 4:15\*\*\***

**Limited to 40 seats**

Working in the child care field can be challenging, especially in the area of recruiting and retaining quality child care professionals that meet OCC regulations. Directors, child care owners and administrators have to balance the needs of children, parents, staff and stakeholders while ensuring that they are creating an environment that fosters growth, accountability, excellence and professional development for the child care professionals working in their programs. This workshop will provide individuals who supervise child care staff with tools that will enable them to effectively lead, manage and coach child care professionals.

**Presented By:**

**Rachel Dolcine, MPA, CPM, Independent Education Consultant, Compass Consulting & Training Solutions, LLC**

Rachel Dolcine, MPA, CPM is an Independent Education Consultant who has over 15 years of experience overseeing youth development programs. Rachel is a business and nonprofit strategist, custom curriculum developer, trainer, speaker, coach and author. Rachel has a Bachelors from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, a Masters degree from University of Baltimore, is a Certified Public Manager, an approved MSDE trainer and a CPR/First Aid Instructor. In February 2015, Rachel was named one of Maryland's Top 100 Women. Rachel currently oversees the Before & After Enrichment department at the Y in Central Maryland and independently conducts training across the state of Maryland.

# Breakout Session 3

3:00 – 4:15

## 3A Developing Provocative Thinking Skills in Preschool

### Children Through STEAM

Room 124

COK: Curriculum

Limited to 25 seats

From coding to ultraviolet light, participants explore fun STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art & math) investigations that can help young children use their words to analyze, synthesize and evaluate their observations. Participants will learn how to construct STEAM learning objectives that promote children's higher order thinking skills (HOTS).

#### Presented By:

#### Akil K. Rahim, Learning Design Specialist, GWCIIS @ AC Learning Design Studios

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## 3B The Early Childhood Family Engagement Framework: Maryland Vision for Engaging Families with Young Children

Room 210

COK: Community

Limited to 40 seats

Participants attending this session will learn more about Maryland's Early Childhood Family Engagement Framework and the resources developed to highlight supported strategies, processes, and techniques for explicitly implementing all the goals within the Framework. Additionally, we will discuss Maryland's next steps to further the work of the Family Engagement Coalition. Participants will have the opportunity to work in groups and share successful family engagement strategies that can be implemented in programs.



**Presenter By:**

**Karina Cortés Hudak, Education Program Specialist, Division of Early Childhood Development, Maryland State Department of Education**

Karina Cortés Hudak serves as the Agency Grants Specialist at the Federal level for the U.S. Department of Education, which focuses on opening the lines of communication between home, school, and community, as well as providing practical solutions and developing parents as leaders. Born and raised in Panama, she moved to the United States to attend college. She holds a Master's Degree in Teaching with an emphasis in Special Education from Notre Dame of Maryland University. She also has several years of experience teaching in an inner-city public school system.

**3C**

**Moving and Mathematics**

Room 213

COK: Child Development

Limited to 40 seats

Play with geometric shapes. Explore the math and physics of air resistance while learning about the stages of throwing. Learn about the neuroscience of the brain as it relates to moving and learning.

**Presented By:**

**Dr. Donna J. Satterlee, Assistance Professor, University of Maryland Eastern Shore**

Dr. Donna J. Satterlee is an assistance professor at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore in the Department of Human Ecology, child development since 2002. She has been active with the Eastern Shore Chapter of the Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children as president since 2002. She has a doctorate in Educational Leadership and Change, as well as a Master's in Special Education, and a Bachelor's in Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education. In addition to holding a teaching certificate in Maryland, she has a certificate of approval for pre-service, core of knowledge and continuing training for child development curriculum, health, safety and nutrition, special needs, professionalism and community.

**3D**

**Preschoolers in Motion**

Room 125

COK: Health, Safety & Nutrition

Limited to 40 seats

Have you struggled with implementing physical education activities in your early childhood program? Then you won't want to miss this interactive session! You will be introduced to the SPARK (Sports, Play and Active Recreation for Kids) curriculum, while learning strategies and implementation tips for integrating

structures vigorous activities into your program. Participants should come prepared for lots of physical activity during this session by dressing in comfortable clothes and shoes. You will leave inspired and motivated to implement an exciting physical education atmosphere in your early childhood program.

**Presented By:**

**Staci Wallech, Teacher, Washington County Public Schools**

Staci Wallech is a Hagerstown native who has a Bachelor of Science degree in Special Education from Millersville University of Pennsylvania and a Masters Equivalency from Frostburg State University. She provided special education services to students in Washington County Public Schools at the elementary and middle schools levels for nine years. She then opened her Family Child care in 2005 and became Accredited and reached MD State Credential Level 6. She enjoyed working with and teacher "her" little ones for 9 years and in 2014, accepted a position as a Child Development Specialist at the Washington County Family Center. That position led her to becoming a Child Development Management teacher with Washington County Public Schools, where she prepares high school students for professions that involve working with young children. Staci lives in Hagerstown with her husband, children and a handful of rescued animals.

## **3E Using Princesses, Pirates and Pokémon to Help Young Children Learn How to Code**

Room 123

COK: Curriculum

**Limited to 25 seats**

The NAEYC/Fred Rogers position statement for technology use in Early Childhood classrooms recommends the use of technology that supports children's learning. This technology must be developmentally appropriate, promote responsive interactions, and empowering. In this workshop, participants will engage in creative storytelling using the Disney princesses, pirates, and Pokémon to build foundational coding skills, which develop critical thinking, problem solving, and creativity in young children. Candidates will learn how to use Osmo as a tool to help young children apply their coding skills.

**Presented By:**

**Dr. Janet A. Mattern, Assistant Professor, Frostburg State University**

Dr. Janet A. Mattern is an Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education at Frostburg State University. She has over 30 years of experience in the early childhood field serving as a teacher and administrator. She serves as NCATE Coordinator at Frostburg State University, a National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Specialized Program Association Reviewer, and a Professional Development Instructor/Peer Reviewer for the state of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Mattern has a B.S. in Elementary Education, M.Ed. with a concentration in Elementary/Middle School Mathematics, and Ed.D from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Mattern's areas of interest include neuro-cognitive research, which improves learning and increases student achievement for all learners, teacher's effectiveness, early intervention, and digital literacy in early childhood classrooms. Dr. Mattern has published in Early Childhood Education Journal and presented at several conference on digital literacy, early childhood literacy, school transition and early intervention implementation.

## 3F Let's PLAY: An Interactive and Motor Based Approach to Play

Room 214

COK: Child Development

Limited to 40 seats

This session will review play and why children play the way they do- it's all developmental! Effective play based strategies, schedules, environmental tips will be shared, as well as ways to engage parents so they want to play too! Participants in this session will gain more information on: 1) Choosing developmentally appropriate toys. 2) "Setting the Stage" to play, creating a play-friendly environment. 3) Promoting play to build social skills- sharing, turn taking, and cooperation. 4) Transitioning between play opportunities- initiation, follow through, clean up, etc. 5) Expanding play so it's a new experience every time.

### Presented By:

#### **Andrea Semler, Occupational Therapist, Washington County Public Schools**

Andrea Semler is an occupational therapist and service coordinator who serves the Washington County Birth through Five Program as their specialist. She has worked in early intervention as an OT, special instructor, and service coordinator for 15 years. Prior to that, Andrea worked primarily as a school based OT with students from PreK through high school in Washington County, and before that in Loudoun County, Virginia. Andrea has provided professional development on a variety of topics including the Routine-Based Interview, Play Based Intervention, Fine Motor Development and Sensory Skills in School Based OT, Coaching and Teaming Practices within the Birth through Five Program and in partnership with early childhood programs across Washington County.

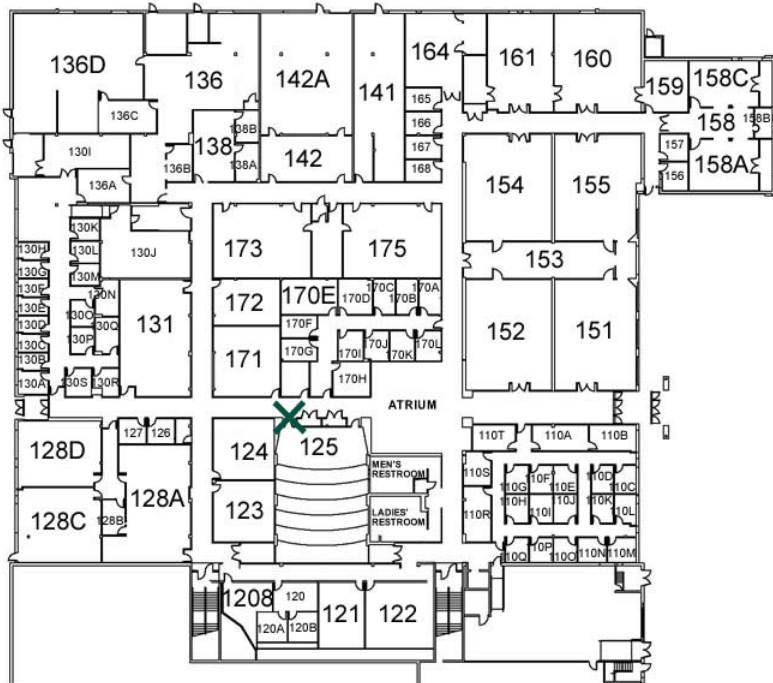
# Hagerstown Community College

## Campus Map



# Career Programs Building Floor Plan

## Career Programs Building First Floor



## Career Programs Building Second Floor



# Sponsors

Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children



Washington County Judy Center



Frederick County Judy Center



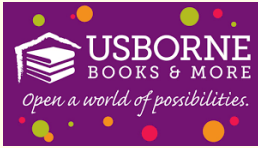
Hagerstown Community College



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# Exhibitors





A Special Thank You to Our  
Planning Committee Members

Terri Gwizdala, Co-Chair

Heather Glass, Co-Chair

Sandra Balbuena

Kim Halsey

Trina Johnson

Laura Kefauver

Terry Kitchen

Toni Stone

Holly Starliper

Chuck Wainwright

Amy Weaver