

SMART Family Literacy

Fall ECE Conference

October 26, 2024
Texas A&M University - Galveston, TX







Amy Musick, M.Ed., MS
Managing Director of
Early Care and Education

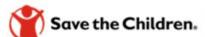
KC Weinand, MA Education Project Coordinator

> **Paula Mian** Garden Specialist

Did you know? In the book, the emerald city was not green. The wizard was a bit of a trickster and made anyone who entered the city wear green tinted spectacles to give the illusion of a green city. They were forbidden to remove the spectacles until leaving the city's walls

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Use the QR Code to make a donation today!

Agenda

7:30-8:30 Participant Sign-in, Breakfast by The Spot, and Visiting Vendors

7:30-9:30 Kendra Scott Pop-Up

(20% of profits donated to SMART!)

8:45-9:45 Keynote Speaker

10:00-11:00 Break-out Session One

11:10-12:10 Break-out Session Two

12:10-12:40 Lunch by The Spot

12:45-1:45 Break-out Session Three

2:00-2:30 Evaluations and Door Prizes

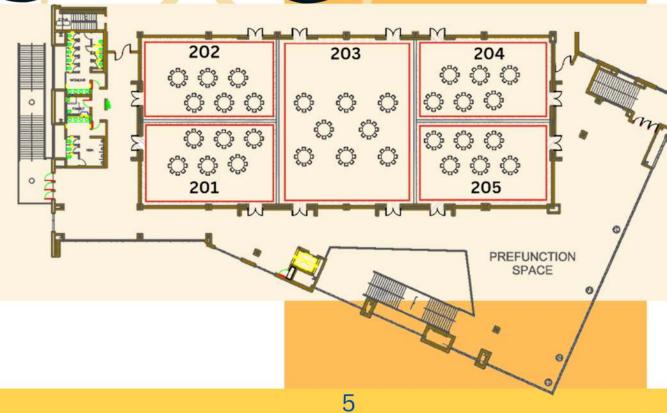
At 9:45am the walls that separate the keynote room into our breakout rooms will come down. Please be aware of your surroundings. These same walls will move back up at 1:45pm for the completion of evaluations and door prizes.

Did you know? In the book, Dorothy's shoes were silver and she wore a pink bonnet. The shoes were changed to red for the film to show off the new color technology for the movie.

Where are the BREAK-OUTS?



When the walls come down, you will not be able to move from 203 directly to any of the break-out rooms. You will have to use the hallways to get from room to room.



Meet the Presenters





Jessica Abraham, Early Childhood Educator

Jessica Abraham is an Early Childhood Educator with 18 years of experience. She is a trainer, coach, mentor, director, ITSN Specialist and owns a business called 'Love is Key,' which focuses on training, coaching, and mentoring in Early Childhood Education, emphasizing a 'Lead with Love' approach. Early Childhood is not just a passion but a calling and a ministry for her.

Dr. Cathy Guttentag, Children's Learning Institute

Dr. Cathy Guttentag is a licensed child psychologist and Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the Children's Learning Institute at UTHealth. She specializes in early childhood development and developmental disabilities, and provides evaluations to young children with referral concerns related to autism spectrum disorder at the UT Physicians Dan L Duncan Children's Neurodevelopmental Clinic. She is also the lead faculty member for the Texas Infant-Toddler Specialist Network, which creates and disseminates free professional development trainings and resources to early teachers of infants and toddlers and the coaches, mentors, and administrators who support them. Dr. Guttentag is a co-author of the Texas Infant, Toddler, and Three-Year-Old Early Learning Guidelines, the CIRCLE Infant & Toddler Teacher Competencies, and the CIRCLE Infant & Toddler Classroom Environment Checklist. She is also part of the content development team that created the CIRCLE "Play With Me" series of online professional development courses for infant and toddler teachers. She has presented on various child development topics at local, state, and national conferences.



J. Nikki Roberts, First Steps ECI - Spindeltop Center



Nikki Roberts is the Associate Director at First Steps ECI- Spindletop Center. Nikki has worked in all aspects of direct service and administration within various ECI programs for 10 years. Nikki graduated from Stephen F Austin State University obtaining a degree in Child and Family Studies with a minor in Early Intervention and holds credentials as an Early Intervention Specialist (EIS), Service Coordinator (SC), Pathways Early Autism Intervention Master Coach, and is currently training and working towards a credential as an Infant Family Reflective Supervisor.

Jaenikque "Kaye" Griggs, PT, DPT

Kaye has served children and families in various spaces for the past 25 years. She is a pediatric physical therapist with over 15 years of experience and co-owns a child care center in Southern Brazoria County with her family. Child development and advocacy for children with special needs are her passion. She is devoted to her family and enjoys spending time near the water with them the most.





Ann Davis, Save the Children

Ann Davis has worked for Save the Children since joining Hurricane Harvey Response in 2017. During that respnse Ann led a Child Friendly Space in a Red Cross shelter north of Houston. Since 2017, Ann has served families in Texas through Community Engagement and School Age programs. In 2022, Ann joined the national Child Protection team. She then moved to Program Implementation Safeguarding in 2024. In this role, Ann supports Texas, California, Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee and USP's Border Programs with safeguarding technical assistance and training needs. Prior to joining Save the Children, Ann was a voice private teacher, lecturer and professional singer and also taught special education in class support.

Caron Barley, Child Care Regulation

Caron Barley received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Family Studies from Lamar University. Caron has worked in the Child Care sector for over 12 years. Six years as a Pre-Kindergarten teacher for Houston Independent School District and six years as an Inspector for Child Care Regulation formerly Child Care Licensing. Ms. Barley's passion is training and classroom management. Ms. Barley's goal is to ensure that providers are well equipped professionally so that children can thrive in a safe and learning environment.





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Tawaki Hayden, Child Care Regulation

I am originally from San Antonio, TX. I have lived in Houston since 2003. Where I attended Texas Southern University and received my degree in Early Childhood Education. Throughout college I worked in daycare. After graduating from Texas Southern University. I became a teacher and taught for 13 years, grades Pre-K to 2nd grade. Throughout my teaching career I went to grad school at Texas Christian University, formerly known as Houston Baptist University. I received my master's degree in education with the emphasis on Curriculum and Instruction, MED. I have worked as a CCR inspector for the last five years in the Houston area.

Dr. Rebecca Huss-Keeler - UHCL

Dr. Huss-Keeler has taught early childhood courses in literacy and child development at the undergraduate and graduate levels at UHCL for 33 years. She was the creator of the BAS program in Early Childhood Education, a non-certification program for persons working in early care and education programs. She is a former 10 year veteran kindergarten teacher. A first generation college student Dr. Huss-Keeler enjoys teaching and mentoring, especially underserved students to reach their fullest potential through higher education.





Diana M. Vila, Infant Toddler Specialist Network

Diana M. Avila is an ITSN internal specialist at the Children's Learning Institute with the University of Texas Health Science at Houston and has worked in education as a teacher, trainer, coordinator, and coach for over 20 years. She has worked on many projects, including Infant and Toddler Birth to Three, HHFF (Premie PALS Parent Education), EHS (Early Head Start Projects), Supporting Sprouts, ENRICH, ENABLE, TXKEA & TSR assessor, and is a certified PALS trainer and coach. She holds a degree in Early Childhood Education and a Minor in Bilingual Communication from UH.

Militza Mezquita, Save the Children

A Native Californian, Militza graduated from California State University with a Bachelor's in Sociology with an emphasis on family studies. Her career took off when she moved to Texas became the Director of an Early Education Program. After completing her master's degree in Sociology with an emphasis in non-profit management, she was then recruited to become the Regional Program Director of a Foster and Adoption services across the state of Texas, overseeing local and regional child welfare and education efforts. In 2018, she began her work in emergencies, responding to Hurricane Harvey. Militza is a dedicated humanitarian with a passion for ensuring the quality improvement of childcare centers in the U.S.





Miya Gratten, Infant Toddler Specialist Network

Miya Gratten is an internal specialist for the Infant-Toddler Specialist Network (ITSN) at the Children's Learning Institute with the University of Texas Health Science at Houston. She has been with ITSN for 2 years and has worked in early childcare education as a teacher, coach, and trainer, for over 20 years. She holds a degree in Early Childhood Education- 6 from The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Dr. Preeti Jain, UHCL

Dr. Preeti. Jain is an associate professor of early childhood education at the University of Houston – Clear Lake. Dr. Jain has over 22 years of experience in the field of early childhood education, having served as a classroom teacher, administrator, consultant, assessor, trainer, coach, and curriculum specialist. Her research interests focus on improving early care and education quality, professional development for both preservice and in-service early childhood educators, and early STEM learning. She teaches courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and is actively involved in several local, state, and national professional organizations. Her passion lies in fostering early learning and enhancing the quality of early care and education.



Jessica Edwards, Galveston ISD

Jessica Edwards is a School Psychologist (Licensed Specialist in School Psychology) for the Galveston Independent School District (GISD). A graduate of Alaska Pacific University (B.A. Elementary Education) and the University of Houston Clear Lake (M.A. Behavioral Science and School Psychology) Jessica has had the pleasure of working in public education for the past 28 years as a teacher, director of Special Education/Section 504, and school psychologist. She currently oversees the intake and evaluation process for Early Childhood Special Education programs for GISD; fully enjoying the opportunity to return to work with her favorite population of students, 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds.





KC Weinand, SMART Family Literacy

KC is the Education Program Coordinator for SMART Family Literacy. She is a certified teacher with a Master's Degree from The Teacher's College at Columbia University. She is a native Spanish speaker with incredible translation abilities. As a TECPDS Registered Trainer, she provides professional development in both English and Spanish.

Visit the Vendors:





Session Descriptions Break-Out One 10:00-11:00am

What is Racial Literacy?
Militza Mezquita
Room 201

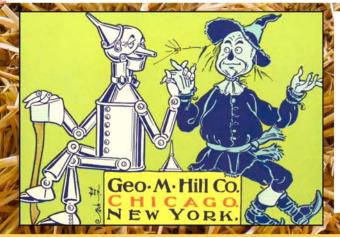
Discover racial literacy resources to help you feel more equipped to have comfortable conversations when supporting your children, families, and centers.

Supporting Early Language Development in Infants and Toddlers Diana Vila & Miya Gratten Room 202

Dive into strategies, explore supportive teacher behaviors, and learn about resources to promote early language development through CLI Engage.

Behavior Specific Praise Dr. Preeti Jain Room 204 BSP is an evidence- based strategy that has been well researched for its effectiveness in improving classroom behavior and environment. Come learn how to use it!

Using Lanuguage to Support Classroom Boundaries Kaye Griggs Room 205 The language that we choose to use has power. Support your classroom expectations by using the language that you use to set healthy boundaries in your classroom.



Visit the Vendors!



Session Descriptions Break-Out Two 11:10-12:10pm

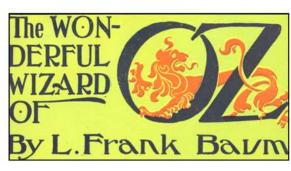
Jardinería con niños pequeños KC Weinand Sala 201 El enfoque de esta sesión es la jardinería por el proceso, más que por el producto. Aprenderán sobre huertos de verduras, sensoriales, polinizadores y alfabéticos, e investigarán el proceso de cultivo de plantas.

All Together Now - An Overview of ECI Supports and Services J. Nikki Roberts Room 202 How ECI and Child Care Providers work together to create positive learning environments by having an understanding of ECI, typical child development, discussion concerns with families, and more.

Safeguarding Children Ann Davis Room 204 Review Save the Children's Safeguarding and Anti-Human Trafficking Policy and work with partners on safeguarding needs and supports.

Love Beyond - An SEL Approach to Classroom Management Jessica Abraham Room 205 Grounded in the "Leading with Love" approach, participants will learn how to create a supportive classroom environment where young children can thrive emotionally and socially.





Session Descriptions Break-Out Three 12:45-1:45pm

La naturaleza es esencial KC Weinand Sala 201 Esta sesión investiga las formas positivas en que el tiempo pasado al aire libre con niños pequeños reduce las posibilidades de intervención para TDA/TDAH, problemas de procesamiento sensorial, ansiedad y mucho más al aprovechar más tiempo al

What is Child Find and How Does it Apply to Me? Jessica Edwards Room 202 Learn about the federal Child Find initiative and how to interact with the early childhood intervention and therapeutic services at the local level. Learn to navigate the process and guidelines for referring children ages 3-5 for school based evaluations.

"College, who me!? It's Never Too Late! Dr. Huss-Keeler Room 204 This presentation will discuss the value of going back to school to obtain your degree even if you are older than the traditional college age and the value it can bring to you both personally and professionally.

Classroom Control Without Losing Control Caron Barley & Tawaki Hayden Room 205

Learning how to maintain supervision and combating challenging behaviors while creating the learning environment you want.

Thank you for your continued sponsorship:











JOIN US FOR A KENDRA GIVES BACK EVENT

DATE & TIME

Saturday October 26th 730-930am

DETAILS

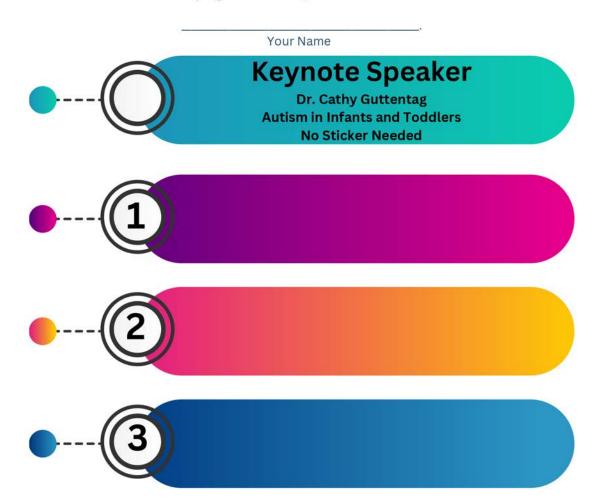
Can't Shop In Person? No Problem!
Shop Online (10/26 - 10/27) with code
GIVEBACK-HOXYM
and 20% goes back to SMART Family Literacy





Certificate Documentation

At the end of each session, you will be given a sticker to place in the boxes below. This page must stay in this booklet with the session descriptions and presenter biographies to be valid as clock hours with Child Care Regulations. This page serves as documentation that the participant listed below completed the clock hours described within this conference program on Oct 26, 2024. Each break-out session was one clock hour.



What's







SMART Family Literacy