



Sharing A Vision 2025

October 8-10, 2025 | Embassy Suites, East Peoria, IL

Schedule At A Glance (Tentative)



Approved for Early Intervention Credit. The DEC Recommended Practice Strand and EI Principle will be included in the Guidebook App schedule at least two weeks prior to the conference.

Wednesday, October 8

Time	Title	Location	Age	
3:00 - 7:00 PM	Registration	Conference Center Registration Desk		
3:00 - 5:00 PM	Panel Discussion: What's Happening in Illinois	River A-E		
5:00 - 6:00 PM	Networking Reception	Atrium		

Thursday, October 9

Time	Title	Location	Age	
7:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Registration	Conference Center Registration Desk		
7:00 - 9:30 AM	AM Break Stations	Pre-Function		
8:00 - 9:30 AM	General Session / Keynote: Dismantling Barriers to Inclusion and Belonging Jen Newton	River A-E		
9:30 AM - 5:00 PM	Exhibits Open	River F-J		
9:30 - 10:00 AM	AM Break			
10:00 - 11:30 AM	Workshops Block A			
	Bridging Generations: Collaborating with Parents and Staff Across Generations Cheryl Caesar, Lynn Owens, Roshaunda Henson	River CD	0-8	1.5 WWF
	Let's Read: Best New Children's Books on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Social-Emotional Learning, STEAM, and More! Amy Vandament	River A	0-5	0.75 INT 0.75 WWF
	Finding and Enrolling the Multilingual Children in your Community Tammy King	River B	3-8	
	The Anti-Ableist Classroom Jen Newton	River E	0-8	1.5 INT

Thursday, October 9

Time	Title	Location	Age	
10:00 - 11:30 AM	Workshops Block A cont.			
	Increasing Cultural Competency and Family Engagement Jodi Eppenstein	Grandview	3-5	
	Advancing Equity in Early Childhood Education through Inclusive Curriculum Carolyn Heyliger-Graham	Lydia A	0-5	0.75 INT 0.75 WWF
	Data-Driven Storytelling: Tailoring Insights for Every Audience Geoff Boise, Jill Tompkins	Lydia C	0-8	1.5 WWF
	IDEA and Advocacy: Protecting the Parent-School Relationship Andrea Marwah	Fon Du Lac A-C	0-8	1.5 WWF
	All Are Welcome: Expanding Inclusion in Early Childhood Megan Hillegass, Stefanie Echols	Fon Du Lac D-F	3-5	
	Supercharge Early Childhood with AI Erin Alexander	Cole / Schertz	0-5	0.75 INT 0.75 WWF
11:30 AM - 12:50 PM	IDEC Lunch Meeting	Grandview		
11:30 AM - 12:50 PM	Lunch	Skybridge Pre-Function; River F-J; Atrium		
1:00 - 2:30 PM	Workshops Block B			
	Brain Hacks: Happiness Chemicals and Hope Molecules Jennifer Rosinia	River CD	0-8	1.5 INT
	From Theory to Practice: Trauma-Informed Strategies for Classroom Success Lisa Cipriano, Emily Dobrowski	River A	3-5	
	High-Impact Considerations and Strategies for Multilingual Learners in Early Care and Education, Including Children Dual Identified in Special Education- Leveraging Love, Equity, and Play Dr. Lindsay Meeker, Tammy King	River B	0-8	0.75 INT 0.75 WWF
	Where There is Chaos at Small Group, Large Group and Story Time it's Time to Push Past It! Angela Searcy	River E	0-8	1.5 INT
	Early Childhood Assessment Tools: A Sandbox Experience for Professionals Sarah Isaacs, Jill Tompkins	Grandview	0-5	1.5 AS
	A Long Way to Child Care: Examining Travel Times for Families Using the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Ricardo Covarrubias, Bryan Preston, Kevin Dolan	Lydia B	0-5	1.5 WWF

Thursday, October 9

Time	Title	Location	Age	
1:00 - 2:30 PM	Workshops Block B cont.			
	Block Play in Inclusive Classrooms Sharon Sprague	Lydia C	3-5	
	Advocacy 101: Disability Rights, IDEA, ADA, IEPs, and Inclusive! Let's Get Informed! Kimberly Johnson, Tareema Jean-Baptiste	Fon Du Lac A-C	3-8	
	Increase Student Learning for All: Integrated Therapy and MTSS in a Blended Early Childhood Classroom Sheryl Pauwels, Jodi Iddings, Jodie Goecke	Fon Du Lac D-F	3-5	
	Project Approach for all Learners! Kendra Nenia	Cole/Schertz	3-8	
2:30 - 3:00 PM	PM Break			
3:00 - 4:30 PM	Workshops Block C			
	Self-Regulation: Calming Strategies for Young Children Jared Jones, Angela Searcy	River CD	0-8	0.75 INT 0.75 WWF
	Special Education Resource Panel Megan Mutti, Kimberly Johnson, Sheri Kraus, Jill Tompkins	River A	0-8	1.5 WWF
	A Visual Advantage: Empowering Preschools with Inclusive Learning Tools Angie Darnell	River B	3-5	
	The "Wheel of Choices". Tools and Tips for Empowering Child-Led Social-Emotional Problem-Solving Kira Hamann	River E	0-5	1.5 INT
	Hands-On STEAM for Preschool Erin Wiese-Reichert	Grandview	0-5	
	Everyone Belongs Here: Transitioning Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children from Early Intervention to Early Childhood Programs Sarah Saettele, Autumn Bruere, Julie Grygiel	Lydia A	0-5	0.5 ATY 0.5 WWF 0.5 INT
	Kristofer's Story: Kreative Solutions - Opening the Doors of Opportunity for All Throughout Life Mina Wright	Lydia B	0-8	0.75 INT 0.75 WWF
	How the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan Can Help Me and My Students Diana Brannon	Lydia C	3-8	
	Strengthening the Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS) Process Utilizing the Pyramid Model in an Inclusive Early Childhood Environment: One District's Journey Angel Powell-Muldrow, Nikia Cannon-Moore, Sharifa Walton	Fon Du Lac A-C	3-5	

Thursday, October 9

Time	Title	Location	Age	
3:00 - 4:30 PM	Workshops Block C cont.			
	All In: Jefferson's Blueprint for Inclusive Education Mary Davis	Fon Du Lac D-F	3-5	
	What's So Special About Special Factors? Andrea Marwah	Cole/Schertz	3-8	

Friday, October 10

Time	Title	Location	Age	
7:00 am - 1:00 pm	Registration	Conference Center Registration Desk		
7:00 - 9:00 AM	AM Break Stations	Pre-Function		
7:45 AM - 1:30 PM	Exhibits Open	River F-J		
8:00 - 9:30 AM	Workshops Block D			
	Community Collaborations: An Inclusive Placement Model for Preschoolers with IEPs Amber Schmiesing, Nicole Henricks	River CD	3-5	
	A Team Approach to ADHD Diagnosis, Treatment and Management in Preschoolers Evelyn Polk Green	River A	0-8	
	The Intersectionality of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): Building and Sustaining Inclusive Education Practices Dr. Antoinette Taylor	River B	3-8	
	"I'm Trying to Tell You Something!" Fully Understanding and Responding to the Hidden Messages Underlying Children's Challenging Behaviors Elizabeth Frisbie	River E	0-8	0.5 TYP 0.5 ATY 0.5 INT
	Fostering Growth: Play-Based and Developmentally Appropriate Approaches for Preschool Screenings for All Students Brittany Pezold, Ashley Klein	Grandview	0-5	
	Developing the IECAM Early Childhood Data Hub Andrew Nash	Lydia A	0-8	1.5 WWF
	The Well-Regulated Adult - How Who You Are and How You Show Up Impacts Children Erin Jackle	Fon Du Lac A-C	3-8	

Friday, October 10

Time	Title	Location	Age	
8:00 - 9:30 AM	Workshops Block D Cont.			
	Supporting the Whole Child and Family Through Comprehensive Communication of Early Learning Resources Courtney Hill, Samantha McDavid	Fon Du Lac D-F	0-5	1.5 WWF
	Pediatric Massage... Bundles of Benefits for Infants, Toddlers, and Caregivers Lynn Barts	Cole/Schertz	0-3	1.5 WWF
9:30 - 10:00 AM	AM Break	River F-J		
10:00 - 11:30 AM	Workshops Block E			
	Supporting Big Feelings: Positive Behavior Strategies for Young Learners Diane Schoenheider	River CD	3-5	
	Connecting with Non-English Speaking, Immigrant Families: Promoting Inclusive Services, Resource Sharing, and Self-Advocacy Alejandra Griffet, Jill Tompkins	River A	0-5	1.5 WWF
	Early Childhood Developmentally Appropriate Practices: Informing and Integrating High Leverage Practices for Pre K through Third Grade Dr. Antoinette Taylor	River B	3-8	
	Early Childhood Collaborative Itinerant Teaching Guidance Ann Kremer, Kristy Doan	River E	3-5	
	Building Belonging: How the Environment Shapes Early Learning and Inclusion Laurel Mateyka	Grandview	0-8	0.75 INT 0.75 WWF
	Playful Path to Purpose: Exploring the Enneagram to Cultivate Authentic Leadership in Early Childhood Education Jill Wardlow, Amanda Dye	Lydia C	0-5	0.75 INT 0.75 WWF
	Play is for Everyone! Erin Jackle, Stephanie Hopkins, Cory Mehnert	Fon Du Lac A-C	3-8	
	Best Practices in Pre-K Early Literacy - Aligning Pre-K Practices to the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan Brenda Vishanoff, Swati Gadhvia, Guadalupe Aguillon	Fon Du Lac D-F	3-8	
	Adverse Childhood Experiences: An Overview and the Potential Impact for Very Young Children Lynn Barts	Cole/Schertz	0-5	0.75 AS 0.75 WWF
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Lunch	Skybridge Pre-Function; River F-J; Atrium		

Friday, October 10

Time	Title	Location	Age	
12:45 - 2:15 PM	Workshops Block F			
	Community Inclusion Teams: How to Build It and Where to Go Jacqui Jones, Erin Stout, TBA	River CD	0-5	1.5 WWF
	The “Big Five” Classroom Strategies to Reduce Challenging Behavior Sharon Doubet	River A	3-8	
	Fostering Mental Health in Young Children Elizabeth Frisbie	River B	0-5	1 INT 0.25 TYP 0.25 ATY
	Sing It! Chant It! Learn It! Using Songs and Chants for Learning Across the Curriculum Kira Hamann, Rebecca Swartz	River E	0-8	0.75 INT 0.75 WWF
	How to Create Low-Tech Assistive Technology for Preschoolers Bridget Meis, Cecilia Mintz	Grandview	3-5	
	Creating a Classroom for All Our Students and Families Kristine Hernandez, Lisa LaPata	Lydia A	3-5	
	Transition with Confidence: A Guide for Families and Professionals Gina Musielski	Fon Du Lac A-C	0-3	1.5 WWF
	Refining a PreK MTSS system aligned to Kindergarten Brenda Vishanoff, Carli Benn, Sandra Perez	Fon Du Lac D-F	3-8	
	Let’s Get REAL! Teri Rouse	Cole/Schertz	0-8	0.75 INT 0.75 WWF