



Early Childhood Conference

Michigan District, LCMS

August 7, 2024

Agenda

St. Lorenz Worship and Event Center - 850 W Genesee St. Frankenmuth

Doors Open @ 7:30 - Light Breakfast

8:30 - 8:45	Welcome / Devotion
8:45 - 9:00	Announcements
9:00 - 10:15	Keynote - Ron Sandison
10:15 - 10:45	Break
10:45 - 11:45	Sectional #1
11:45 - 12:45	Lunch
12:45 - 1:45	Sectional #2
2:00 - 3:00	Keynote - Travis Grulke

Sectional titles and descriptions follow on pages 2-5.

SCECHs, training hours and MiRegistry hours will all be available. Please see the conference booklet for more information and steps to take to apply for the different hours.



Sectional One / 10:45 – 11:45

Speaker	Session Title	Room
Jen Welch	Around the World in 180 Days - Let's take a trip around the world and learn about the people and cultures of different countries. We will talk about different holidays and holiday traditions, explore some wonderfully diverse books and cook up some fun activities from all around the world.	
Rev. Brad Hubbard	The State of the Church and the Importance of Early Childhood Ministry - In the session, Pastor Brad will present current data on the state of the church in America and the vital role that early childhood education and ministry play in incorporating students and families into the Christian faith. Not SCECH eligible.	
Ron Sandison	Teaching that Touches the Heart Connecting with Students with Disabilities - Teachers and educators will learn practical methods and insights to connect with students who have unique learning challenges and help them reach their full potential. Some of the unique challenges discussed are physical, emotional, behavioral, and neurological. Ron uses humor and inspiring stories to instruct educators to understand their students and empower them to overcome obstacles, learn social skills, and gain self-confidence. Ron shares his own personal challenges and struggles with academics due to autism and teachers who inspired him to be an author and national voice for disabilities.	
Erin Baller	Developing Phonological Awareness - The research is clear, students with strong phonological awareness skills are in a position to become great readers, while students with poor phonological awareness skills almost always struggle with word reading. Lack of phonological awareness is the most common cause of poor reading. Of the students who are identified with reading difficulties, 70-80% of them have word reading difficulties that originate in the phonological processing system. In this session, we will dive into instructional practices and routines that will support phonological and phonemic awareness development in your students.	
Valerie Eby	How Does Your Garden Grow?: God's Amazing Creation Plan - In this section, we will discuss the amazing ways that God provides nourishment and beauty through plants, flowers, fruits, and vegetables. Engage your students in planting, watering, and watching the ways that seeds, pits, and cuttings grow into plants in God's creation plan, and do it in the classroom. Not SCECH eligible.	
Roxann Marchesi	Painless Portfolios - How to organize 'stuff' that you already do with students and ways to use that good 'stuff' in a student portfolio. How to show performance over time, showcase students' best work and how-to document experiences that can't go home.	
Nicole Blain	Collaborating with Families - Let's chat about the ways to engage families in order to provide the best care for children. We will discuss what the research says about collaborating with families on child outcomes and learn strategies for engaging with families.	
Andrea Hicks	Book Bunch: An Intervention Model - This session will cover how to create a reading intervention (Tier 2) reading program at your school as well as the importance of early intervention in the K-2 classrooms. The important components of a reading intervention lesson will be covered as well.	
Lynn Zeddies	Handwriting Readiness - Looking at the three areas of handwriting readiness, we will explore ways to strengthen each of the areas so that the children in your classroom are ready to hold the pencil correctly and form the letters properly when they are ready.	
Tiffany Young	Emotion Coaching: It's Okay to Feel That Way - Even our youngest friends can identify how they feel with a little bit of coaching. Learn strategies and activities to help youth identify what they are feeling and how to manage even the biggest emotions.	

Barb Ackerman	Exploring GSRP - Admin/teaching staff responsibilities, opportunities for giving back to our community/outreach. Information resources. Hear from educators working within a GSRP classroom for several years as they share their expertise.	
Rev. Dr. Douglas Krengel	Learning to Speak Modern Mom as a Missional Language - LCMS foundational education is the ministry that is most responsible for connecting LCMS ministries to the wider community. The primary person with whom this connection is made is the mother of young children - the modern mom. However, the social language the modern mom speaks (what we are here calling "Modern Mom") and the language the church speaks are often very different. In this session, participants will learn what Modern Mom is, why the church-ECDC needs to learn to speak it, and how the local congregation can begin speaking Modern Mom in order to make more connections for Christ. Not SCECH eligible.	
Tina Kassebaum	There's Hope for Peace in Preschool - Do you find that your time is spent on repeating requests and multiple warnings? Are the children's seemingly limitless behavior choices derailing your lesson and eating up precious limited teaching and play learning time before they nap? I will share techniques and strategies that are proven to decrease these low-level, time-gobbling behaviors and increase your time to teach through peaceful and fun play and lessons.	
Cindy Sommerfeld	Language and Brain Development from Birth to 3 - Take a closer look at the rapidly changing language of young children as we review research in brain development.	
Kevin Zoromski, Anne O'Rourke-Bean	Inquiring Minds Want to Know: Science for Young Children - For young children, the scientific process begins with observing, predicting, experimenting and interpreting. These explorations lay the foundation for future understanding of more complex science concepts. This program helps adults understand how science experiences promote child development, build self-confidence, stimulate curiosity and develop language skills. Participants in this workshop will walk away with ideas for hands-on activities that they can implement with young children.	
Jessica Meier	Visual Faith Tools to Enhance Your Classroom - Are you interested in learning ways to connect your students' hearts and minds to Jesus? Visual faith tools are a great way to engage students kinesthetically, visually, and spiritually on their faith walk with Jesus. We will have opportunities to try out different practices that could be easily added to your setting. Using these tools shared, we can help even our youngest students gain tools to tell their story in their faith journey. Not SCECH eligible.	
Robyn Adams	Building Resilience in Children - Resilience is the capacity to rise above difficult circumstances. In this section, we will explore ideas about building resilience and how resilience affects and is affected by stress and adversity. We will look at ways to enhance children's social competence, including assets and protective factors that can help children and their families recover from stressful situations and adversity.	

Sectional Two / 12:45 – 1:45

Speaker	Session Title	Room
Jen Welch	Around the World in 180 Days - Let's take a trip around the world and learn about the people and cultures of different countries. We will talk about different holidays and holiday traditions, explore some wonderfully diverse books and cook up some fun activities from all around the world.	
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Ron Sandison	Empowering Students with Autism & Learning Challenges - Teachers and educators will learn practical ways to empower students with autism to develop their gifts, handle sensory issues, decode behavior issues, and learn self-efficacy. Sandison gives insight for creating a hope complex, activities to encourage socializing, enhance decision-making ability, learn new skills and broaden interests. Ron shares his own journey with autism and the wisdom he gained from his mom and the forty plus autism professionals he interviewed while writing his third book Views from the Spectrum published by Kregel and a 2022 Indies Award finalist.	
Erin Baller	Developing Phonological Awareness - The research is clear, students with strong phonological awareness skills are in a position to become great readers, while students with poor phonological awareness skills almost always struggle with word reading. Lack of phonological awareness is the most common cause of poor reading. Of the students who are identified with reading difficulties, 70-80% of them have word reading difficulties that originate in the phonological processing system. In this session, we will dive into instructional practices and routines that will support phonological and phonemic awareness development in your students.	
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Rev. Dr. Douglas Krengel	Pastors and the Preschool Directors: How to Improve This Professional Relationship - Rev. Dr. Krengel is now in his 31-st consecutive year serving in a church with a preschool. He wrote his Ph.D. dissertation on this topic. Dr. Shirley Morgenthaler was his dissertation chairwoman at CUC. His research studied the Pastor-Director relationship across the Texas District of the LCMS. Some of the issues that this professional relationship struggles with were identified through multiple research techniques. By addressing the issues that were discovered in the research, more Pastor-Director Dyads (professional pairs) may find their way to enjoy high-quality professional relationships. If such a goal may be achieved, then high "process quality" may also be achieved within the church-preschool ministry. Finally, improved process quality may be used by the Holy Spirit to bring more souls more comfort through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Rev. Dr. Krengel was also part of a ministry team that reached out to a fast-growing suburb of Houston by building a second ministry location which was primarily used for foundational education. The preschool ministry went from 55 students to over 150 students during this period. Not SCECH eligible.	
Tina Kassebaum	There's Hope for Peace in Preschool - Do you find that your time is spent on repeating requests and multiple warnings? Are the children's seemingly limitless behavior choices derailing your lesson and eating up precious limited teaching and play learning time before they nap? I will share techniques and strategies that are proven to decrease these low-level, time-gobbling behaviors and increase your time to teach through peaceful and fun play and lessons.	
Cindy Sommerfeld	Language and Brain Development from Birth to 3 - Take a closer look at the rapidly changing language of young children as we review research in brain development.	
Kevin Zoromski, Anne O'Rourke-Bean	Mathematics for Infants and Toddlers - Infants and toddlers aren't ready to add or subtract yet, but they can learn and practice important math skills. Mathematics for Infants and Toddlers helps caregivers learn and practice ways to help children develop a strong foundation for important math skills. This workshop will help participants learn about the five math concepts that infants and toddlers should be exposed to in natural ways throughout their day, explore ways to support early math learning, learn about ways to develop an early appreciation for math and ways to bring math into the outdoor environment.	
Jessica Meier	Visual Faith Tools to Enhance Your Classroom - Are you interested in learning ways to connect your students' hearts and minds to Jesus? Visual faith tools are a great way to engage students kinesthetically, visually, and spiritually on their faith walk with Jesus. We will have opportunities to try out different practices that could be easily added to your setting. Using these tools shared, we can help even our youngest students gain tools to tell their story in their faith journey. Not SCECH eligible.	
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