



Explore • Discover
grow

A Faith-Based
Early Childhood Conference

First Baptist Church, Rogers
July 29, 2024

Explore Discover Grow 2024

To help ensure a productive and enjoyable experience, please be mindful of the considerations provided in this program.

Schedule

The schedule and course descriptions will guide you in choosing breakout sessions.

Considerations

Please be mindful of others and our host church throughout the day. During the sessions, please silence your cell phones. If you need to take a call, please step outside of the room before answering.

Food Services

Coffee, juice, and a light breakfast will be served from 7:45-8:15 AM in the Worship Center. Lunch and snacks will be served in this area during the specified times in the program.

Documentation

You will find a training documentation form and certificate at the back of the program book. These forms are provided for attendees who need a record of their attendance for professional development training hours. In order to receive credit for your training hours, please have your center director submit your training documentation to the ABSC office by September 1, 2024. To receive credit for attendance in a session, participants must be present for the entire 1-hour session and include on your document the correct code word provided by the presenter at the end of the session.

Evaluations

At the end of the conference, place your EVALUATION FORM in the designated box by the registration area as you leave. We appreciate your thoughts and opinions.

Special Thanks

We would like to thank Pastor Wes George, April Brown, and the entire staff of First Baptist Church Rogers for their hospitality and assistance in preparing for this conference.

Schedule

7:45 AM **Registration/Breakfast** | Worship Center

8:30 AM **General Session** | Worship Center
Embracing God's Hope, Peace, and Power—Andrea Lennon

9:45 AM **Breakout Session 1**
1st Choice: _____
2nd Choice: _____

11:00 AM **Breakout Session 2**
1st Choice: _____
2nd Choice: _____

12:00 PM **Lunch & Networking** | Worship Center

12:45 PM **Breakout Session 3**
1st Choice: _____
2nd Choice: _____

1:55 PM **Breakout Session 4**
1st Choice: _____
2nd Choice: _____

2:55 PM **Snacks Available**

3:00 PM **Breakout Session 5**
1st Choice: _____
2nd Choice: _____

4:00 PM **Dismiss**

Breakout Schedule

SESSION TITLE	ROOM	TARGET AGE	9:45	11:00	12:45	1:55	3:00
Joyful Bible Lessons for Toddlers Ally Freeman	92 B	Infants, Toddlers		X			X
Learning Through Play Ally Freeman	92 B	Infants, Toddlers			X	X	
Cultivating Empathy Lindsey Harrison-Bixler	92 A	Directors, 3's, PreK, K, & School Age			X		X
Facilitating Problem Solving Lindsey Harrison-Bixler	92 A	3's, PreK, K, & School Age		X		X	
Ten Ways to Jumpstart Your Day Andrea Lennon	Worship Center	All	X		X		
Tuneful, Beautiful, Artful, Worshipful David Poemoceah	93 A & B	All		X		X	
Are You a Baby/Child Whisperer? Michelle Shannon	90 A & B	Infants, Toddlers, & 2's	X				X
Exploring Emotions Through Art Michelle Shannon	90 A & B	Directors, 3's, PreK, K, & School Age		X	X		
How to BE an A+ Teacher Emily Smith	91 B	All	X				
Band-Aids, Boo-Boos, & Safety Aids Emily Smith	91 B	All					X
Director's Roundtable Melissa Smith & Erin Alexander	113	Directors	X				
Inviting Infants & Toddlers to Play Marcy White	Multi- Purpose	Infants, Toddlers, & 2's					X
Using Books to Support & Extend Learning Marcy White	Multi- Purpose	Toddlers, 2's, 3's, PreK, & K				X	
Making the Most of Outdoor Play Marcy White	Multi- Purpose	All		X			

Notes

- A facility map is located at the front of the program to help you.
- The "target age" refers to the age-group focus for the session.
- An "X" in the column under the session time indicates the times the session is offered.
- If a session is filled when you get there, please be ready to make another selection.

Breakout Descriptions

Descriptions are listed alphabetically by presenters' last names.

Ally Freeman

Family Minister, Grand Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Smith

Joyful Bible Lessons for Toddlers

Category: Infants & Toddlers

Learning Bible stories can be an enjoyable experience for toddlers and their teachers when you use fun activities, colorful illustrations, and simple age-appropriate language. Discover how to teach a solid foundation in biblical truths, while helping toddlers develop a love for God's Word.

Learning Through Play: Finding the Balance & Keeping Peace in Your Classroom

Category: Infants & Toddlers

Let's explore the various learning styles of young children and emphasize the importance of play as a crucial component of early childhood development. Discover effective strategies to integrate educational concepts into playtime, and make learning both enjoyable and impactful. Learn techniques for gentle redirection, which help to manage challenging behaviors while maintaining a positive and nurturing environment. Join us to gain practical tools and knowledge for supporting toddlers' growth and development through balanced and purposeful play to keep a peaceful classroom.

Lindsey Harrison-Bixler

Out of School Time Quality Supports Coordinator, ASU Childhood Services

Cultivating Empathy

Category: Directors, 3's, PreK, K, School-Age

By incorporating and modeling empathy, leaders can add value to their programs and promote positive skill building for young people. In this session, participants will practice strategies for supporting empathy building, including active listening skills that model empathy and encourage young people to express their emotions in a healthy way. Participants will also explore best practices for supporting empathy building in programming and plan next steps for incorporating these concepts into their work with young people.

Facilitating Problem Solving

Category: 3's, PreK, K, School-age

Problem solving is the ability to plan, strategize & implement complex tasks. Leaders have the opportunity each day to build problem solving opportunities into programs and support young people with in-the-moment problem solving, all to support skill building. In this workshop, participants will learn the basics of how our brain solves problems, and will practice a model for helping young people define and explore problems, preparing them to take action and learn from them. Participants will apply the skills and content to problem-solving with young people in their context.

Andrea Lennon

Speaker and Author, Andrea Lennon Ministry

Embracing God's Hope, Peace, and Power

Category: All

Life can be hard! Sometimes we have more questions than answers. Doubt and fear can creep into our hearts and steal our focus. Thankfully, we don't have to stay in a place of struggle. We can

experience God's hope, peace, and power no matter the situations we face. Hear powerful truths found in Romans 15:13 and how God's hope, peace, and power are available to us as we trust in Him!

Ten Ways to Jumpstart Your Day with Jesus

Category: All

Do you feel stuck in your walk with God? If so, discover down to earth ways to jump start spiritual growth in your daily life. You don't have to settle for an ordinary relationship with God. You can have a thriving relationship with God that is about living with your eyes and heart focused on Jesus. These easy to implement actions will be game changers in your daily walk!

David Poemoceah

Music & Theatre Teacher, Life Way Christian School

Tuneful, Beautiful, Artful, Worshipful

Category: All

Participants will learn about an approach to thoughtfully incorporating music in their lessons as a way to develop the whole child. Based on the First Steps in Music process and research from Dr. John Feierabend, this session explores ways to create a rich musical foundation in a way that honors the Lord.

Michelle Shannon

Preschool Director, Central Baptist Church, Jonesboro

Are You a Baby/Child Whisperer?

Category: Infants, Toddlers, 2's

Discover ways to care for children and make sure they are happy, confident, healthy and cooperative by understanding and responding to their inner nature.

Exploring Emotions through Art

Category: Directors, Toddlers, 2's, 3's, PreK, K, School-age

Does your artwork often show how you are feeling? Join us for this hands-on artful experience.

Emily Smith

Children's Specialist & Abuse Prevention + Response Consultant, Arkansas Baptist State Convention

How to BE an A+ Teacher

Category: All

Laying Biblical foundations in the lives of babies and preschoolers is vital in their spiritual development. Discover 10 ways you, as a teacher, can BE effective in helping build on this foundation as you teach.

Band-Aids, Boo-Boos, & Safety Aids, Oh My!

Category: All

Heads, shoulders, knees and toes and the faster we go! Let's explore safety tips and aids to avoid all the Band-Aids, boo-boos and woes that are common in working with preschoolers.

Melissa Smith & Erin Alexander

CDC Director, Park Hill Baptist Church, NLR | Trinity Baptist Church, Texarkana

Director's Roundtable

Category: Directors

Join us for a time designated for networking, question and answers, and discussing current topics in weekday education.

Marcy White

Project Coordinator, A-State Childhood Services

Inviting Infants and Toddlers to Play

Category: Infants, Toddlers, 2's

Join us to consider some super-simple ways to optimize engagement and create opportunities to extend learning with mobile infants, toddlers, and two's. We'll discuss ways to create invitations to play and strategies for interacting with children.

Using Books to Support and Extend Children's Learning

Category: Toddler, 2's, 3's, PreK, K

Join us to explore a beautiful collection of picture books as we think together about how "the right book at the right time" can draw out children's knowledge, answer their questions, foster classroom community, and reflect their newfound expertise.

Making the Most of Outdoor Play

Category: All

In this session, we'll discover the benefits of going outdoors with children and consider three essential experiences that take place during outdoor play. It's a chance to stretch our thinking about our outdoor play spaces and possibilities!

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2024 PLANNING TEAM

Erin Alexander | Trinity Baptist Church, Texarkana

April Brown | First Baptist Church, Rogers

Lisa Cobb | Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock

Joan Hubbard | First Baptist Church, Siloam Springs

Michelle Shannon | Central Baptist Church, Jonesboro

Melissa Smith | Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock

Emily Smith | Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Explore • Discover • Grow is a ministry of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention made possible through the Cooperative Program.



For more information contact:

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