

Pray, Praise, and PLAY!

Indiana District Early Childhood Conference

April 22, 2023

Keynote Speaker



Dr. Annette Anschutz

Dr. Annette Anschutz holds a B.A. in social work, an M.A. in family life science, an M.Ed. with an early childhood emphasis, and an Ed.D. in early childhood education. She has taught and directed early childhood programs for a combined service of more than 35 years. Since 2009, she has served at Concordia University, Nebraska, currently as associate professor of education and program director for the undergraduate and graduate early childhood programs.

Play: Its Place in Preschool Best Practices

As early childhood professionals, teachers of young children are uniquely positioned to be leaders in demonstrating how play-filled learning experiences for their students are essential to understanding.

Break-Out Sectionals

Tinkering with STEAM Annette Anschutz; Concordia, Nebraska

Participants will “tinker” with a variety of loose parts materials as they discover how to engage children in solving a problem related to a children’s book using science, technology, engineering, art, and math skills.

Building Blocks of Reading: Phonemic Development Jennifer Probst; St. Paul, Columbus

Phonemic awareness is the foundation for every child’s future success in reading. Children must be able to hear and manipulate oral sound patterns before they can relate them to print. Learn about brain research that supports phonemic development. Discover tools, including the Heggerty method and other multisensory approaches that you can easily fit into your daily schedule to help build early reading skills.

Pray, Praise and Participate! Sue Doepner; Early Childhood Consultant, Indiana District

“Jesus Time” has many components – Worship, Prayer, Scripture, Bible Lesson and an Application for Life with Jesus. Learn and share ways we can truly have children participating with their hands, voices, bodies, heart and soul!

Fine Motor Fun Tera Lewandowski; Immanuel, Valparaiso

Come discover FUN ideas to help strengthen your students’ fine motor skills! Learn about fine motor journals and how to incorporate them into your classroom. Discover easy ways to add fine motor activities to your center activities, and go home with some examples and ideas for new activities.

Developmentally Appropriate Rigor in Kindergarten Abby Fritch and Tracie Douglas; Our Shepherd, Avon

The goal of a high-quality Kindergarten year is to have developmentally appropriate rigor in instruction, assessment, and inquiry-based experiences that bridge the gap between preschool and first grade. Learn how to scaffold student learning through standards-based rubrics, leave with further knowledge about small group instruction, and how to incorporate inquiry-based learning into their kindergarten classroom.

Inquiry Based Learning in Kindergarten Tracie Douglas; Our Shepherd, Avon

What does the Inquiry Based learning look like in the Kindergarten classroom? Using the structure of the Project Approach, come learn how to engage kindergarten students in inquiry based learning while providing developmentally appropriate opportunities to strengthen learning dispositions.

Why I Don’t Make Paper Plate Lambs Anymore Amy Helmkamp; Our Shepherd, Avon

I was a teacher who made paper plate lambs with my students and many other “crafts”. My Pinterest boards were filled with “cute” ideas to decorate the walls. A colleague challenged me and asked, “What is the goal of making this lamb?” I didn’t have a good answer as I thought as long as they were producing, they were learning. Come and find out how to reduce your stress, change your way of thinking, and create meaningful experiences.

The Environment as the Third Teacher Amy Helmkamp; Our Shepherd, Avon

Less is often more! Are your students often distracted and a bit anxious? We are bombarded with so many colors, ads, and unnecessary clutter in our lives. Find out how changing your classroom environment can change everything. You will leave with ideas for co-creating meaningful classroom environment that you can implement right away.

Building Community and Friendships During Circle Time Jenna Hicks; Lutheran Foundation EC coordinator

What is circle time and how long should it last? Should we sing the days of the week and the months of the year? Research is showing these may not be the best practices for our youngest learners. Explore how to engage children in a large group to prepare for their day, and build community through stories, music and role play. Discussing feelings, choices and solving problems together will help beyond the rug as the children play in the classroom where the real learning begins to happen!

Jesus And Me (JAM) Community Outreach Program for Babies and Toddlers Angie Singer; Zion, New Palestine

Jesus and Me is a FREE early childhood enrichment program for children 6 months to 3 years and their caregiver. Weekly themes include stories, songs, games, Jesus Time, art projects, and purposeful play. This is a wonderful introduction to our preschool program and helps connect people to Christ through serving our community through Christian Education. Learn how to start a program at your center to reach the young children in your community.

Spark Learning Lab, I-Lead website, Indiana Learning Paths and more Becky Grider, Spark Learning Lab

Are these resources familiar or unfamiliar to you? Join this representative from Spark Learning Lab and learn all you need to know about navigating the state of Indiana websites for early childhood trainings and resources.

Autism Spectrum Disorders in Early Childhood Kara Bratton, LSEM

Concerns about children being on the autism spectrum are prevalent in early childhood settings. This session will discuss signs that may be noticed at this age, appropriate steps to be taken, and tips for talking with parents. Some practical strategies will also be shared that would be beneficial for children when signs of autism are observed.

The Impact of COVID on behavior, and how you can Help! Kara Bratton, LSEM

COVID has had a significant impact on students at all ages, but it has greatly affected young children's social development and behavior. This session will discuss what is currently known about these changes, and how early childhood teachers can incorporate practical ideas to help students' behavior in a loving manner

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Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School, Indianapolis

9:00-9:45 Registration, Continental Breakfast, Vendors, and Connect!

9:45-10:05 Welcome and Worship

10:05 -11:10 Keynote Presentation – Dr. Annette Anschutz

Play: Its Place in Preschool Best Practices

11:20-12:15 Break-Out Sectional 1

12:15-1:15 Lunch and Vendors

Announcements

1:15-2:10 Break-Out Sectional 2

2:15-3:10 Break-Out Sectional 3

3:15-3:30 Closing