

THE 33RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CHILD CARE ADVANCEMENT NETWORK BUILDING EDUCATORS



OCTOBER 9 & 10, 2026
Friday & Saturday



PRINCESS ROYALE OCEANFRONT RESORT
9100 Coastal Highway | Ocean City, MD 21842

APPROVAL NO: CWO-164644



WELCOME

Dear Participants, Presenters, Vendors, and Volunteers,

Welcome to the MSFCCA 33rd Annual Conference – Child Care Advancement Network Building Educators (CCANBE)! We are so glad you are here with us at the Princess Royale in Ocean City, Maryland, on October 9 and 10, for two days of learning, connection, and celebration.

We are honored to have two inspiring keynote speakers with us this year. On Friday, Dr. Amanda Holliday-Bembridge will open the conference with an honest and humorous look at the realities of family child care. On Saturday, Marica Cox Mitchell of the Bainum Family Foundation will speak to the power of home-based early learning and the educators who make it possible.

None of this would be possible without the partners who believe in this work as much as we do. Thank you to our donor, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), and to our sponsors, the National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA) and the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC). We are also deeply grateful to the Women's Foundation and the Bainum Family Foundation, whose continued grant support helps us expand opportunities for providers and strengthen the early childhood workforce across Maryland.

To our family child care providers and early childhood educators: the work you do every day matters far beyond your program's walls. The first five years shape so much of who a child becomes, and some of the most important learning of their life happens with you. When you open your home to a child, every song you sing, every story you read, every conflict you help them work through, and every moment you make them feel safe and seen becomes part of the foundation they build on. They may not remember every song or story, but the love and care you gave them stay with them for the rest of their lives. That is not a small thing. It is some of the most important work anyone can do.

Your impact also reaches far beyond the children in your care. You give parents the peace of mind to go to work, go to school, and provide for their families. You keep businesses running, communities connected, and our economy moving. For many families, you are a trusted partner, the person they turn to with questions, worries, and good news. Early childhood education is one of the most vital professions there is, and too often one of the least recognized. That is why this conference exists. It is our investment in you, because investing in early childhood educators means investing in children, families, and Maryland's future. By being here, you are investing in yourselves, so take a moment to thank yourselves for that.

Over these two days, you will learn from breakout sessions, connect with fellow educators, visit with vendors, and leave with practical strategies you can use right away. We hope you also leave with something just as important: a reminder of why you chose this work, and the energy to keep doing it well.

A heartfelt thank you to our Conference Co-Chairs, Wendy Dingus and Monica Braden, for their leadership and dedication, and to our volunteers, who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to bring this event together. To our presenters and vendors: thank you for sharing your expertise, your time, and your passion with our community.

Thank you for being here, and for everything you do. Together, let's keep building educators, raising the bar for quality care, and shaping a brighter future for Maryland's children and families.

Warm regards,

Ruby Daniels
President, Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA)

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TIPS & GUIDELINES

Be Respectful in Class

Please be considerate of everyone around you. Avoid side conversations during keynotes and classes. If you need to step out for a restroom break or a phone call, please keep it to 5 minutes or less.

Be On Time

Please arrive on time for every session. Class doors will close 10 minutes after the session starts, and late arrivals will not be let in.

Need Help? Ask Us!

If you need anything, ask your class moderator or stop by the Registration desk. We're happy to help.

Always Wear Your Name Badge

Your name badge is your pass to all conference activities. Wear it where it can be seen at all times. You will not be allowed into keynotes, classes, or meals without it.

When you pick up your badge, check that it has your name on it and that you have only one. Badges can stick together, and you may accidentally take someone else's.

Stay in Your Chosen Classes

Please attend only the classes you registered for. Room sizes are planned around your selections, and we promise every class is a great one!

Your Certificate and Stickers

- When you receive your certificate at registration, **check that it has your name on it and that you have only one.** Papers can stick together, and you may accidentally take home someone else's certificate.
- Your certificate has spaces for session stickers. You will get one sticker at the end of each class you attend.
- After each class, please wait for your class moderator to hand you your attendance sticker.
- Keep your certificate and stickers safe. **A replacement certificate costs \$20.**

Free Parking

Hotel parking is free for all attendees, presenters, and vendors.

Adults Only

This event is for adults 18 years and older only.

Lost and Found

If you find a lost item, please bring it to the Registration desk. Before leaving a room, check that you have all your belongings. We recommend leaving valuables at home. MSFCCA is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

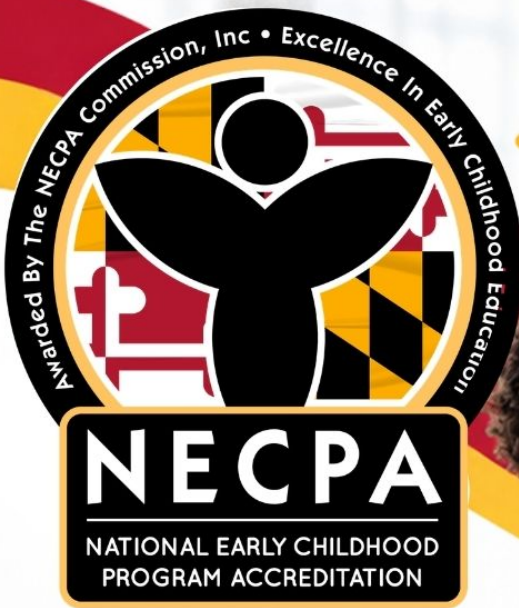
Help Us Improve

Your feedback matters! Please fill out the evaluations. Your comments help us make next year's conference even better.

Learn & Have Fun!

This weekend is for you. Enjoy every moment, learn something new, and connect with your fellow educators!





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8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Friday Keynote / General Session
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Vendor / Exhibit Hall Visit
9:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Breakout Session 1
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Lunch
12:30 PM – 1:00 PM	Basket Raffle / Vendor / Exhibit Hall Visit
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Breakout Session 2
3:15 PM – 5:15 PM	Breakout Session 3

FRIDAY KEYNOTE

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

"IT'S NOT BABYSITTING!" LAUGHING SO WE DON'T CRY ABOUT THE REALITIES OF FAMILY CHILD CARE

Keynote Speaker: Amanda Holliday-Bembridge
COK:1PRO

Family child care providers do far more than "babysit." They teach, nurture, manage businesses, meet licensing and quality standards, support families, and strengthen the workforce—all from their homes.

Through humor, storytelling, and real experiences from the field, this keynote celebrates the skill, resilience, and impact of family child care providers. Participants will laugh, reflect, and leave feeling validated, energized, and proud of the essential work they do.

Participants will leave with:

- A strengths-based view of their work
- Ways to reframe the family child care narrative
- Tools for using humor to build resilience
- Renewed pride in their role



ENGLISH**A. Rethinking Children's Behaviors from A Trauma-Informed, Sensory-Based Lens to Build Stronger Relationships**

Amanda Holliday-Bembridge | 1 CD; 1 SN

Don't lie, even if you've never said it aloud, there has definitely been a time when you wished that one kid would stay home. It's probably the child that challenges you the most, the one that makes the day seem longer than it really is, and the one that has the most unwanted behaviors of any of the children you work with. It's ok, you're human, you're allowed to have these thoughts! During this session, we'll talk about how to take a more curious approach towards understanding the reason behind why these behaviors exist from a trauma-informed, sensory-based lens. Using the Polyvagal Theory as a guide, participants will learn how our bodies perceive sensory information, how our nervous system processes it into physiological responses, and how these processes result in behaviors. From this deeper, more empathetic understanding, participants will be able to reframe their thinking and manage their stress responses as they focus on building a strong relationship with each child.

B. Heggerty Introduction Session: Phonemic Awareness (Early Pre-K & Pre-K)

Gabriela Covarrubias | 2 CUR

These sessions are designed for teachers new to the Phonemic Awareness curriculum (Early Pre-K & Pre-K). Teachers will learn the importance of phonemic awareness instruction and why it is an essential foundational skill. We'll explore key components of a phonemic awareness lesson, the progression of skills throughout a school year, and additional scaffolds teachers can use to support diverse student needs.

C. Classroom management: Implementing consistency and building community

Maresa Carol "MC" Cordeta & Ruby Daniels | 1 CUR & 1 CD

The workshop focuses on practical strategies to create predictable routines and clear expectations that support positive behavior. Participants will learn how to foster a strong sense of community where children feel respected, connected, and ready to learn.

SPANISH | ESPAÑOL**SA. Inclusión real: Crear un aula en la que todos los niños pertenecen**

Gloria Salazar | 2 SN

¿Realmente estamos creando aulas inclusivas o simplemente haciendo ajustes mínimos? La inclusión no se trata solo de abrir la puerta; se trata de asegurar que cada niño se sienta bienvenido, comprendido y valorado.

En esta sesión, derribaremos los mitos sobre la inclusión y transformaremos la manera en que vemos nuestros entornos de aprendizaje. Hablaremos sobre estrategias prácticas para adaptar el ambiente, las rutinas y la enseñanza sin sentirnos abrumados. También aprenderemos cómo trabajar de la mano con las familias y convertirnos en agentes de cambio para nuestros niños.



ENGLISH**D. Schedules and Lesson Plans: High-Quality Planning Using the Maryland EXCELS Standards**

Yvonne Bell & Meghan Leach Gwynn | 2 CUR

Using the Maryland EXCELS Standards, participants will learn how to develop and coordinate daily schedules and lesson plans.

E. Empowering Providers, Empowering Families: Understanding MCITP & Early Intervention

Jill Lyons & Supriya Avadhanula | 1 SN; 1 COM

This session will equip childcare providers with practical knowledge and tools to support early development while deepening their understanding of Maryland's new regulation requiring programs to inform families about Early Intervention (EI). Participants will learn how the Montgomery County Infants & Toddlers Program (MCITP)—one of the state's federally mandated Part C programs—supports children birth to age three through a culturally responsive coaching model that fits naturally into daily routines. The session will offer clear strategies for talking with families about developmental milestones, explaining EI in ways that reduce stigma, understanding developmental screening tools like the ASQs, and navigating the referral process. Providers will leave confident in how to meet the regulation's requirements and how to partner effectively with families and their county's Infants and Toddlers program to support children's growth.

F. From Sounds to Stories: Growing Confident Young Readers

Maresa Carol "MC" Cordeta & Ruby Daniels | 1 CUR & 1 CD

This workshop explores engaging, developmentally appropriate strategies to build phonological awareness, vocabulary, and early comprehension skills. Participants will learn practical ways to support children in becoming confident, enthusiastic readers through play-based and interactive literacy experiences.

SPANISH | ESPAÑOL**SB. La conciencia fonológica (Preescolar)**

Gabriela Covarrubias | 2 CUR

Estas sesiones están diseñadas para maestros que son nuevos en el currículo de Conciencia Fonológica en Español (Preescolar). Los participantes aprenderán la importancia de la enseñanza de la conciencia fonológica, silábica y fonémica, y por qué estas habilidades constituyen una base esencial para el desarrollo de la biliteracidad.

Exploraremos los componentes clave de una lección de conciencia fonológica, la progresión de las habilidades a lo largo del año escolar y los apoyos adicionales que los maestros pueden utilizar para atender las diversas necesidades de sus estudiantes.



ENGLISH**G. Science by the Book: Using Children's Literature to Foster Scientific Thinking**

Linda Bratcher | 2 CUR

This workshop introduces early educators to the concept of integrating science with children's literature to spark curiosity and encourage scientific thinking in early childhood. Participants will explore how books can provide a foundation for introducing scientific concepts and hands-on activities that support children's natural curiosity and love for learning. Through a combination of practical examples, demonstrations, and group discussions, educators will leave with new tools to bring science to life through books in their own programs

H. The Story's the Thing

Sarah Brady | 1.5 CUR; .5 COM

Stories can transform learning—but who has time to find them? In this hands-on PD session, discover quick ways to find meaningful stories and powerful strategies to engage students with them. Create your own story toolkit, explore themes and genres, and try interactive techniques that bring stories—and students—to life.

I. Writing Quality Policies and Procedures: How to Develop and Document Daily Practices

Rosemary Lober & Sabrina Scott-Cunningham | 2 PRO

Using the Maryland EXCELS standards, participants will learn how to develop policies and procedures that are professional, coherent and informative.

SPANISH | ESPAÑOL**SC. Educar para la Paz: Eliminando Barreras a través de la Educación Antiseggo**

Graciela Semidey | 1 PRO; 1 COM

Educar para la Paz: Eliminando Barreras a través de la Educación Anti Prejuicios busca enfatizar la creación de entornos de aprendizaje donde cada niño y cada familia se sientan respetados, incluidos y valorados. Ayuda a los educadores a reconocer y abordar estereotipos, prejuicios e inequidades que pueden afectar el sentido de pertenencia y el aprendizaje de los niños.

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7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Registration / Breakfast
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	General Session / Keynote 2
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Vendor / Exhibit Hall Visit
9:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Breakout Session 4
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Lunch
12:30 PM – 1:00 PM	Basket Raffle / Vendor / Exhibit Hall Visit
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Breakout Session 5
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Basket Raffle Pick up

SATURDAY KEYNOTE

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

THE POWER OF HOME-BASED EARLY LEARNING: RECOGNIZING FAMILY CHILD CARE EDUCATORS

Keynote Speaker: Marica Cox Mitchell
COK:1PRO

This session will provide an overview of the important role that Family Child Care Educators play in the child care system. It will identify areas of strengths and gaps that need attention. Participants will reflect on their role in shaping the current and future state of child care in Maryland.



ENGLISH**J. Little Beats Big Growth**

Alexandria Cooper | 1.5 CUR; .5 CD

The workshop will focus on using music and movement to support early childhood development in engaging and practical ways. I will focus on easy-to-implement strategies that promote active learning, strengthen listening skills, and encourage social interaction.

K. Empowering Children Through Emotional Wellness

Saru Nithyanandam | 2 HSN

The key idea of this presentation is to deepen the awareness and importance of social emotional wellbeing in early childhood settings. The intention of this training is for the educators/ care givers to learn simple, effective strategies to build strong social emotional skills that will create an environment that nurtures individual wellbeing, develop self-awareness.

L. The Iron Triangle in Action: Simple Systems to Strengthen Your Child Care Business

Sandra Amorim & Fatima Valdez-Bain | 2 PRO

Running a successful family child care business requires balancing enrollment, fee collection, and covering costs. This interactive workshop introduces the "Iron Triangle" framework and shows how child care management software (CCMS) and practical tools can strengthen daily operations and financial sustainability. Participants will explore real-world strategies to improve enrollment, reduce unpaid tuition, and better understand their costs. Attendees will leave with clear, actionable steps they can implement immediately.

SPANISH | ESPAÑOL**SD. Rutas educativas para profesores de infantil**

Nelida Andres | 2 PRO

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ENGLISH**M. Media with Purpose: Supporting Early Learning and Healthy Media Habits**

Ellen Batkhan, Krista Respass & Karla Thompson | 2 CD

This interactive session supports providers in navigating the challenge of teaching alongside screens, technology, and media that shape young children's attention and learning. Rather than solely focusing on screen time, we will empower educators to explore how media can be used intentionally to support development. In alignment with American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations, participants will examine research on media's impact, reflect on their role in fostering healthy media habits, and gain practical strategies that correlate with Maryland State Department of Education Early Learning Standards. Through hands-on exploration using Maryland Public Television's Media STEPs framework (Select, Talk, Explore, Play), providers will build confidence in using media as a purposeful tool and in supporting families around screen use.

N. Small Settings, Big Impact: Building Mentor and Leadership Skills in the Family Child Care Community

Angie Sparks & Stephanie Cooper | 2 PRO

This reflective and engaging session explores how family child care providers can grow into confident mentors and leaders within their community. Using a Facilitated Attuned Interactions model, participants will engage in reflective conversations and practical strategies that strengthen relationship-based mentoring practices. The session will highlight the core skills of effective mentors, such as active listening, responsiveness, trust-building, and reflective questioning. Through discussion and shared experiences, attendees will leave with tools to foster supportive, sustainable mentoring relationships that build leadership capacity across the family child care community.

O. Supporting Behavior in Family Child Care: What It Means, What to Do and When to seek help

Tamea Moore, Meg McClary & Sheila Maness | 1 CD & 1 SN

This workshop equips family child care educators with practical strategies to better understand and respond to children's behavior while exploring the connection between social-emotional development and behavior through the Pyramid Model. Participants will gain real-world tools for immediate use and learn when additional support may be beneficial and how to access it. Facilitated by early childhood specialists from across the state, educators will leave with a clear understanding of available support services for children with concerning behaviors, developmental delays, or disabilities, and how to connect directly with resources in their local area.

SPANISH | ESPAÑOL**SE. El Triángulo de Hierro en Acción: Sistemas Simples para Fortalecer su Negocio de Cuidado Infantil**

Fatima Valdez-Bain & Sandra Amorim | 2 PRO

Dirigir con éxito un negocio de cuidado infantil familiar requiere equilibrar la inscripción, el cobro de pagos y los gastos. Este taller interactivo presenta el "Triángulo de Hierro" y muestra cómo el software de gestión de cuidado infantil (CCMS, por sus siglas en inglés) y herramientas prácticas pueden ayudarle a mejorar las operaciones diarias y la estabilidad financiera. Los participantes aprenderán estrategias sencillas y reales para aumentar la inscripción, reducir los pagos atrasados y entender mejor sus gastos. Las personas que asistan se irán con pasos claros y prácticos que podrán implementar de inmediato.



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CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENTS

SESSION 1	OCT 9 · FRIDAY · 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM
A	Dominica
B	Eleuthera
C	Cayman
SA	Barbados

SESSION 2	OCT 9 · FRIDAY · 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
D	Dominica
E	Cayman
F	Eleuthera
SB	Barbados

SESSION 3	OCT 9 · FRIDAY · 3:15 PM – 5:15 PM
G	Dominica
H	Eleuthera
I	Cayman
SC	Barbados

SESSION 4	OCT 10 · SATURDAY · 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM
J	Dominica
K	Eleuthera
L	Cayman
SD	Barbados

SESSION 5	OCT 10 · SATURDAY · 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
M	Cayman
N	Dominica
O	Eleuthera
SE	Barbados

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MENU

OCTOBER 9 (FRIDAY)

BREAKFAST

Main

Scrambled eggs
Crispy bacon and turkey sausage
Hash brown potatoes

Fruit & Bakery

Fresh seasonal fruit salad
Toast and fresh-baked assorted pastries
Butter and preserves

Beverages

Coffee
Decaf
Hot Tea
Orange Juice
Cranberry Juice
Water

LUNCH

Salad

House salad with dressings

Entrées

Lemon Rosemary Roasted Chicken (GF, DF)
Vegetable Lasagna (V)

Sides

Herbed vegetable rice
Steamed broccoli

Desserts

Brownies/blondies
Plain Cheesecake
Key Lime Pie
Chocolate Chip Cookies

Beverages

Tea
Coffee
Water

OCTOBER 10 (SATURDAY)

BREAKFAST

Main

Buttermilk pancakes with syrup and butter
Scrambled eggs
Crispy bacon and turkey sausage
Hash brown potatoes

Fruit & Bakery

Fresh seasonal fruit salad
Assorted breakfast pastries and toast

Beverages

Coffee
Hot Tea
Orange Juice
Cranberry Juice
Water

LUNCH

Salad

House salad with dressing

Entrées

Maryland fried chicken
Eggplant parmesan (V)

Sides

Whipped potatoes
Green beans

Desserts

Brownies/blondies
Plain Cheesecake
Key Lime Pie
Chocolate Chip Cookies

Beverages

Tea
Coffee
Water

GF = Gluten-Free · DF = Dairy-Free · V = Vegetarian



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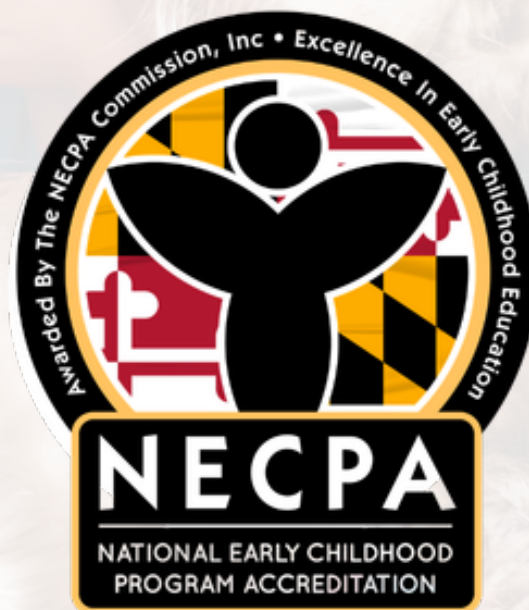
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Family Child Care Association of Frederick County
Family Daycare Association of Harford County
Howard County Family Child Care Association
Latino Childcare Association of Maryland (LCAM)
Professional Child Care Provider Network of Prince George's County

ORGANIZATIONS

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Family Child Care Alliance of Maryland
Maryland Family Network
Maryland Health Connection
The Maryland Science Center
National Aquarium
The Planning Council, Child & Adult Care Food Program

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Wendy Dingus
Martha Garcia
Audrey Grisez
Michelle Lloyd
Darlene Sullivan



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Join or Renew Your

NAFCC MEMBERSHIP

Today!



VOLUNTEERS

This conference could not have happened without you. Your commitment to supporting early childhood educators reflects the very spirit of our mission. You not only helped create a meaningful event, you helped build a stronger, more connected community.

Thank you again for your time, passion, and support.
We are truly grateful.

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