

MN DEC SPRING PRACTITIONERS CONFERENCE

March 5th & 6th

Equity in Early Childhood Education!



Thursday Evening March 5th

Registration 5:30 - 6:45

Hors D'Oeuvres Buffet 6:15

Welcome - Andrea Robbins, President of Minnesota Division of Early Childhood 6:45

Parent Panel 7:00 – 9:00 (Break at 8:00)

"Cultural Perspective through the ECSE Journey"

A panel of parents will be sharing their journey through the ECSE process. They will share their perspectives through their cultural lens. A question/answer session will be incorporated, giving you an opportunity to ask specific questions you may have.

Friday March 6th

Registration & Continental Breakfast 7:30-8:15

- Breakfast will be served outside AIRE Ballrooms

Conference Twitter Hashtag - #mndec20

Opening Keynote Session: 8:30-10:00

Room: AIRE 1 & 2 (combined)

Using Two-Generation Approaches Towards Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health to Increase Equity for Young Children and Families

Presented by: Dr. Katie Lingras

Description: Dr. Lingras will review the concepts of infant/early childhood mental health and introduce several types of two-generation approaches for addressing mental health concerns in young children and families. She will then discuss ways in which these two-generation approaches can play a role in improving equity in early education and other related early childhood settings.

Break 10:00 - 10:15 (snack provided)

Resource Fair 10:00 - 12:45

Room: Runway 1 & 2

Description: Come discover valuable information from a wide array of EC / ECSE services

Morning Breakout Sessions 10:15 - 11:45

Title: *Talking with Children about Race and Identity: Considerations for Early Education Settings*

Room: AIRE 1 & 2 (combined)

Description: Young children see color and other differences in identity (and equity!). Yet, many adults are hesitant to discuss these topics or don't yet know how to approach them. Dr. Lingras' breakout session will take a deeper dive into the question of equity in education by engaging participants in discussion and practices regarding how to talk about these differences in age-appropriate ways. She will also present developmental science research to help participants better understand what young children know and experience with regard to race/ethnicity and other social identities.

Presented by: Katie Lingras

Title: *Considerations for Evaluating Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Learners in ECSE*

Room: Wright Suite 1 / Orville

Description: Discussion of factors to consider when evaluating culturally and linguistically diverse children in ECSE. It will include a presentation of St Paul Public Schools approach to these types of evaluations and an open discussion about how all districts approach reducing bias in evaluations. Audience participation will be key in generating ideas to support one another in providing family friendly, culturally competent interactions with children and families.

Presented by: Bobbi Bjork-Mathiesen, Jennifer Kruger, Heidi Wilson

Title: *Universal Design for Learning/Classroom Strategies*

Room: Wright Suite 2 / Wilbur

Description: "Does Andy have a hard time sitting during morning meeting? Is Grace disruptive and can't seem to stay engaged? How do I get Joe to keep his hands to himself while standing in line?" Come learn about Universal Design for the classroom. Strategies that will help all students learn and engage in classroom activities!

Presented by: Karen Hofstad-Parkhill & Jennifer "Jenn" Wrightman

Title: *Braiding Funds to Build High-Quality Early Childhood Programs*

Room: Runway 3

Description: The importance of early childhood education has gained a lot of attention in recent years. Minnesota has responded by not only increasing funding to existing early childhood programs, but also by creating new programs. While this approach has created challenges for school districts, it has also opened up valuable opportunities. This session focuses on our opportunity to build aligned, high-quality early childhood programming and services by braiding and maximizing funds.

Presented by: Mike Brown and Jon VanOeveren

Lunch 12:00

Be seated in Aire 1 & 2 from 12:15 – 1:15

- Award Presentation for DEC Practitioner of the Year & Leader of the Year
- Announce Mini-Grant Recipients
- State updates, MDE
- Raffle drawing!

Afternoon Breakout Session 1:30-3:00

Title: *Embedding Learning Opportunities through Collaborative Conversations*

Room: AIRE 1 & 2

Description: This session will be organized around the 4 key components of embedded instruction: what to teach, when to teach, how to teach and how to evaluate the intervention. This session will focus on using teaming practices and collaborative conversations to plan and implement embedded learning opportunities in daily routines and activities. An emphasis will be placed on increasing the confidence and competence of all staff to provide IEP instruction through collaborative planning and strategies for supporting implementation. This session will highlight DEC recommended practices in the area of Instruction and Teaming and Collaboration.

Presented by: Jodi Altringer and Elizabeth Peters Rust

Title: *Expanding Early Childhood Strengths-Based Support Strategies For Autistic Children*

Room: Wright Suite 1 / Orville

Description: Participants in this workshop will be guided by an autistic parent of two autistic children to objectively contrast neurotypical early childhood development with autistic early childhood development, consider three areas of autistic strength, and discuss support services and educational goals that utilize and respect those strengths. Material draws from research, the presenter's lived experience, and her personal navigation of early childhood services for her younger child. This presentation highlights the value of including the perspective of autistic adults in understanding and supporting the developmental needs of autistic children.

Presented by: Sonya Emerick

Title: *Getting at the Heart of Meaningful Inclusion*

Room: Wright Suite 2 / Wilbur

Description: What is the difference for a child who is minimally included and a child who is meaningfully included? During this session, participants will reflect on inclusion from the viewpoint of the children. We will consider the DEC Recommended Practices that support meaningful inclusion, identify practices in video examples and create a plan of action. A variety of adult learning strategies will be used to support all learners.

Presented by: Karen Satre & Sally Hansen

Title: *Meeting the Needs of Stressed Infants, Children, and Families*

Room: Runway 3

Description: Ongoing, overwhelming stress impacts children and caregivers together. This workshop will explore the ways that prolonged, intense stress shows up in early development and relationships. We will take time to discuss how early interventionists can use responsive strategies to support stressed infants, children, and their caregivers.

Presented by: Martha Higuera & Jill Barrow

Thank you for attending MN DEC 2020 Practitioners Conference!

All participants will receive an email at the conclusion of the conference. The email will include a link to a shared folder where you can access all session handouts that have been provided by presenters. In addition, you will be invited to provide feedback on the conference. Once you submit your feedback you will be linked directly to clock hours for your attendance.

Presenter Bios

Jodi Altringer

Jodi and Betsy are ECSE Professional Development Facilitators for the Minnesota Centers of Excellence for Young Children with Disabilities. Jodi is an ECSE teacher and has been in the field since 1994. Betsy is a Speech Language Pathologist and has served in the ECSE field for 16 years.

Jill Barrow

Martha and Jill are early intervention teachers with the St. Paul Public Schools Birth to Three Program. Martha also teaches in an ECFE class, and Jill taught in a therapeutic preschool before her work in early intervention. They enjoy collaborating around infant and early childhood mental health supports for children in ECSE.

Roberta Bjork-Mathiesen

Bobbi Bjork-Mathiesen EdS, NCSP, Heidi Wilson MA-CCC, and Jennifer Kruger EdS, NCSP are all members of the St. Paul Public Schools ECSE evaluation team. We are two school psychologists and a speech language pathologist that collectively have 50 years of experience working in special education.

Michael “Mike” Brown

Michael Brown has worked for the Minnesota Department of Education as an Early Childhood Education Specialist since 2011. He works with the Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) and School Readiness programs, and on early childhood administration, family engagement, and PreK to Grade 3 projects. Mike holds a doctorate in education from the University of Minnesota.

Sonya Emerick

Sonya is an autistic adult, and parent to two autistic children. She's passionate about celebrating every child's neurodevelopmental strengths as valuable, and helping develop strategies that prioritize access to self-determined support for all autistic people—especially our littlest ones.

Sally Hansen

Sally Hansen is also a PDF with MNCoe. She is also the content lead in MN for the Classroom Engagement Model, which teaches evidence-based strategies for engaging all children by promoting full participation in all classroom routines.

Martha Higuera

Martha and Jill are early intervention teachers with the St. Paul Public Schools Birth to Three Program. Martha also teaches in an ECFE class, and Jill taught in a therapeutic preschool before her work in early intervention. They enjoy collaborating around infant and early childhood mental health supports for children in ECSE.

Karen Hofstad-Parkhill

Karen has been an ECSE teacher in the Minneapolis Schools for the past 11 years. She has taught in the classroom and is currently working in the Community setting, visiting students in Hi 5 classrooms, daycare, Head Start and in their homes.

Jennifer Kruger

Bobbi Bjork-Mathiesen EdS, NCSP, Heidi Wilson MA-CCC, and Jennifer Kruger EdS, NCSP are all members of the St. Paul Public Schools ECSE evaluation team. We are two school psychologists and a speech language pathologist that collectively have 50 years of experience working in special education.

Katie Lingras

Dr. Katherine Lingras is an Assistant Professor and Licensed Child Psychologist in the University of Minnesota's Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Department where she specializes in early childhood mental health evaluation and treatment. Dr. Lingras also provides mental health consultation and professional development training in early education and primary care settings. She founded and co-directs her department's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee and works on similar efforts at the Medical School level and in the community.

Elizabeth “Betsy” Peters-Rust

Jodi and Betsy are ECSE Professional Development Facilitators for the Minnesota Centers of Excellence for Young Children with Disabilities. Jodi is an ECSE teacher and has been in the field since 1994. Betsy is a Speech Language Pathologist and has served in the ECSE field for 16 years.

Karen Satre

Karen Satre is a Professional Development Facilitator (PDF) for the Minnesota Centers of Excellence for Young Children

with Disabilities (MNCoe). She is a licensed ECSE teacher with experience teaching in a variety of Early Childhood settings, including co-teaching in a fully inclusive program.

Heidi Wilson

Bobbi Bjork-Mathiesen EdS, NCSP, Heidi Wilson MA-CCC, and Jennifer Kruger EdS, NCSP are all members of the St. Paul Public Schools ECSE evaluation team. We are two school psychologists and a speech language pathologist that collectively have 50 years of experience working in special education.

Jennifer Wrightman

Jennifer has been an ECSE teacher for over 20 years and is the Inclusion Specialist for Minneapolis ECSE. She has worked in the classroom setting and is currently working in the Community setting as well.

Jon VanOeveren

Jon VanOeveren has been with the Minnesota Department of Education Early Learning Services Division since June 2019. He has over six years of experience working in Minnesota school finance including five years with MDE's School Finance Division. Prior to moving to Minnesota, Jon worked for seven years at the New York City Office of Management and Budget overseeing multiple agencies' budgets including FDNY and Park.

[Link to Session Handouts](#)