

The Washtenaw Early Childhood Directors Association (ECDA)



The Washtenaw Early Childhood Directors Association (ECDA) is a professional organization for the directors, administrators, and leaders of early childhood programs. Our goals are to support directors, to serve as advocates of children's issues, and to provide resource and networking opportunities for early childhood professionals. The ECDA Steering Committee is composed of program directors and representatives from local organizations.

You will have the opportunity to attend 8 talks on relevant early childhood education topics as well as network with your peers and be a part of the local early childhood community. Membership is required to attend, excluding the April workshop when there is a special registration process. Newly interested programs may attend one meeting for free before having to join to participate.

September–November meetings will be held via Zoom. We will begin each session promptly at Noon. We will begin with announcements and news and then the speaker will present. Meetings end at **2:00pm**, except for the April meeting which ends at 3:00pm. Training completion will be noted in MiRegistry.org.

September 23, 2020: Tools and Strategies for Group Work // Christine Snyder

A common skill required for leadership and management in early childhood is the ability to help people work together professionally, collaboratively, and with a positive work ethic. Leaders often struggle with getting members of teaching teams to get along, engaging adult learners in evaluation and growth processes, and establishing a shared vision among a large program. During this talk I will share tools and strategies to work better together through examining organizational culture, establishing a shared vision, reflecting on leadership practices and implementing concrete action steps to address tension.

October 28, 2020: Nurturing Grieving Children at School and Care // Suzanne Bayer

Know how to support grieving young children by integrating relevant childhood bereavement support theory with best teaching practice. In this session you will gain an understanding of children's developmental grief responses and discover methods of support and assistance.

November 18, 2020: Media and Kids // Jenny Radesky, M.D., a pediatrician and expert on children and media at the University of Michigan's C.S. Mott Children's Hospital.

As technology evolves, young children increasingly are interacting with an array of digital media, including video-streaming services, internet-connected toys and devices, and smart speakers. Learn about the long term and short term effects of media on children and how to best support children and families.

January 27, 2021: Vision & Values: A Compass for Strategic Leadership // Etta Heisler, Executive Director, Apple Playschools

This year has given leaders more than our fair share of challenges. What do we have to hold onto that keeps our schools and ourselves grounded, focused, and ready to respond? Explore a variety of ways that defining vision and clarifying values – on a personal and organizational level – can provide stability and direction. Then, reflect on how your own strengths can carry your vision and values forward. We'll have some story sharing, some reflection, and lots of tools to jump start a visioning or values process for strategic planning, annual reports, or just a personal recommitment to work and purpose.

February 24, 2021 Hot Topics In Early Childhood // Peer-to-Peer

This session is designed to allow you to network and problem solve with your peers about the topics most important to you and your work. Guided discussions on topics you help determine!

March 24, 2021: Gender Identity Development in the Early Childhood Classroom // Katrina & Sasha Hamann-Azanov

This presentation aims to provide early childhood educators with the tools to understand gender beyond stereotypes, and to analyze their own current teaching practices for the ways that they hinder and/or promote childrens' ability to safely explore gender in the classroom.

April 28, 2021 Teaching Inclusion // Katie Andrews, Morning Star Child Care

Joint Meeting with the Southern Chapter of MiAEYC **This meeting ends at 3pm.**

Join us as we explore issues of implicit bias, marginalized groups, and dominant culture in order to better understand how to promote inclusion in early childhood settings.

May 26, 2021 Mental Health in Staff- Anxiety and Depression // Carly Ly, Mental Health Consultant, WISD

Working in early childhood education can be stressful, and certain types of stress can negatively affect physical and mental health. Preschool teachers face high demands, such as managing disruptive classroom behaviors, completing required paperwork, and ensuring that children are socially and academically ready for kindergarten. In this session, we will address some of the causes of staff stress, coping strategies that staff can use to mitigate the impacts of stress, and specific actions that programs can take to minimize staff stress.

2020-2021 Steering Committee

[Carrie Anderson](#) - President
Morning Star Child Care
Phone: 734-424-9193

[Shannon Peitz](#) - Vice President/
Communications
Gretchen's House - Dhu Varren
Phone: 734-761-7031

[Candy Sorensen](#) - Past President
Child Care Network

[Sandra Swan](#) - Secretary
Membership/Mailing
Community Day Care & Preschool

[Trudi Hagen](#) - Treasurer
WCC Children's Center

[Patty Sherwood](#) - Venue/Lunch
Adventure Center

[Debbie Belcher](#) - Joint Luncheon
The Discovery Center

[Karin Nowak](#) - Public Policy
Gretchen's House - Oak Valley

[Laura Griswold](#) - SBS/QPP WBSICC
Gretchen's House - Administration

[Tammie King](#) - WCSACCA Liaison
Bemis Farms Preschool & Child Care

[Kay Retzlaff](#) - Southern Chapter
of Michigan AEYC
Teddy Bear Day Care

Members at Large:
[Chrissy McKiddie](#)
Gretchen's House - Traver

[Shannon Steinbach](#)
Gretchen's House - North Creek

[Tia Garrett](#)
Teddy Bear Day Care

Registration Information:

Annual Membership Fee (September-May): **Due in January!** \$50 *Multi-site programs pay \$30 for each additional site
Monthly Training Fee: \$20 includes lunch, dessert, drink and gratuity ***waived for Sept.-Nov.**

How it works:

1. Each program wishing to become a member completes the Membership Registration form here:
<https://forms.gle/ajnZ5JvoCivFUYR49>.

Membership Email Sign Up: In an effort to ensure all directors and center contacts receive ECDA emails, please complete this form: <https://forms.gle/dRMPCBCCbhDd3Jhu7>

*Both directors, and anyone on the membership email list receive the monthly training RSVP email about 2 weeks before the training date. Please coordinate with your team to eliminate duplicate RSVPs.