**Topic Descriptions CWE 2023**

**A Baby Can Learn WHAT?**

**Alana Robinette**

An overview of development in infants. Let’s talk about the amazing learning capabilities of babies!

**1,2,3 Blast off with Number Literacy!**

**Jeanna McEwen**

We will explore hands on activities, books, patterning, graphing, number recognition and all things numbers! Join the fun of numbers and literacy all in one.

**A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words: Teaching with Wordless Books in the**

**Preschool Classroom**

**Stacy Gaither**

Wordless picture books are told entirely through their illustrations-they are books without words, or sometimes just a few words.  Sharing wordless books with a child provides an opportunity for literacy-rich conversations and to develop important emergent literacy skills.  Join us in this training for great information and ideas on incorporating wordless books into your preschool classroom.

**Adapting Early Childhood Curriculum for Special Needs Students**

**Mary Sharman**

This session will focus on equipping teachers with the knowledge that they need to create meaningful learning experiences for students with special needs. Adapting the curriculum has multiple components and we will break them down in this session. Educators will use the strategies presented to build an inclusive setting where all students can thrive.

**Bible in a Basket**

**Pam Morris**

This session provides fun, interactive ideas for 15-minute Gospel-centered object lessons for children. Children will actively engage in lessons that will bring the Bible to life and plant seeds to help our preschoolers grow spiritually.

**Anxiety and it’s Cousins-Anger and Antisocial**

Adapting our classroom management strategies to provide appropriate discipline and positive guidance.

**Autism Spectrum Disorder in the Preschool Classroom**

**Mary Sharman**

This session will guide the participants through a discussion about autism spectrum disorder. The presenter will share the latest research about ASD and

how that affects the preschool classroom. Further knowledge that will be shared will include classroom setup, behavioral needs, checklists for classrooms with students on the spectrum, parent concerns and ways to encourage and comfort. It will be an informative and exciting time to fill your toolbox with ideas for the special learners in your classroom.

**Choosing Healthy Foods for Kids**

**Sarritha Scales**

Childcare providers play a crucial role in ensuring that children in their care get the nutrients they need to grow and be healthy. In this training providers learn to make smart choices about the foods they serve to kids through hands on nutrition-based activities.

**Cipher in the Snow**

**Greg Gosselin**

Want to watch a 20-minute movie for your night owl? Cipher means zero. Cliff Evans was a zero to most if not all who knew him. He had only one known friend and that was a teacher who helped once with a math problem. This movie will change how you view and treat each child who comes through your class. Be sure to bring some Kleenex.

**Clever Cats**

**Jami Sheets**

What do a preschooler and a cat have in common? Curiosity! Let’s get little minds working with creative object lessons and games.

**Creative Classrooms**

**Jennifer McCracken**

Merging creative arts with make-believe play.

**Developing Social Skills**

**Cindy Thomas**

Learn how to get along with others and show good manners.

**Director’s Roundtable**

**Lee Wright**

Come for an informal session around the table to talk about current issues that face us each day in a preschool setting.

**Elmer the Patchwork Elephant**

**Greg Gosselin**

Elmer loved and embraced his uniqueness, and we will discover how we can help children love themselves and others.

**First Responders: When Accidents Happen**

**Linda Duffee**

As childcare providers, you may well be the child’s first line of defense in getting or giving the child the care needed in time of an accident, illness, or emergency. This session on first aid will enable us to identify and manage accidents and emergencies, thus possibly saving a child’s life.

**FREE THE BABIES!**

**Morgan Harris**

Inclusive Gross Motor Development Play for Infants. Participants will learn best practices for infant gross motor development and how to apply it an inclusive environment.

**From Classroom Nightmares to Sweet Dreams**

**Cindy Thomas**

Dealing with the challenges in your classroom.

**God’s Mighty Miracles: Special Needs Children in the Preschool Classroom**

**Pam Morris**

This session focuses on practical strategies to help support teachers and provide opportunities for success for the special needs friends in our classrooms.

**How to Handle Hard to Handle Preschoolers**

**David Henderson**

We will discuss strategies, tips, and techniques for managing various behavioral challenges in the preschool classroom.

**If You are Mad and You Know it: Stomp Your Feet!**

**Sabrina Robinson**

This session is about the power of self-regulation. A young child feels their emotions before they know what they mean. Because of this, young children need to practice self- regulating before they can control their responses. Now is the time for caregivers to show and help young children work on emotional regulation through play and experience.

**Integrating Effective Autism Practices in Early Learning Settings**

**Amanda Marable, Balklie Blevins, Autumn Bobo**

This session will present the best practices for children who have autism (including children who have signs and symptoms of autism but do not have a formal diagnosis). This information includes the most recent research and putting that information into practice to help that population the most. The training is very practical and helps educators to be able to legitimately help children who are struggling with meeting developmental milestones.

**Learning Styles from the Hundred Acre Wood**

**Greg Gosselin**

We can learn a lot about how we are like Winnie the Pooh and his friends. We will discover ways to reach our Pooh’s, Tigger’s, Eeyore’s and Rabbit’s.

**Learning to Triage the Sick Child**

**Linda Duffee**

This session teaches how to identify the different illnesses that children in daycare have and how to triage these illnesses to prevent the spread to the other children and teachers.

**Let’s Boogie Woogie**

**Jami Sheets**

Preschoolers love the beat, so get on your feet. Let’s get in the groove and learn some new moves.

**Let’s Plan Dr. Suess Week**

**Joyce Alexander**

Dr. Suess Day? Sounds like fun, we say! Dedicate time to everyone’s favorite rhyming doctor with this fun preschool class for teachers. You will find many activities, including centers, circle time, songs, crafts and even a snack!

**Let’s Tinker! Incorporating Makerspaces in the Childhood Classroom**

**Sonia Free**

What can you add to your early childhood classroom that will immerse children in rich learning, reduce challenging behaviors, and develop confidence as well as critical thinking and problem-solving skills? A makerspace! It’s just not for big kids! Children are natural makers and early childhood teachers and caregivers have been providing opportunities to create, engineer, and fabricate since before it was officially labeled as a “Makerspace.” Join us as we learn how to create a makerspace in your early childhood classroom.

**Living on a Teacher’s Salary**

**Lee Wright**

Living on a teacher’s salary: savings and spending strategies.

**Motor Magic**

**Joyce Alexander**

Turn fine motor activities into gross motor activities.

**No Raw Chicken**

**Joyce Alexander**

Be inspired to teach preschoolers and children the Bible in creative and fun ways. Creative storytelling tips will be shared.

**Organized Chaos**

**Beth Henderson**

Conferees will use the ABCs to discover how to turn your classroom from chaos to calm.

**Piglet-Wiggles**

**Jennifer McCracken**

Understanding and helping children with childhood anxiety.

**Playdough in the Classroom**

**David Henderson**

We will explore playdough and its benefits in the preschool classroom.

**Preschool Brain Development**

**Lee Wright**

Why is birth-three so important? How are babies’ brains developing? What can we do to stimulate the child and promote learning?

**Preventing Child Sexual Abuse**

**Lee Wright**

Do you understand how a predator selects and grooms’ victims? Do you know that they work to build trust with adult leaders? Do you know some of the risky behaviors that may be a warning sign of potential abuse? This class will help our centers to be better prepared to prevent child sexual abuse.

**Purposeful Play**

**David Henderson**

We will discuss practical ways to incorporate play throughout your curriculum.

**Reading Readiness**

**Jeanna McEwen**

We will explore some of the history, techniques, and resources available to all for preschoolers in reading readiness. We will be exploring books, authors, and illustrators as well as making reading and environmental print a part of everyday lessons.

**Shapes, Colors, and Numbers**

**Jeanna McEwen**

We will explore activities and how to introduce, and build on learning shapes, colors, and numbers through small and large motor skills.

**Super Simple Classroom Management**

**Joyce Alexander**

Manage your classroom with these solutions and tools designed to help you with organization, discipline, parents, and more!

**Taming Tantrums**

**Alana Robinette**

Tantrums are stressful for…everyone! Let’s talk about the brain science behind tantrums, how to prepare for them, and how to de-escalate them.

**The Importance of Fine Motor Skills for Preschoolers**

**Beth Henderson**

We will look at the benefits of fine motor skills as well as experience activities to help preschoolers develop their fine motor skills.

**Trash Into Treasure**

**Jami Sheets**

One man’s trash is another man’s treasure. Learn to save money and make crafts out of everyday items.

**Trauma-Informed Teacher**

**Jennifer McCracken**

Making sense of the most frustrating, confusing, and heartbreaking childhood behaviors is a challenge many teachers will face but studies show, most will get wrong. Learn how to better identify and reach hurting children.

**Twists and Turns…Following Jesus Changes Everything!**

**Beth Henderson**

Conferees will experience an overview of Lifeway’s 2023 VBS. We will explore aspects of “Twist and Turns” through Bible Stories, songs, games, and crafts.

**Using Learning Styles in Activity Centers**

**Cindy Thomas**

How to ignite a child’s interest in your lesson.

**What’s Cookin’**

**Pam Morris**

Cooking in the classroom can be a fun activity for all children. In this session children will use children’s literature and simple recipes to teach that when we fill our hearts with God’s love that it produces good fruit in our lives.