Friday  Session I  8:00-9:15

F11 Infant
**Tales from the Changing Table and Other Ways We Support Families**
Today’s popular “trends” with babies such as cloth diapers, organic baby food and other topics sometimes can leave us uncertain how to respond within licensing but also be responsive to parent requests. How do we support and welcome families during those “oh-my” moments as well as with routine care such as well-child visit awareness and supporting breastfeeding. Come and listen to some perspectives that might give you new insight. We also welcome your stories about how you've made these situations work in your program. Core Competency V and VI

Kristine Spiess  
Director of Hand in Hand Child Care  
St Paul, MN

F12 Toddler
**Jesus Time with Toddlers**
Come and learn some ways to teach Jesus Time to Toddlers. We will be sharing ideas for activities to get toddlers involved in the story. Please bring your success stories also! Core Competency: I, II, & IV

Sarah Barron  
Brianna Just  
Toddler Co-Teachers  
Hand in Hand Child Care Center  
Concordia University  
St Paul, MN

F13 Director
**Controlling the Craziness of a Crisis**
Child care professionals can easily fall into the routines of their program. What happens in the face of a crisis? Has their Ho-hum attitude affected their ability to respond? This session will challenge participants to think beyond their comfort zone and play the What-if game as they consider best practices in a crisis response! Core Competency: VII & VIII

Sara Mulso  
Adjunct Faculty & Early Childhood Educator  
Concordia University  
St Paul, MN

F14 Pre-K
**Literacy Enrichment**
Literacy is all around us! Knowing how to enhance our early childhood areas, whether it is in a standard classroom or home childcare, is very important and can at times be quite frustrating. Learn how to enrich all of your environmental areas while ensuring they are developmentally appropriate for the group of children you are caring for. Give and receive fresh ideas for your environment as well as ways to encourage parental involvement in your center’s literacy development. Core Competency: I & IV

Brenda Lowe  
Family Services Manager  
Woodbury, MN

F15 General
**Minding Our Peas & Cues: The Importance of a Positive Mealtime Environment in the Child Care Setting**
Helping children develop positive lifelong eating habits requires attention to both peas (the menu) and cues (the mealtime environment). Experts agree that children’s early food experiences affect their health and nutrition in the short term and their life-long eating habits. You will learn how to cultivate positive eating behaviors and understand the feeding style most likely to provide positive long(term eating behaviors. You will also learn that some food waste is worthwhile and will be able to include your mealtime environment practices into your wellness policy. Core Competency: VI

Robyn Tousignant  
Field Representative  
Provider’s Choice

F16 Pre-K/Kindergarten
**Hands-On Jesus Time**
Do you know even the littlest ones love to learn about Jesus? Join us at this session for hand on ideas that will actively involve children in Jesus Time! Core Competency: II, IV & V

Lacey Wellens  
Rachel Wickre  
Preschool Co-Teachers  
Hand In Hand Child Care  
St Paul, MN

F17 General
**Inside the Child: A Look at Social and Emotional Development**
Ever wonder why children do what they do? This course will give you a chance to look at a child's behavior from the inside out. You will examine children's temperament and emotional development in relation to their behavior. Strategies for helping children learn about and understand their own emotions will be included! Core Competency: I

Dea Anderson  
Inclusion Consultation Coordinator  
Concordia University  
St Paul, MN

F18 General
**What do you do with the MAD that you feel?**
*Helping Children Manage Anger and Learn Self Control*
When children are angry, that can be an especially difficult time for them – and for their child care providers. Dealing with angry feelings during early childhood years is important! Children need to deal with their anger constructively to succeed in school, in the future workplace and in family life. It's important to realize that self-control is not a "moral" issue; it's a "developmental" one. It grows in stages as the child develops and there are important things child care providers can do along the way to support that process. Core Competency: I & IV

Lori Ann Hameister  
Early Childhood Trainer and Mentor  
Little Bit of Guidance: Early Childhood Training & Mentoring  
Eyota, MN

F19 General
**Finding Fun in Booking Field Trips**
Looking for new field trips? Want to talk to others who have booked field trips to see what has worked for them? In this session, participants will learn how to book field trips for small to large groups as well as learn from our peers about what has worked well. The goal is to walk away with information to make booking field trips easier and maybe even gain a new field trip idea. Core Competency II, IV, V

Kari Kroll  
Program Manager Assistant  
Minnetonka, MN

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**2015 Early Childhood Educator’s Conference**  
**March 13 & 14, 2015**
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<th>Friday</th>
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**F23 Director**<br>
E-Communication: Reaching Parents through Technology  
Today, there are several inexpensive and effective ways to promote your business and exchange information with families. Learn how websites, newsletters, and blogs can reach new families and communicate with current families in child care. Core Competency: V  
Stacy Boysen  
Family & Early Childhood Trainer and Mentor  
Pine Island, MN

**F24 General**

1 – 2 – 3 Magic! Effective Discipline for Children Ages 2-12  
Kids are just kids! In addition to being delightful, charming and affectionate, children can present the adults in their lives with a steady diet of difficult behavior: whining, arguing, teasing, fighting, yelling, tantrums, and pouting. The 1 – 2 – 3 Magic! program has practical and easy-to-use discipline techniques for family and educators. You will come away with some techniques that are down-to-earth, kid-friendly and make a dramatic impact in a short time. Core Competency: IV  
Lori Ann Hameister  
Early Childhood Trainer and Mentor  
Little Bit of Guidance: Early Childhood Training & Mentoring

**F25 Pre-K/Kindergarten**

It's so Much More than ABC's  
Come prepared to be amazed at fantastic ideas for alphabet learning, letter sounds and beginning reading. Activities and projects for all areas of the classroom will be presented to help children learn to love learning while having fun in the classroom. Core prepared to share also!  
Core Competency: II & IV  
Michelle Espelien  
Curriculum Coordinator  
Minneapolis, MN

**F26 Pre-K/Kindergarten**

Blockbuilding Blast-Off: Using Blockbuilding to Boost Learning  
This session will examine how play-based learning in the block area can help children learn mathematics concepts, literacy and scientific exploration. Specific strategies to scaffold learning in the block building area will be discussed. Tools and props to enhance learning and promote exploration and discovery with blocks will be identified. Core Competency: II & IV  
Judy Gifford  
Director  
Child & Family Study Center  
University of Wisconsin, Stout  
Menomonie, WI

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**F21 Infant/Toddler**

Tickles and Tunes and Books...Oh My!  
This workshop will give you tools to expand your teaching and interaction with infants and toddlers. The youngest infant already responds to music. You will participate in simple fingerplays and books, adult/infant movement activities and other musical experiences. These tools will not only promote early learning, but will increase communication and interaction. It will be an active and fun session celebrating the wonder of our youngest friends. Speaking of friends, please bring along an infant/toddler-sized stuffy friend to help you totally experience the activities. Core Competency: I, II, & IV  
Fran McKinney  
Early Childhood Teacher, Music Specialist, Author & Songwriter

**F22 Infant/Toddler**

From Board to Brilliant: New Bulletin Board Ideas  
Are you bored with your boards? In this sectional, we will share ideas for bulletin boards which our toddlers have helped us create. Ideas include seasonal, religious and curriculum based boards. Come and get some new ideas for your classroom! Core Competency II  
Jan Stockman  
Director, Cross View Early Childhood Center  
Edina, MN

**F27 General**

Understanding Assessment in Early Childhood: Types of Instruments for Creating a Complete Child Profile  
There is a growing emphasis on the importance of assessing pre-kindergarten children. In this session, the definition of the five most common types of assessments being used in Early Childhood settings will be discussed. In addition the similarities, differences, advantages, disadvantages and a list of examples will be made for each type. Regardless of the type of classroom that you provide, this will be important information to educate yourself on. A special focus will be placed on research-based assessments that can be used in any/all types of early childhood settings and are Parent-Aware approved. Core Competency: III  
Dena Roberts  
Director of Professional Development  
Early Learning Labs

**F28 General**

Making Exercise Fun for Kids  
Join this high energy session to learn how to incorporate exercise into your classroom. We will also explore why it is important to start exercising at a young age. Included will be information about childhood obesity and the outlook for that disease. Core Competency: IV & VI  
Gina Arens  
Owner  
Jumpin Jax Fitness

**F29 Pre-K/Kindergarten/SchoolAge**

Math All Around  
Get ready to move and have some fun! This session will include activities, favorite songs, and movements to enhance math skills for your children. Core Competency: II  
Julie Torkelson  
Retired Early Childhood Teacher  
Shoreview, MN

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2015 Early Childhood Educator's Conference  
March 13 & 14, 2015
F31 Infant/Toddler
Space to Grow: Planning and Setting up Environments for Infants and Toddlers
The caregiving environment provides the setting in which infants and toddlers spend large amounts of time. The environment's ability to meet the growing child's physical, emotional, social and cognitive needs is critical. Caregivers will examine basic features of the environment and develop strategies to promote learning and development through planning and setting up safe and healthy learning environments. Core Competency: I & II
Monica Durgin
Parent Engagement Coordinator
Office of Early Learning
St Paul Public Schools
St Paul, MN

F32 Infant/Toddler
Physical Development of Children (Infants and Toddlers)
Learning is a whole body event. Physical activities can increase focus, enhance creativity, allow children to become grounded and centered and improve sensory skills such as listening, vision, communication and eye-hand coordination. This workshop is based on the Brain Gym theory.
Core Competency II
Cindy Goldade
Licensed Brain Gym Instructor
Columbus, MN

F33 Director
Licensing Updates
Join this session to learn the updates of licensing information and legislative changes. Core Competency: NA
Human Service Licensors
Department of Human Services
State of Minnesota

F34 Pre-K/Kindergarten/SchoolAge
Building Social and Emotional Skills through Movement, Music and Books
This workshop will present songs paired with thematic books, visual materials and movement activities to increase awareness of emotional growth and social skills in young learners. Young children are active participants in the learning process and this workshop will demonstrate a variety of sensory modalities to engage every learner. This session will be a combination of demonstration by the presenter and participation by the learners. Core Competency: I, II, & IV
Fran McKinney
Early Childhood Teacher, Music Specialist
Author & Songwriter

F35 Pre-K
Introduction to the Early Childhood Indicators of Progress
Explore the Minnesota Early Learning standards, the Early Childhood Indicators of Progress (ECIPs). The ECIPs offer the latest research on common developmental expectations for children from birth to five. This tool provides a framework for understanding child development. Core Competency: I
Aimee Bock
Accreditation Coordinator MnAEYC-MnSACA
St Paul, MN

F36 Pre-K
Building Their Word Banks
Vocabulary development is critical for young children and it feeds foundations for reading and writing. Come learn and share strategies to use in the early childhood classroom (Pre-K and up) in intentional ways to support young learners in building their word banks! Core Competency: II
Sue Starks
Associate Professor, College of Education & Science
Concordia University
St Paul, MN

F37 General
Sudden Unexpected Infant Death/Abusive Head Trauma
This class meets DHS Licensing training requirements for both Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) and Abusive Head Trauma (AHT). Content includes recommendations to reduce Sudden, Unexpected InfantDeaths (SUID) including SIDS, suffocation, and other sleep related infant deaths; safe sleep environments; MN Child Care regulations related to safe sleep; as well as symptoms and consequences of abusive head trauma, risk factors for abusive head trauma; strategies to use when stressed, angry or frustrated. Core Competency: VI
Stacy Boysen
Family & Early Childhood Trainer and Mentor
Pine Island, MN

F38 General
Authentic Observation (Parent Aware)
In this interactive, two hour session participants will be introduced to child observation and the tools of objective observation. Participants will discuss the rationale for child observation, will practice observation techniques and will discuss ways in which to use observation information to individualize care and learning environments. Core Competency III
Lisa Denninger
Early Childhood Trainer
Maple Grove, MN

F39 General
Dealing with Difficult People
It can be frightening to deal with others who are very different from ourselves. We will discuss functional and dysfunctional types of communication, self-esteem, and assertiveness techniques. Core Competency: V
Linda Sidney
St Paul Public Schools
Apple Valley, MN

F30 General
Help! My Classroom is Like A Barn!
Being an early childhood educator has many similarities to being a farmer. Do you ever feel like you are working in a barn?! Come and discover ways to create a calm and positive learning environment where all children can be creative kids! There are many artistic and scientific aspects to teaching...and farming! Core Competency: II and IV
Drew Gerdes
Early Childhood Director
Messiah Lutheran School
Weldon Spring, MO
S11 Infant/Toddler
They Stick to Me like Band-Aids
We know bonding and attachment are important factors in children's growth. This training will focus on techniques and implementation to better meet those needs in early care programs. Core Competency: I
Judy Davis
Trainer & Consultant
St Paul, MN

S12 Infant/Toddler
How to be a Drama Queen (or King) in Your Classroom
Toddlers are a tough audience. Do you need more tools to keep them entertained during story time, transition time and other chaotic moments? By learning to add “dramatic” elements to your stories and song, you will have toddler's attention and have them begging for more. Be prepared to bring your successes and your questions! Core Competency: II & IV
Rachel Stohlmann
Nanny & Independent Contractor
Apple Valley, MN

S13 General
Documentation: What It is and How to Use It
Join us to learn how to scrapbooking and documentation are different and ways to present documentation. Discover how documentation is useful in classrooms, with families, and with the greater community. Handle samples of documentation and get your questions about documentation answered. Core Competency: I, II, III, IV, V, & VII
Helen Meissner
Early Childhood Educator
New Brighton, MN

S14 Pre-K/Kindergarten
Leaping into Literacy
Find new ways to develop literacy with young children. We will be using music and movement to reinforce readiness skills. Learn how to enhance literacy through literature and flannel board activities. Core Competency: II
Julie Torkelson
Retired Early Childhood Teacher
Shorburn, MN

S15 Pre-K/Kindergarten
Hickory Dickory Dock – Using Nursery Rhymes in your Classroom
The benefits of teaching nursery rhymes are many. Learn ways to use them throughout your day to increase phonemic awareness, auditory skills, vocabulary and to develop both fine and gross motor skills. Core Competency: I, II & IV
Lynne Mulso
Former Early Childhood Educator
Sherburn, MN
Elizabeth Sherman
Family Advocate
Community Action Head Start
St Paul, MN

SATURDAY  SESSION I  8:00-9:15

S16 General
Transitioning to Kindergarten Inner Tool Kit
This workshop will feature author Tracy Uttley poignantly discussing the powerful themes that children deal with when starting kindergarten. Discover how encouraging children to overcome their fears helps them to step out of their comfort zone and view things that are new or different as adventures or opportunities rather than something scary. You will further learn four practical and easy-to-use tools that help build children’s inner strength to succeed in any situation. Core Competency: I
Tracy Uttley
Author
Mahtomedi, MN

S17 General
Movement with the Brain in Mind
This workshop is for movement! Ideas will be shared to get children up and moving! The body trains the brain! The movement we are going to do, children can replicate to stimulate the brain and support skill development. Core Competency: VI
Bernard Turner
Health Advocate
St Paul, MN

S18 General
Integrating the Faith with Infants through Kindergarten
Jesus Time isn't just about ten minutes a day! Learn more about how the One in Christ Early Childhood curriculum from Concordia Publishing house can help you integrate the faith throughout the day. See how concepts can be reviewed at Center Time, Circle Time, and in parent communication. Talk about the vocabulary you can use and the physical environment you can set up to reinforce the concepts. Core Competency: I, II, IV & V
Paul Berg
Christian Resource Consultant
Concordia Publishing House
St. Louis, MO

S19 Pre-K/Kindergarten/SchoolAge
A Square is a Special Kind of Rectangle: Exploring Space and Shapes with Young Children
Children's knowledge of shapes and spatial awareness builds a foundation that helps young children learn geometry as they grow older. Join this session to learn teaching strategies with 3D and 2D shapes, patterns blocks and putting shapes together. Explore the definition of octagons, polygons and spheres. Core Competency: II
Beth Menninga
Project Coordinator
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN
Saturday Session IIA  11:30-12:45
Choose lunch or one of the following sessions

S23 Director/General
Refresh Your Mission for Effective Leadership
We can easily fall victim to the “daily grind” of our work as early childhood and school-age care professionals. This session will invite us to refresh our perspective and goals as educators, creating purpose and vision for our work. You will be challenged to intentionally develop a “lollipop leadership attitude” toward the goal of being a more effective practitioner, leaving with your own refreshed personal mission statement ready for application. Core Competency: VIII
  Tosca Grimm
  Director
  St Peter’s Early Childhood Education Center
  Edina, MN

S24 General
Mud Pies and Make Believe
Explore the importance of indoor and outdoor play to develop the “whole” child – physically, mentally, socially and intellectually (including language). What are important components in play environments? Discover the adult’s important role in fostering quality play. What will you take away to improve outdoor and indoor play at your center?
Core Competency: I
  Dr. Linda Probert
  Associate Professor of Education
  Bethel University
  Roseville, MN

S25 Pre-K/Kindergarten/SchoolAge
Grace & Courtesy: A Concrete Way to Help Young Children Understand and Learn Social Appropriateness and Empathy
Anti-bullying campaigns and character development are flooding into our schools and early childhood facilities as more and more children are being negatively affected by unwanted behaviors of children in their learning environments. This presentation looks at how we can provide age-appropriate lessons to children so that they can become caring, empathetic, thoughtful, calm and loving individuals for life. Come ready to look at child development and try out “grace and courtesy” in small groups as a new tool to use in your learning environment. Core Competency: I, II, & IV
  Kia Rodgers
  Program Director
  Red Cottage Montessori School
  Red Wing, MN

S26 Pre-K/Kindergarten/SchoolAge
Creativity and Art: Using Process Art with Young Children
Are you looking for new and exciting ideas for art projects with young children? Do you find yourself recycling ideas over and over again? Come learn from an experienced teacher about using tools and materials for creative representation as well as how are experiences can go beyond the classroom. Learn why process art is developmentally appropriate for young children, see examples and experience projects hand-on that can go straight to your classroom. Core Competency: I & II
  Margaret Mahowald
  Classroom Lead Teacher & Curriculum Coordinator
  Golden Valley, MN

Saturday Session IIB  12:15-1:30
Choose lunch or one of the following sessions

S21 Infant/Toddler
The Use of American Sign Language with Young, Hearing Children
This fun, interactive session will have you signing in no time! Learn how to use basic American Sign Language signs to reduce frustration, increase verbal skills, and have more fun with the children in your care. You will learn how to incorporate signs with songs, too!
Core Competency: I, II, & IV
  Denise Meyer
  Infant/Toddler Sign Language Instructor

S22 Infant/Toddler
Ouch! That Hurts: Understanding and Supporting Children Who Bite
Although biting is a typical behavior in infants and toddlers, it can be upsetting for families and providers (and children!) This session takes a closer look at why children bite, how to respond effectively, and strategies to support children through this developmental phase.
Core Competency I and IV
  Dawn Braa
  Early Childhood and Youth Development Director
  Chaska, MN

S27 General
How Understanding and Responding to Children’s Sexual Behaviors Can Help Prevent Child Sexual Abuse
This workshop highlights developmentally expected sexual behaviors in children and adolescents and coaches participants on how responding to these behaviors can be a powerful tool in preventing the sexual abuse of a child.
Core Competency: IV
  Cory Woosley
  Professional Development Director
  Child Care Aware of MN

S28 General
When They Feel Good…You Feel Great!
As educators, we often don’t realize how even the smallest caring gestures can have a huge impact on our students! Get terrific and motivating ideas in this session showing students you care about them in an environment where learning can flourish! Core Competency: IV
  Amber Osterman
  LuAnn Neuenschwander
  Kindergarten Teachers

S29 Kindergarten/SchoolAge
Gameful Engagement
The enjoyment of being fully engaged offers the greatest motivation. We will explore intrinsic, self-rewarding activities to inspire positive emotions, personal strengths and social connection to improve the effectiveness and involvement in working with kids. Core Competency: I, II, & IV
  Will Hale
  Engagement Specialist, Experience Generator and Greatness Amplifier
  Roseville, MN
S30 General
**Media Matters; The Role of Media and Technology in Family Life**
This class is an extensive look at the evolution of media and its impact on children and their families. Focused on the latest research from the Kaiser Family Foundation, the Center on Maternal and Child Health, CommonSense Media, and others, this course will examine media trends in families and its impact on children. Media is a powerful teacher. It is important for professionals to find an advocacy voice on behalf of children when it comes to how much, how soon, and the power of content. Core Competency: V & VIII
Katy Smith
Parent Educator
2011 Minnesota Teacher of the Year

S31 Infant/Toddler
**CranioCap®: Let’s CAPture the Details!**
Participants will learn and understand the indication, purpose and care for the use of the CranioCap in the pediatric population.
Core Competency: I & VI
Katie Bucka
APRN, CNP Gillette Children’s Hospital
Minneapolis, MN

S32 Infant/Toddler
**Art for Non Artists: Exploring with Toddlers**
Some of us feel as if we missed out on the “creativity gene” and find art activities a bit intimidating. This session is designed to help you discover how easy it can be to incorporate art activities that are both developmentally appropriate for toddlers and a lot of fun for both teachers and toddlers! Come join the fun and gain new ideas and insights.
Core Competency: I & IV
Barbara Wagner
Accreditation Specialist
Coon Rapids, MN

S33 Director
**Evaluating and Supporting Early Childhood Teachers**
This workshop will help education leaders (directors, coaches, principals and supervisors) evaluate and support teachers in positive ways. We will examine respectful and caring techniques and tools that encourage and enable teachers to do their best work with children. Core Competency: VII
Angèle Sancho Passe
Author, Early Childhood Consultant
Minneapolis, MN

S34 Pre-K
**Inspire Children to Read – The Importance of Literacy**
In this workshop, your passion for reading aloud to children will be reignited. Learn why it is important, also learn how and when to fit reading into your day. Core Competency: I, II, IV, V & VIII
Liz Hawkkinson
Director
Usborne Books & More

S35 Pre-K
**Hugging Trees and Hunting Caterpillars – How to Help Children Love Nature**
Grass, tree canopies, dirt, bugs, caterpillars, sticks, leaves and weather of all sorts give children an extremely important part of their development that not many have figured out without research. Come ready to explore what we know about nature in research, what elements of nature are easy to include in a fenced learning environment, and time to generate ideas to incorporate into your own outdoor learning environment. Feel free to bring your outdoor area dimensions! Core Competency: I & II
Kia Rodgers
Program Director
Red Cottage Montessori School
Red Wing, MN

S36 Kindergarten
**T-H-E-M-E-S Rock!**
Integrate fun into your curriculum! Explore engaging, meaningful Kindergarten Centers for teaching math, reading, and writing in a whole new way! This session will share a variety of classroom-tested projects and activities that you can use in your kindergarten classroom right away. See how much fun learning centers can be! Core Competency: II, III, & IV
Amber Osterman
KuAnn Neuenschwander
Kindergarten Teachers

S37 General
**Why Even the Little Ones have Mental Health Disorders and How We Can Help Them at School**
This session will include a description of the early warning signs of children's mental illness and the roots of these problems. Learn how to integrate mental health supports and services into education program planning. Most importantly, learn how to help children and their families deal with these tough issues.
Core Competency: III & IV
Sally Baas
President, National Association of School Psychologists
Associate Professor, Concordia University
St. Paul, MN

S38 General
**Top 20 Parents: Raising Happy, Responsible, and Emotionally Healthy Children**
This class, based on the book by the same title, will help parents and educators see how to reach our “best” in caring for young children. Learn about the WHYs of children’s behavior and how to SEE things differently. Understand how thinking, learning and communicating differently can reduce conflict and improve relationships. Learn how the messages from others influence us and what mistakes teach us. Core Competency: I, II & IV
Sharon Kaniess
Early Childhood Educator

S39 General
**The Best Ways to Get and Keep Kids’ Attention**
Learn Will Hale’s proven, kid-tested techniques to keep kids fully engaged. Surprisingly simple and effective tools refined in over eighteen years of performing music for kids. Absolutely no musical skills necessary.
Core Competency: I, II, & IV
Will Hale
Engagement Specialist, Experience Generator and Greatness Amplifier
Roseville, MN
**Saturday - Session IV  3:15-4:30**

**S41 Infant/Toddler**  
**Babies, Bark and Buttons: Incorporating Reggio Inspired Materials into the Infant Classroom**  
We will have an open ended discussion about the challenges and benefits of using the Reggio Emilia philosophy in the infant classroom. We will discuss ways to incorporate safe and meaningful materials into the classroom. We will also bring along materials for the participants to explore and gather ideas from. Core Competency II  
Laura Dahl, Program Coordinator  
Kate Brickner, Lead Infant Teacher  
Orchard Park Child Care Center  
Minnetonka, MN

**S42 Infant/Toddler**  
**Baby's Got the Moves!**  
It can seem that much of the motor development of infants and toddlers happens almost on its own! However, as intentional teachers, we know that it is important to provide the right equipment, opportunities and fun activities to encourage little ones to move and explore the world as they gain control over their large and small motor skills. What's out there that's fun and new (or maybe some favorites that you can dig out and dust off because you've forgotten about them)? Have fun moving and grooving and learning new things to do with our infants and toddlers! Core Competency: I, II  
Sara Mulso  
Adjunct Faculty/Early Childhood Trainer  
St Paul, MN

**S43 Infant/Toddler**  
**iBaby: Navigating Mobile Technology for Infants, Toddlers and Pre-K**  
Can mobile technology be an appropriate solution to help young children with disabilities learn and grow? This presentation will address this hot topic and share information about the conversation happening around using mobile technology with young children, tips for using mobile technology and specific mobile technologies that can help. Core Competency: I, II  
Bridget Gilormini, Director,  
Elizabeth Barry, EI/EC Assistive Technology Specialist  
Simon Technology Center  
Minneapolis, MN

**S44 Pre-K/Kindergarten/SchoolAge**  
**Jump Right In: Physical Activity and Fitness for Young Children**  
The purpose of this training is to provide an introductory look at physical activity and fitness. Participants will develop a shared understanding of these two topics, determine why they are critical areas of focus in early childhood, and identify some best practices to implement in their classrooms and programs. Core Competency: VI  
Barbara Wagner  
Accreditation Specialist  
Coon Rapids, MN

**S45 Pre-K/Kindergarten**  
**No Fuss, No Muss Family Night**  
Join us to learn how to get parents to better understand your classroom with a Parent Open House. Plan a parents’ night filled with fun, hands-on activities and most of all – a chance for parents to experience some examples of how learning happens in their children. Bring examples of your successes to share! Core Competency: II, IV, & V  
Lacey Wellens  
Rachel Wickre  
Preschool Co-Teachers  
Hand in Hand Childcare  
St Paul, MN

**Saturday - Session V  3:15-4:30**

**S46 Pre-K/Kindergarten**  
**Enhancing Young Minds through Signs: Songs & Stories**  
In this session participants will learn early childhood songs and stories using American Sign Language. Your group time will come alive through the use of sign. Guaranteed to provide you with content you can incorporate with children right away! Core Competency: II  
Dawn Braa  
Early Childhood & Youth Development Director  
Chaska, MN

**S47 General**  
**Why Even the Little Ones have Mental Health Disorders and How We Can Help Them at School**  
THIS IS A 2 HOUR SESSION. FOR THE BEGINNING OF THIS SESSION, PLEASE REGISTER FOR S37  
This session will include a description of the early warning signs of children’s mental illness and the roots of these problems. Learn how to integrate mental health supports and services into education program planning. Most importantly, learn how to help children and their families deal with these tough issues. Core Competency: III & IV  
Sally Baas  
President, National Association of School Psychologists  
Professor, Concordia University  
St. Paul, MN

**S48 General**  
**Top 20 Parents: Raising Happy, Responsible, and Emotionally Healthy Children**  
THIS IS A 2 HOUR SESSION. FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THIS SESSION, REGISTER FOR S38  
This class, based on the book by the same title, will help parents and educators see how to reach our “best” in caring for young children. Learn about the WHYS of children’s behavior and how to SEE things differently. Understand how thinking, learning and communicating differently can reduce conflict and improve relationships. Learn how the messages from others influence us and what mistakes teach us. Core Competency: I, II & IV  
Sharon Kaniess  
Early Childhood Educator

**S49 General**  
**This is TOO Much Fun to be Good For Us: Storytelling in the Early Childhood Classroom**  
Let’s unpack the art and practice of using storytelling in early childhood settings! You will leave with specific techniques for doing interactive storytelling, creating student-generated stories and story acting. We will explore research on the significant educational benefit of this approach and learn about related local, national and international efforts.  
Emily Beckstrom  
Early Childhood Consultant  
St Paul, MN