

# 2022 MNAFEE Family & Early Childhood Conference

## Workshop Sessions



Thursday, April 7, 2022)

10:00–11:15am – Workshop Session A

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**A-1) Joyful and Meaningful Literacy** [Meets MN Teacher Licensure renewal requirements]

Heather Shumaker

Literacy lessons during a temper tantrum? Or during a wrestling match? What? Discover the wonders of integrating literacy into a child's play, from helping her express her deepest thoughts and feelings to setting limits on other kids. Meet the power of words for kids too young to read and write.

**A-2) The Power of Our Relationships**

Susan Walker, PhD, Associate Professor, Family Social Science, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Teaching during COVID was tough (understatement)! What helped educators and families get through? Based on statewide research with ECFE – it was relationships. Learn how relationships are a super power – and how to foster meaningful relationships with families and between families (even online), with your colleagues and at home.

**A-3) Circle Time Refresh**

Beka Swisher, Early Childhood Coordinator, Co-Founder Connecting to Learn, LLC; Jennifer Sadlovsky, MS, Co-Founder, Connecting to Learn, LLC

Circle time is an incredibly rich time of discovery and learning for children. Discover new ideas for you to use at your circle times. Keep toddlers engaged, involve parents, and work with your whole team to make circle time incredible! Designed specifically for ECFE circle times.

**A-4) Many Faces-Many Spaces (Repeat B-4)** [Meets MN Teacher Licensure renewal requirements]

Nancy Hafner, MEd, Community Engagement Specialist; Victoria Henle, MEd, Family Engagement Specialist, Willmar Community Education

Explore ideas to reach families where they are most comfortable in their communities and develop two new strategies for reaching “out” into their communities. Learn how one community has successfully developed new partnerships to make ECFE and early childhood development visible.

**A-5) Redefine and Transform through the Transition**

Todd Duckett, CEO/Reignmaker of Duckett Enterprises, Founder of New World Flood

After reaching a major goal, do you ever get lost in setting another goal? When it's time to start down a new path there can be confusion, doubt, and anxiety. Discover a method to consciously implement steps to help you find your way out the darkness.

## 11:15am–12:15pm – Lunch / Stretch Break

## 12:15–1:30pm – Workshop Session B

**(NOTE EARLY START: B-5 (MNAFEE Legislative Update: Increasing State-Wide Leadership) for ECFE starts at noon.)**

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**B-1) Little Ones/Big Brain Development** [Meets MN Teacher Licensure renewal requirements]

Beka Swisher, Early Childhood Coordinator, Founder Practical Parenting, LLC

Be amazed as you learn about brain development from ages 0-5 years. This overview will strengthen your knowledge of the importance of early experiences. Whether you are a parent educator, early childhood teacher, or administrator, you'll find there is something new to learn in this interactive presentation.

**B-2) Differentiating Parenting Education with Virtual Classrooms (Repeat C-2)** [Meets MN Teacher Licensure renewal requirements]

Geri Fisher, Licensed Parent and Family Educator, Robbinsdale Area Schools

Virtual classrooms became popular and effective teaching tools during the current pandemic. Let's explore how they can continue to be valuable in the future by discussing how they can be used in parenting education to differentiate instruction and extend learning.

**B-3) Sing Today, Read Forever: How to Use Music-Making to Raise Reading Achievement (Repeat C-3)**

[Meets MN Teacher Licensure renewal requirements]

Ann Kay, Co-founder The Rock 'n' Read Project

Did you know? Neuroscientists can predict whether a three-year-old will struggle with reading by the way their brain processes sound! Learn about neuroscientific research and a “missing link” to literacy. Learn fun strategies that enable the brain's auditory processing, auditory memory, beat synchronization, and phonological awareness—essential for proficient reading.

**B-4) Many Faces-Many Spaces (Repeat A-4)** [Meets MN Teacher Licensure renewal requirements]

Nancy Hafner, MEd, Community Engagement Specialist; Victoria Henle, MEd, Family Engagement Specialist, Willmar Community Education

Explore ideas to reach families where they are most comfortable in their communities and develop two new strategies for reaching “out” into their communities. Learn how one community has successfully developed new partnerships to make ECFE and early childhood development visible.

**B-5) Early start – Begins at noon – MNAFEE Legislative Update: Increasing State-Wide Leadership for ECFE**

Amy Koch, MNAFEE Lobbyist; Susan Somers, MNAFEE Advocacy Committee Chair; Heather Cline, MNAFEE Advocacy Committee Past Chair; MNAFEE Advocacy Committee Members

You are invited to tune in early for a special legislative update from MNAFEE's new lobbyist, Amy Koch! Then, during the workshop session, join the MNAFEE Advocacy Committee for a celebration, update, and conversation about the legislative activities occurring in a strategic effort to increase state-wide support and leadership for ECFE.

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**1:45–3:00pm – Workshop Session C**

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**C-1) The Power of Community**

Susan Walker, PhD, Associate Professor, Family Social Science, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

It's no secret that feeling part of a community is what brings many families back to ECFE year after year. Yet cultivating a sense of community in our classes can be easier said than done. Explore ways to create an environment of trust, safety and authentic connection.

**C-2) Differentiating Parenting Education with Virtual Classrooms (Repeat B-3) [Meets MN Teacher Licensure renewal requirements]**

Gerri Fisher, Licensed Parent and Family Educator, Robbinsdale Area Schools

Virtual classrooms became popular and effective teaching tools during the current pandemic. Explore how they can continue to be valuable in the future by discussing how they can be used in parenting education to differentiate instruction and extend learning.

**C-3) Sing Today, Read Forever: How to Use Music-Making to Raise Reading Achievement (Repeat B-3) [Meets MN Teacher Licensure renewal requirements]**

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Did you know? Neuroscientists can predict whether a three-year-old will struggle with reading by the way their brain processes sound! Learn about neuroscientific research and a "missing link" to literacy. Learn fun strategies that enable the brain's auditory processing, auditory memory, beat synchronization, and phonological awareness—essential for proficient reading.

**C-4) Why Parents Need to Learn about Firearm Safety and How to Lead Discussions Respectfully and Inclusively**

Jill Chisholm, M.Ed, Parent Education, Licensed Parent Educator, Be SMART Presenter

Learn about the impact of firearms on the safety of American families today. Non-partisan approaches for discussions in parent groups will be presented. The Be SMART power point, which incorporates safe storage practices, communication, and suicide prevention components will be presented and discussed along with other resources.

**C-5) How to Amp Up Your Meetings with Team Building FUN!!**

Kate Andersen, Director of Community Education, Mahtomedi Schools

Are you looking for ways to enhance your meeting times with relationship building activities? Discover simple and fun ways to start your team meetings, parent education classes, and possible classroom engagement activities. All participants will engage in fun, collaborative games during this session. (There will be breakouts to learn examples.)

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**3:15–3:45pm – EPL (Eat, Ponder, Learn) Sessions**

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- EPL1
- EPL2
- EPL3
- EPL4
- EPL5

# 2022 MNAFEE Family & Early Childhood Conference

## Workshop Sessions



**Friday, April 8**

**10:00–11:15am – Workshop Session D**

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**D-1) Playing at Home and Work: Finding a Playful Mindset**

Heather von Bank, PhD

Discuss and discover ways to be more playful, find ways to praise children effectively, and become more mindful of play in your personal and professional life.

**D-2) Parent Education: Content, Scope and Method [Meets MN Teacher Licensure renewal requirements]**

Beka Swisher, Early Childhood Coordinator, Co-Founder Connecting to Learn, LLC, Jennifer Sadlovsky, MS, Co-Founder Connecting to Learn, LLC

Learn and discuss structuring your groups and classes to meet the ever changing, and always present (toilet learning anyone?) needs of parents. Go from the basics to current needs of groups to more advanced group facilitation skills. If you are a new parent educator, this is a session not to miss!

**D-3) Outdoor Learning in Early Childhood: Getting Started (Repeat E-4) [Meets MN Teacher Licensure renewal requirements]**

Sheila Williams Ridge, MA, Education, Co-Director of the Child Development Lab School, University of Minnesota, Jenny Hanlon, M.Ed., Family Education, Parent and Family Educator and Nature Preschool Teacher, Stillwater, Early Childhood and White Bear Lake Early Childhood, Anna Dutke, M.Ed., Early Childhood & Early Childhood Special Education Nature Preschool Teacher, Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools

During this session we'll give an overview of the resources available through the Minnesota Department of Education to support integrating outdoor learning into early childhood programs. Whether you just want to incorporate some nature play opportunities or are looking to transition to becoming a nature-based program, participants will gain an understanding of the next steps they need to take to make their dream a reality.

**D-4) Words that Help: Building Relationships and Trauma-responsive Classrooms using Developmental Affirmations (Repeat E-3) [Meets MN Teacher Licensure renewal requirements]**

Lisa Krause, MA, CFLE, Trainer and Family Coach, Parent Coach Connection, Kristi Bauer

Caregivers often say, "Just give me the words." In this interactive workshop, you will discover the benefits of using Developmental Affirmations in trauma-sensitive classrooms. You will practice using developmental affirmations as an assessment and an educational tool to support emotional and behavioral development.

**D-5) Cultural Inclusivity in ECFE (Repeat E-2) [Meets MN Teacher Licensure renewal requirements]**

Ayan Abdulahi, Bilingual Parent Educator, Graduate Student, U of MN; Amal Omar-Samatar, Graduate Student, U of MN

Teaching with intent and cultural considerations to make ECFE accessible to all families. Bilingual parents learn best when their cultural ways of parenting are acknowledged, welcomed, and integrated into parent education. Educators must not only teach but learn participants' ways of parenting to create cross cultural understanding and collaboration.

# 2022 MNAFEE Family & Early Childhood Conference

## Workshop Sessions



11:30am–12:45pm – Workshop Session E

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**E-1) Parents as Heroes**

Beka Swisher, Early Childhood Coordinator, Co-Founder Connecting to Learn, LLC; Jennifer Sadlovsky, MS, Co-Founder Connecting to Learn, LLC  
Navigate all things parent education & parenting personalities. Walk through some of the most challenging parent ed situations and learn and share tips, tricks, and best practices. Leave the session feeling confident in your skills to facilitate groups of all kinds.

**E-2) Cultural Inclusivity in ECFE (Repeat D-5) [Meets MN Teacher Licensure renewal requirements]**

Ayan Abdulahi, Bilingual Parent Educator, Graduate Student, U of MN; Amal Omar-Samatar, Graduate Student, U of MN  
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**E-5) Building a Professional Development Plan Using WIDA Early Years Resources for Supporting Multilingual Learners [Meets MN Teacher Licensure renewal requirements]**

Cindy Check, MDE-WIDA Early Years Ambassador, MN Dept of Education, Kelly Kazeck, MN Dept of Education  
Use WIDA Early Years resources to build a meaningful professional learning and implementation plan for the coming year. Learn ways to gather information using the assessment tools and identify the current essential actions you wish to focus on. Use the Implementation checklist to focus your efforts on behaviors and strategies that would result in meaningful changes to daily practice.