

PROGRAM KEY

Title of Session/Event

Presenter/Co-Presenters

Track Title | **Room/Location**

***Special Event**

Featured Session

THURS | 10:00am

Opening Keynote - Using Daily Conflict as Learning Opportunities

Jill Molli with Conscious Discipline

KILIMANJARO 5

THURS | 11:45am - 1:00pm

Brain Smart Ways to Create Caring Classrooms Full of Magic

Jill Molli with Conscious Discipline

KILIMANJARO 5

THURS | 12:00pm

Exhibit Hall Opens

THURS | 1:00pm - 5:00pm

***Training of Trainers: Day One**

ACACIA

THURS | 1:15pm - 2:30pm

How Healthy is Your Business? A Quick Self-Check

Gary Romano

Admin | **BAMBOO**

Is This You? A No-Fluff Look at Professionalism, Ethics, & Expectations for Early Educators

Alesha Brandt

Ethics | **CYPRESS**

Power in Partnership: Collaborating with Families for Success

Meredith Prater

Family & Comm | **PORTIA**

Two-Generation Strategies: Advancing Economic Mobility for Families with Young Children

Dr. Bethany Edwards/Carol Klocek

Curriculum | **KILIMANJARO 1**

Calm, Connected, and Capable: Trauma-Informed Classroom Management

Shela Mobarak Wannemacher

Inclusion | **KILIMANJARO 2**

Sensory 101- What is Sensory Processing and How Does it Impact the Classroom?

Vickie Maertz

Classroom | **KILIMANJARO 3**

Staff Hiring, Retention, and Culture

Brandy Crumley

Admin | **KILIMANJARO 4**

Beyond Behavior: Supporting Executive Function and Social Skills Through Play

Sarah Bishop

DAP | **KILIMANJARO 7**

**What's New with PBS KIDS?
Exploring New Content and
Resources for Classroom Use**
Benjamin Kramer/Cindy Karras, PhD
DAP | [KILIMANJARO 8](#)

**From Playground to Learning
Landscape: 12 Best Practices for
Outdoor Learning Environments**
Bethene Edwards
DAP | [KILIMANJARO 9](#)

**Do You Know How Latino
Immigrant Parents Think About
Children's Early Learning, Social-
Emotional Development, or
Bilingual Education? Let's Learn
Together!**
Kiyomi Colegrove/Christian
Zuniga/Molly McManus
Family & Comm | [KILIMANJARO 10](#)

THURS | 3:00pm - 4:15pm

**From Passion to Policy:
Empowering Educators as
Advocates for Young Children**
Cathy McHorse
Advocacy | [BAMBOO](#)

**De lo Estético a lo Creativo:
Promoviendo la Creatividad a
Través de las Experiencias
Artísticas**
Cyndy Karras, PhD
Spanish | [BANYAN](#)

**Cooking Up Patience in a Drive-
Through World**
Barbara Lynn
Curriculum | [KILIMANJARO 1](#)

**Building Emotional Foundations:
Connecting CASEL, Sensory Play,
and Engaging Children's Books**
Colleen Kell
Curriculum | [KILIMANJARO 2](#)

**Preventing and Responding to
Challenging Behaviors**
Nicci Carrington/Elizabeth Diaz
Classroom | [KILIMANJARO 3](#)

**Self-Regulation & Co-Regulation:
Impacts in the Early Childhood
Classroom**
Vickie Maertz
Inclusion | [KILIMANJARO 5](#)

**The Power of Plenty... But Not
Too Much!**
Dianne Nielsen
DAP | [KILIMANJARO 8](#)

**Families as Co-Teachers: Culturally
Responsive Engagement Beyond
the Door**
Natoya Carroll
Family & Comm | [KILIMANJARO 10](#)

When Trauma Enters my Center
Isabel Martinez
Trauma | [CROWN PALM](#)

Self Regulation begins with Self Awareness: Implementing Play Therapy and Mindfulness Techniques

Gaby Glidden

DAP | **KILIMANJARO 9**

From Front Door to Front Row: Boosting Attendance Through Home Visits and Celebratory Learning

Yesenia Gonzalez/Heather Hennesey, EdD

DAP | **KILIMANJARO 7**

THURS | 4:00pm - 6:00pm

***Exhibitor Happy Hour**

KILIMANJARO 6

THURS | 7:00pm - 8:30pm

***Documentary Screening: Starting at Zero: Reimagining Education in America**

Sponsored by East Texas A&M University | **KILIMANJARO 3**

FRI | 9:00am - 10:15am

Beyond Behavior: Trauma-Informed Early Childhood Practices

Andrea Poehl

Trauma | **CROWN PALM**

Financial Basics for Your Family Child Care Business

Marleen Tobi

Family Home | **ACACIA**

Conexiones que Forman Cerebros: Lo que el Juego de La Arquitectura Cerebral nos Revela sobre el Desarrollo en la Primera Infancia

Cyndy Karras, PhD

Spanish | **BANYAN**

Inclusive by Design: Elevating Care for Children with Disabilities and Trauma-Informed Systems

Harris County Early Childhood Initiatives Team

Advocacy | **BAMBOO**

Service with a Smile: Chick-fil-A-Inspired Customer Care in Childcare

ReShaun Webb

Ethics | **CYPRESS**

Building Early Computational Thinking: Engaging, Accessible, and Developmentally Appropriate Approaches with TexCS

Margaret Quinn/Michelle Benson/Carolina Bratlien

Curriculum | **PORTIA**

Creating Inclusive Makerspaces in Early Childhood Settings: A Hands-On Approach to Exploration and Equity

Griselda Perez

Curriculum | **KILIMANJARO 1**

Inclusion in the Early Childhood Classroom- Building a Foundation for ALL Learners

La'Kisha Hickerson

Inclusion | **KILIMANJARO 2**

Managing Anxious Classroom Behavior

Amy Musick

Classroom | **KILIMANJARO 3**

Expanding Access Through Pre-K Partnerships

Stephanie Bonnet-Kramer

Admin | **KILIMANJARO 4**

Fostering Curiosity and Discovery with Hands-On Science for Young Learners

Dr. Ella Brown

DAP | **KILIMANJARO 8**

Serve and Return: Building Brains Through Everyday Interactions

Preeti Jain

DAP | **KILIMANJARO 9**

FRI | 10:00am

Exhibit Hall Opens

FRI | 10:45am - 12:00pm

Together We Thrive: Strategies for Building Highly Effective Teaching Teams

Deidre Harris

Ethics | **ACACIA**

Better Together: Partnership Power for Child Care

Kay Barley Paxton/Militza

Mezquita/Danielle Cunningham

Advocacy | **BAMBOO**

Dual Language 101

Claudia Kramer Santamaria

Spanish | **BANYAN**

Teaching Resilience: The Role of the Classroom in Responding to Trauma and Stress

Maud Morgan

Trauma | **CROWN PALM**

Orientation to the Texas Trainer Registry

Tracy Jones

Ethics | **CYPRESS**

Wily Wolves and Wicked Queens: Exploring Villains for Empathy Building

Marisa Barrett

Curriculum | **KILIMANJARO 1**

Research and Reality: Differentiation in Early Childhood Setting

Janet Henry

Inclusion | **KILIMANJARO 2**

Smooth Sailing: Strategies For Effective Transitions That Build Executive Functioning Skills

Alison Mokry

Classroom | **KILIMANJARO 3**

You Had Me at Hello! Responsive Caregiving from the Start

Cheryl Carey

Admin | [KILIMANJARO 4](#)

Build a Stronger Child Care Business with Free Supports

Chelsea Reddic

Admin | [KILIMANJARO 7](#)

From Guidelines to Practice: Implementing Playful Learning in Texas PreK Classrooms

Dr. Karen Walker/Dr. Josh

Thompson/Roderick Whitley

DAP | [KILIMANJARO 8](#)

Empowering SEL: Using Children's Literature to Build Belonging and Emotional Understanding

Colleen Kell

DAP | [KILIMANJARO 9](#)

Integrating Family and Community Culture in Early Childhood

Kimberly Curry

Family & Comm | [KILIMANJARO 10](#)

FRI | 12:15pm - 2:15pm

***Public Policy Luncheon | PORTIA**

FRI | 1:00pm - 5:00pm

***Training of Trainers: Day Two
ACACIA**

FRI | 1:15pm - 2:30pm

The Community Approach

Melissa Williamson

Advocacy | [BAMBOO](#)

Narrando Transiciones: Competencia lingüística para bebés y niños pequeños

Claudia Rodriguez/Kathy Barnwell

Spanish | [BANYAN](#)

Math Talk for Little Minds

Tracy Gunn

Curriculum | [KILIMANJARO 1](#)

Ready, Set, Regulate! Tools to Transform Behavior in the Early Years

Erica Vela

Inclusion | [KILIMANJARO 2](#)

Everyday Advocacy: Small Actions, Big Impact

Dr. Lisa Taylor Cook/Joanne Baham

Advocacy | [KILIMANJARO 3](#)

Generations Y and Z: Why they Leave and How to Keep Them

Sarah Smith

Admin | [KILIMANJARO 4](#)

Leading Change: The 5 Essential Principles of Transformational Early Childhood Leadership

Heather Hennesey, EdD

Admin | [KILIMANJARO 7](#)

Ethics and The Early Childhood Educator

Anna Iletto

Ethics | [CROWN PALM](#)

Beyond the “No”: Transforming Behavior with Positive Guidance

Elizabeth Alzate

DAP | [KILIMANJARO 8](#)

Think, Talk, Pretend: The Power of Preschool Play

Kaylan Mills

DAP | [KILIMANJARO 9](#)

Talk, Play, Learn: Building Strong Foundations for Language

Andrea Poehl | [CYPRESS](#)

Going Beyond: Enhancing Teacher Well-Being through Relationships with Families

Jennifer Chapman/Jes Fyall

Cardenas, PhD, IECMH-E®

Family & Comm | [KILIMANJARO 10](#)

FRI | 3:00pm - 4:15pm

Empowering Directors Through Apprenticeships: A Community College Partnership for Workforce Advocacy

Ann Butler/Dr. Nora Hernandez

Advocacy | [BAMBOO](#)

Play, Talk, Read: Language-Rich Games for Preschool Literacy

Fernando Hernandez/Veronica Ortiz

Curriculum | [CYPRESS](#)

Promoting Oral Language and Vocabulary Within Science & Nature Experiences

Arianna Pikus

Curriculum | [KILIMANJARO 1](#)

Teaching Smarter: Free AI Tools to Simplify Your Day

Joanne Baham/Dr. Lisa Taylor Cook
Classroom | [KILIMANJARO 3](#)

Music is for Everyone!

Holly Moore

DAP | [KILIMANJARO 9](#)

Building Early Childhood Leadership Through Higher Education Partnerships

Preeti Jain/Shazia Afrin

Admin | [KILIMANJARO 4](#)

From Giggles to Growth: Elevating Infant and Toddler Development Through Early Learning and Play

Renilda Henson

DAP | [KILIMANJARO 7](#)

What Are They Telling You?

Jennifer McCarville

Classroom | [BANYAN](#)

Imagining Together - Collectively Storying Care in ECE

Molly Doherty/Dr. Michelle Salazar
Perez/Zutella V Holmes

Family & Comm | [KILIMANJARO 10](#)

Margin Mastery: Leading with Space to Breathe

Sharon Jackson | **Crown Palm**

Mas Alla del 'No': Transformando la Conducta con Guizana Positiva

Elizabeth Alzate

Spanish | **KILIMANJARO 8**

NAEYC Code of Ethics Revision

Travis Davis | **KILIMANJARO 2**

FRI | 4:30pm - 6:00pm

Chapter Networking | SEE BELOW

FRI | 6:30pm - 9:00pm

***ECE Awards Ceremony & President's Reception | EVENT BARN**

SAT | 8:00am

Exhibit Hall Opens

SAT | 8:00am - 9:15am

Closing Keynote - Beyond Readiness: Reclaiming the Human Experience in the Age of AI

Audrey Rowland | **KILIMANJARO 5**

SAT | 9:45am - 11:00am

***Accreditation Brunch | PORTIA**

Home-Based Programs: Branded to Stand Out Defining Your Unique Program Advantage

LaChelle Brooks

Family Home | **ACACIA**

Raising Our Voices: Advocacy and Public Policy in Early Childhood Education

Michelle Coston

Advocacy | **BAMBOO**

La ciencia del juego: Explorando el aprendizaje a través del juego con juguetes de AVANCE

Valeska Lucart/Erika González

Spanish | **BANYAN**

Reframing Behavior Through a Wellness Lens: Caring for Ourselves First

Michelle Galindo

Trauma | **CROWN PALM**

Unleashing the Magic of Play: Discovering How Play Sparks Social and Emotional Growth in Preschoolers!

Diana Cortez-Castro

DAP | **KILIMANJARO 9**

Books + Brains: Practical Strategies to Strengthen Executive Function in Young Children

Joanne Baham/Dr. Lisa Taylor Cook

Curriculum | **KILIMANJARO 1**

Can They Do It? Yes They Can! Encouraging Independence In Children 14 months and Older

Misty Ehlers

Classroom | **KILIMANJARO 3**

Using AI to Enhance Quality and Accreditation in Early Childhood Education: Lessons from an Early Childhood Development Center

Mary Harper, PhD

Admin | [KILIMANJARO 4](#)

Shielding the Brain: Understanding and Responding to Toxic Stress in Early Childhood

Larry Mercer/Dr. Ella Brown

DAP | [KILIMANJARO 7](#)

Let's Play! Playful Approaches in Helping Children Regulate Their Emotions

Angelina Fuchs

DAP | [KILIMANJARO 8](#)

Rebuilding Connection in a Disconnected World: How Child Care Leaders Can Support Families with Heart and Hope

Ann McKittrick

Family & Comm | [KILIMANJARO 10](#)

SAT | 11:30am - 12:45pm

***An Overview of NAEYC's Early Learning Program Quality Assessment and Accreditation System**

Kim Hodge | [PORTIA](#)

Healing Starts Here: Trauma-Informed Practices in Early Learning Environments

Michelle Coston

Trauma | [BAMBOO](#)

Building Connections: Bilingual Strategies to Support Dual Language Learners in Early Childhood

Griselda Perez

Spanish | [BANYAN](#)

Relationships at the Heart: Responsive Strategies to Build Trust with Children and Families

Michelle Galindo

Family & Comm | [CROWN PALM](#)

Creating Inclusive Classrooms for Neurodivergent Learners: Practical Tools and Strategies for Supporting Autism, ADHD, and Sensory Needs in Early Childhood

Mirtha Brown

Inclusion | [KILIMANJARO 2](#)

Empowering Early Educators: Inclusive Practices for Neurodiverse Learners

Ronilda Henson

Inclusion | [CYPRESS](#)

Boundaries, Not Burn-Out: Building Balance in Leadership and Life

Sharon Jackson

Admin | [KILIMANJARO 4](#)

The Many Ways of Seeing and Doing: Honoring Children's Thinking Through Documentation

Crystal Lucha

Curriculum | [KILIMANJARO 1](#)

Supporting Young Children with Challenging Behaviors

Brianna Sanford/Kelly Richmond
Classroom | **KILIMANJARO 3**

Hiding in Plain Sight: Sifting through the Observational Data from Free-Play Activities to Glean Evidence of Meeting Science Standards

Vivien Geneser/Melissa Day-Mifflin,
PhD
DAP | **KILIMANJARO 9**

The Importance of Drawing for Young Children's Development and Growth

Karla Judith Lee
DAP | **KILIMANJARO 8**

Texas ECI: Understanding and Addressing Challenging Behavior

Mary Adolph/Dr. Erron Huey
Inclusion | **KILIMANJARO 10**

Chapter Networking Rooms

FRI | 4:30pm - 6:00pm

Austin
Kilimanjaro 9

Brazos Valley
Bamboo

Central Texas
Banyan

Coastal Bend
Crown Palm

San Antonio
Kilimanjaro 7

Dallas
Portia

Higher Ed
Thurs. 3:00pm
Portia

Collin County
Cypress

Denton
Kilimanjaro 1

Fort Worth
Kilimanjaro 2

Houston Area
(Greater Houston, Gulf Coast, Sam Houston)
Kilimanjaro 3

Paso Del Norte
Kilimanjaro 4

Southmost
Kilimanjaro 8

Session Tracks

Administration and Management _____ **Admin**

Advocacy and Public Policy _____ **Advocacy**

Classroom Management _____ **Classroom**

Curricular Approaches _____ **Curriculum**

Developmentally Appropriate Practices _____ **DAP**

Ethics and Professionalism _____ **Ethics**

Family and Community Partnerships _____ **Family & Comm**

Family Home Providers _____ **Family Home**

Inclusive Practices _____ **Inclusion**

Spanish Language _____ **Spanish**

Trauma Informed Care _____ **Trauma**