



Preschool Educators' Convention

July 14–15, 2023

Franklin Road Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, TN

Friday Schedule

General Session One: 1:00—1:50 p.m.

Mirror, Mirror on the Wall, Am I Making a Difference AT ALL?.....

BAND

Cathy Dotson, Wilmington Christian Academy, Wilmington, NC

Workshop One: 2:00—2:50 p.m.

Identifying Preschoolers with Disabilities (Directors) **ED122**

Krista Smith, Shenandoah Baptist Academy, Cleveland, TN

Parents, physicians, and early childhood educators are expected to monitor child development and identify children with suspected disabilities. Early identification and intervention allow children the opportunity to receive special services that can be life changing.

“Are They Ready to Write?” (Literacy) **ED110**

Candice Sneed, Point Christian Academy, Chattanooga, TN

Yes, they are ready. It is important. They are not too young. Join us as we explore ways to build fine motor skills and look at early writing tips and exercises to help preschoolers get started on the right path.

Nimble Numbers **EL CAF**

Maranatha Sweet, Pensacola Christian College (Abeka), Pensacola, FL

How do you create permanent connections in a young mind? Add new ideas to your toolbox for teaching numbers, developing young brains, and training motor skills.

Workshop Two: 3:00—3:50 p.m.

“Labor or Love: Why Preschool Matters” (Directors) **ED122**

Candice Sneed, Point Christian Academy, Chattanooga, TN

Preschool is a labor of love. But sometimes it feels more like labor than love. In this session, we will explore why preschool matters and reignite the love as we head into a new school year.

The Sponge (Literacy) **BAND**

KariAn McElhaney, Fairview Christian Academy, Athens, TN

How full can a sponge become? Using an ordinary sponge as inspiration, we will explore ideas to aid toddlers in reading readiness.

Winning the Heart to Teach the Head **ED110**

Patti Scalf, Franklin Road Christian School, Murfreesboro, TN

Preschool teachers can use the heart as the gateway for learning. We will explore teaching methods and behavioral strategies to win your students' hearts from the start and set them on the road to success.

Break 3:50—4:10 p.m.

Workshop Three: 4:10—5:00 p.m.

Creating a Cohesive Preschool Community (Directors) **ED122**

Patti Scalf, Franklin Road Christian School, Murfreesboro, TN

This workshop will explore ways to build your team, engage with parents, and create a cohesive preschool community.

Baby Steps to Biblical WorldviewEL CAF

Maranatha Sweet, Pensacola Christian College (Abeka), Pensacola, FL

Did you know that children begin to form worldview at fifteen months? As Christian preschool teachers, you have the amazing opportunity to begin building biblical worldview in your students.

Adding in the “Extras” BAND

Cathy Dotson, Wilmington Christian Academy, Wilmington, NC

Following one curriculum is not enough. Learn how to add the “extras” such as science, Spanish, and STEM into your curriculum to make it top-notch. A timeline of topics and ideas will be given for each content area for use throughout the year.

Workshop Four: 5:10—6:00 p.m.

“How Do I Get These Kids to Obey?” (Directors).....ED122

Pam Stewart, Temple Baptist Christian School, Manchester, TN

Does it seem like the new students attending your school get a little bolder and more disrespectful each year? What should we do? This workshop will discuss some ways to help “Little Junior” learn self-control.

Learning your ABCs . . . Spell Your Name with Me

(Literacy)EL CAF

Angie Ashworth, Landmark Christian Academy, Louisville, KY

As we introduce the alphabet to our classes, one of the practical applications of knowing the letters is identifying the letters that spell the student’s name. In this session, we will discuss ideas for helping students learn the letters in their names.

He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands..... BAND

KariAn McElhaney, Fairview Christian Academy, Athens, TN

Preschool teachers have a huge responsibility of training parents’ “whole little worlds.” We must have the right focus to ensure success. Using the love of God, we will search for ways to create a loving and structured atmosphere for the children.

Workshop Five: 6:10—7:00 p.m.

Observing, Evaluating, and Encouraging (Directors).....ED122

Cyndi Augustin, Metro Christian Academy, Goodlettsville, TN

Preschool teachers are often the lifeblood of our ministries. Encouragement is the key to a superior staff and program.

Psalm 23 Classroom: Little Lambs in a Peaceful Pasture.....EL CAF

Maranatha Sweet, Pensacola Christian College (Abeka), Pensacola, FL

Think of yourself as the class shepherd and of your students as your little flock. The psalm provides a sweet guide for your classroom environment and for your role in the lives of the little ones at your “pasture” door.

Terrific Transitions BAND

Cathy Dotson, Wilmington Christian Academy, Wilmington, NC

Are your transitions smooth shifts or do you grind your gears? Making transitions smooth, meaningful, and fun for children with activities and songs will enable you to harness their creative energy then release it carefully without a missed shift.

Saturday Schedule

Workshop Six: 8:00—8:50 a.m.

Mission Impossible (Directors)ED122

Debbie Hammons, Fayette Christian School, Somerville, TN

Let’s discuss how personal accountability and relationship building will help develop your team for the purpose of achieving your mission.

Never Judge a Book by Its Movie (Literacy) BAND

Cathy Dotson, Wilmington Christian Academy, Wilmington, NC

Children learn to read so they can read to learn. We will discuss ways that all students can more effectively use critical reading strategies. All workshop participants will receive a comprehensive list of reading strategies.

Professional Organizer Goes to School—

Papers and Plans.....EL CAF

Maranatha Sweet, Pensacola Christian College (Abeka), Pensacola, FL

If you struggle with a never-ending list of tasks, then you will benefit from tips to help you reach the goals of decreasing stress and increasing productivity.

Workshop Seven: 9:00—9:50 a.m.

Detecting the Blue's Clues and Other Colors, Too!

(Directors)ED122

Diane Lytle, Pleasant View Christian School, Pleasant View, TN

This interactive workshop will focus on detecting seven different emotions (colors) to help the director develop meaningful connections with faculty.

The Orton-Gillingham Approach to Teaching

Letters and Sounds (Literacy)..... BAND

Krista Smith, Shenandoah Baptist Academy, Cleveland, TN

Teaching letters and sounds is a vital step toward learning to read. Without these skills, students will fall behind, causing the world to become inaccessible.

Learning Your ABCs . . . Hey! Are You Listening to Me?EL CAF

Angie Ashworth, Landmark Christian Academy, Louisville, KY

There are days as preschool teachers when you wonder if anyone is listening to your instruction. In this session, ideas will be presented for classroom management.

Break 9:50—10:10 a.m.

Workshop Eight: 10:10—11:00 a.m.

Child Abuse (Directors).....ED122

KariAn McElhaney, Fairview Christian Academy, Athens, TN

Directors should ensure that their staff members are knowledgeable of and up to date with their responsibilities regarding child abuse. In this session, we will explore the Tennessee child abuse website for teacher training and discuss steps to follow in protecting our teachers during these difficult situations.

Letters and Lambs (Literacy)EL CAF

Maranatha Sweet, Pensacola Christian College (Abeka), Pensacola, FL

The patterns for knowing and understanding letters established in the minds of your students will lay the foundation for life-long literacy. Increase your confidence with tips for teaching letters, language, and listening.

What's Your Brand? BAND

Debbie Hammons, Fayette Christian School, Somerville, TN

What do your peers, students, and boss say about you? Come explore the idea of building a personal brand and how it can improve your excellence in the classroom.

Workshop Nine: 11:10 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

A Professional Organizer Goes to School — People and Places

(Directors and Teachers)EL CAF

Maranatha Sweet, Pensacola Christian College (Abeka), Pensacola, FL

If you step into your classroom or office to tackle a task and immediately think that you need a nap instead, then you will profit from the tips and rules that a professional organizer has to offer.

Learning Your ABCs . . . Will You Come Play with Me?

(Literacy)ED110

Angie Ashworth, Landmark Christian Academy, Louisville, KY

Rather than just reading books to your class, come learn techniques for interactive play to go along with the story.

Ring Around the Rosie BAND

Cathy Dotson, Wilmington Christian Academy, Wilmington, NC

Come to this session to expand your repertoire of small group activities.

Lunch 12:00—1:00 p.m. Commons

Workshop Ten: 1:00—1:50 p.m.

Preparing for State Visits (Directors)ED122

Rose Ann Norwood, Hendersonville Christian Academy, Hendersonville, TN

In this session, we will address preschool changes for this school year and a checklist of items to have prepared for the inspection.

“Are You Forgetting Something?” (Literacy).....ED110

Kristy Walker, Berean Academy, Hixson, TN

Teachers prepare reading and writing lessons. However, two other aspects of literacy instruction cannot be forgotten—speaking and listening.

Motor Skill Development.....EL CAF

Krista Smith, Shenandoah Baptist Academy, Cleveland, TN

The development of fine motor skills is closely linked to cognitive development. Preschool educators can help students improve these skills, setting their students up for success in many essential areas of life.

Building Blocks BAND

Debbie Hammons, Fayette Christian School, Somerville, TN

Are you using your blocks as classroom decoration, or are you using them to lay a solid foundation for learning and growth?

General Session Two: 2:00—2:50 p.m.

Teaching That Transforms Lives..... BAND

Cathy Dotson, Wilmington Christian Academy, Wilmington, NC