



Preschool Educators' Convention

July 19–20, 2024

Franklin Road Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, TN

Friday Schedule

General Session One: 1:00—1:50 p.m.

Staying Fired Up Without Burning Out.....BAND
Randy Scallions, TACS, East Ridge, TN

Workshop One: 2:00—2:50 p.m.

Communication: A Key to Retention (Directors' Workshop)..... ED126
Anita Sedivy, Bob Jones Academy, Greenville, SC

Communication plays an important role in the retention process. Come be reminded of little methods that can make a big difference for your school enrollment.

Raising the King's Child ED122
Beth Barnhill, South Haven Christian School, Springfield, TN

Every child deserves to be loved. How would it change your classroom if you treated each child as if they were the King's child?

Management MakeoverBAND
Debbie Hammons, Memphis, TN

Let's talk about how to create a learning environment where students feel safe, known, and motivated to learn.

Break 2:50—3:10 p.m.

Workshop Two: 3:10—4:00 p.m.

Building Bonds Beyond the Classroom (Directors' Workshop) ED128
Angi Rodefer, South Haven Christian School, Springfield, TN

One of the best resources we can access as directors is the knowledge, wisdom, and support of our parents. It is important that we work collaboratively so that we can maximize the academic and spiritual outcomes of the children entrusted to us.

The Art of Literacy (Literacy Workshop)BAND
Candice Sneed, Point Christian Academy, Chattanooga, TN

When we talk about literacy in the preschool classroom, it seems pretty straightforward—reading, writing, sounds, and vocabulary. However, with a little intentionality and creativity and a few simple questions, we can make our literacy lessons come alive.

Learning to Play and Playing to Learn ED126
Anita Sedivy, Bob Jones Academy, Greenville, SC

Children learn best in an environment that encourages exploration, discovery, and plenty of play time. Come discover the power of play.

Workshop Three: 4:10—5:00 p.m.

Teacher Treasures (Directors' Workshop)..... ED128
Pam Stewart, Temple Baptist Christian School, Manchester, TN

Looking for some new ideas to share with your teachers to help their day run smoother? These are some items and ideas that I've used over the years that your teachers may enjoy too. Bring your favorite tips and tricks to share as well.

Awful, Boring, Crazy Letters (Literacy Workshop).....BAND

KariAn McElhaney, Fairview Christian Academy, Athens, TN

We all get so tired of teaching the ABCs but must still find ways to create a fun and inviting stage for letters to be introduced to our early readers.

Brain Building Instead of Babysitting ED126

Anita Sedivy, Bob Jones Academy, Greenville, SC

Come review the importance of quality care and practical ways to provide brain boosting connections in a young child’s brain.

Workshop Four: 5:10—6:00 p.m.

Preparing for the State Inspection (Directors’ Workshop) ED128

Rose Ann Norwood, Hendersonville Christian Academy, Hendersonville, TN

In this session, we will look at how to prepare for the state inspection. Topics discussed will include documents to have ready for the state inspector, paperwork to maintain in children’s and employees’ files, materials to put on a classroom wall, and more.

Tic Tac . . . Take Control Back ED120

Jessica Sharrett, Tennessee Avenue Christian Academy, Bristol, TN

Chaos is inevitable in our line of work, but how do we regain control when things start going crazy? In this session, we will talk about some ways to regain control while playing a little game of Tic, Tac, Toe.

Don’t Post a Zero.....BAND

Debbie Hammons, Memphis, TN

Little improvements add up to big changes if you just stick to it.

Saturday Schedule

Workshop Five: 8:00—8:50 a.m.

Transforming from a Boss to a Shepherd

(Directors’ Workshop)..... ED128

Debbie Hammons, Memphis, TN

A leader with a shepherd’s heart has the ability to mold a workplace into an accountable, dynamic, and engaging environment where teachers and students thrive.

Thoughts About Reading in Preschool (Literacy Workshop)BAND

KariAn McElhaney, Fairview Christian Academy, Athens, TN

There are many different ideas about reading and how to begin the process. This session will discuss the steps of nurturing a good reader.

Turning the Chaos into Calm..... ED126

Anita Sedivy, Bob Jones Academy, Greenville, SC

Come take a peek inside early childhood classrooms and gain practical ideas that reduce chaos for teachers and children.

Workshop Six: 9:00—9:50 a.m.

Unreasonable Hospitality (Directors’ Workshop)..... ED128

Candice Sneed, Point Christian Academy, Chattanooga, TN

How do we move our preschools from just a place of serving to a place of hospitality? What does that look like, and does it matter? Let’s take a look at that concept through the lens of the “hospitality industry.”

Games for Learning.....BAND

KariAn McElhaney, Fairview Christian Academy, Athens, TN

Children learn best while playing. Learning through play should be taught from the beginning and adapted to the child’s new growth.

Curriculum? More Like Curricu-Lame!..... ED122

Amy Crowder, South Haven Christian School, Springfield, TN

In this session, we will look at what to do when you get in a rut and curriculum becomes a bore. Let’s add some excitement with hands-on learning and fun crafts.

Break 9:50—10:10 a.m.

Workshop Seven: 10:10—11:00 a.m.

Interviews, Meet and Greets, and Phone Calls . . .

What a Mission Field! (Directors’ Workshop) ED120

Crystal Herrell, Fairview Christian Academy, Athens, TN

Take advantage of first impressions with prospective families and children to share Jesus.

Putting Together the Puzzle Pieces of Phonics

(Literacy Workshop)..... ED128

Cyndi Augustin, Metro Christian Academy, Goodlettsville, TN

When teaching students to build puzzles, what pieces do you instruct them to work with first? Blending is an essential building block for reading just as the corner or edge pieces of a puzzle are essential.

Playful Math = Engaged Learning ED126

Anita Sedivy, Bob Jones Academy, Greenville, SC

Come gather practical ideas for introducing math to young children in an enjoyable environment.

Small Steps, Giant Leaps..... BAND

Angi Rodefer, South Haven Christian School, Springfield, TN

Having a better understanding of infants’ and toddlers’ physical and cognitive development will give you the tools to help your students reach important milestones. Learn simple games, songs, and other activities that will enhance and encourage brain development in your students.

Workshop Eight: 11:10 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Teacher-Directed Play Versus Child-Directed Play

(Directors’ Workshop) ED128

Cyndi Augustin, Metro Christian Academy, Goodlettsville, TN

When is child-directed play a problem? Do your teachers “turn their students loose” in centers so they can be creative during that time? Come ready to listen and share.

Making the Most of Morning Meetings BAND

Candice Sneed, Point Christian Academy, Chattanooga, TN

The way we start our mornings can set the tone for the entire day. Let’s take a closer look at the Morning Meeting and see how we can use it to set our day in order, connect with our students, enhance our biblical instruction, and more.

Screen Use for Preschool: Appalling or Appealing? ED126

Anita Sedivy, Bob Jones Academy, Greenville, SC

This session will take a look at research-based guidelines for using technology in a limited but interactive way.

Lunch 12:00—1:00 p.m. Commons

Workshop Nine: 1:00—1:50 p.m.

Child Abuse (Directors’ Workshop) ED124

KariAn McElhaney, Fairview Christian Academy, Athens, TN

The greatest problem we face today is fear of the unknown, but knowledge is key. As directors, we must be sure our staff is as knowledgeable as possible of child abuse situations.

Raising Readers (Literacy Workshop).....BAND

Debbie Hammons, Memphis, TN

We will discuss instilling a love for reading that will give children a head start on expanding their vocabulary and building independence and self-confidence.

Teaching Independence Through Classroom Management..... ED118

Dawn Warthan, Franklin Road Christian School, Murfreesboro, TN

Independence and personal responsibility are important life skills needed in school-aged children. Come learn about ways to use Class Dojo as your classroom management system and ultimately teach your students independence skills and personal responsibility for their actions.

Workshop Ten: 2:00—2:50 p.m.

The Circle of Security (Directors' Workshop)..... ED128

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

This workshop will give an overview of the Circle of Security Parenting/Classroom (COSP/COSC) and how it benefits students, parents, and teachers. This approach brings lasting change in children by developing relationships with trustworthy adults.

“Reviving ‘Ye Ole Melodrama’ to Create Classroom Heroes”

(Literacy Workshop).....BAND

Kristy Walker, Berean Academy, Hixson, TN

By using scripts, cue cards, and props a teacher can use the dramatic tool of melodrama to teach communication skills.

Don't Limit God..... ED124

KariAn McElhaney, Fairview Christian Academy, Athens, TN

Teaching preschoolers can be hard work, and it is easy to only see the negative. As teachers, we must always try to remember Who Jesus is and what He can do through us if we let Him.

General Session Two: 3:00—3:50 p.m.

Choose Joy.....BAND

Debbie Hammons, Memphis, TN