



# futures first

NURTURING YOUNG LIVES

A combination of in-person and online training events are available through June 2026. For online sessions, participants must have access to a computer, tablet, or electronic device that will allow them to view and participate with a camera via the Zoom format. Participants will receive the access link for the training with their training registration confirmation. Unless otherwise indicated, all sessions are approved in both Kansas and Missouri for clock hours. Due to timing of this publication, some information may have changed and sessions added. For current information and to register online, visit: [www.ecehub.org](http://www.ecehub.org) (see last page for a convenient QR code). Also, please see the end of this document for ongoing support groups (no clock hours).

## **Elevate: From Environment to Emotion Series** (Register for each part separately.)

*Location: Leavenworth Public Library, 417 Spruce, Leavenworth, KS 66048 (Jan 10<sup>th</sup>)*

*Location: K-State Extension Office, 711 Marshall St, Suite 101, Leavenworth, KS 66048 (Feb 7<sup>th</sup> & Mar 7<sup>th</sup>)*

This series will focus on Family Child Care. Join us for a three-part training series focused on the everyday strategies that make a big difference in early childhood settings — from classroom design and outdoor play to behavior guidance and family partnerships. Each session is packed with practical tools, thoughtful reflection, and real-world ideas you can use right away. The series consists of six sessions, totaling 12 clock hours (2 clock hours per session). Light refreshments will be provided. Our schedule for this series will be:

### **Part 1: Saturday, January 10, 2026 (Leavenworth Public Library)**

**Cost: \$0**

**9:15-11:15 am - Room to Grow: Facts and FUNDamentals of Early Learning Spaces** A well-designed classroom doesn't just look good—it helps children learn, explore, and feel safe. In this training, we'll break down the basics of room arrangement and show how the right setup can spark curiosity and create calm, safe spaces. Participants will have the opportunity to evaluate their current environments, share effective strategies, and reflect on ways to enhance their classroom design. (Trainer: Gayle Anderson) Age Focus: Infants, Toddlers, PreK

**11:30 am-1:30 pm - Let's Go Outside! Exploring Natural Play Environments** Play equipment is expensive! Use everyday tools and nature's gifts to create a natural play environment children can use to expand their imagination, explore nature and its environment, and continue to learn while being outdoors! (Trainer: Gayle Anderson) Age Focus: Infants, Toddlers, PreK

### **Part 2: Saturday, February 7, 2026 (K-State LV County Extension Office)**

**Cost: \$15**

**9:15-11:15 am - Working with Temperament** Flexible, fearful, or feisty: children are born with different temperament traits - and adults are, too! Have you ever wondered how a child's temperament might affect their relationships with other children...and you? In this training, we will discuss the different temperament types and look closely at how both our temperament and a child's may influence the relationships in group care. (Trainer: Meg Fuehne) Age Focus: Infants, Toddlers, PreK

**11:30 am-1:30 pm - Rooted in Respect: A Guide to Managing Behaviors** This training helps early childhood providers explore guidance and discipline concepts, understand common behavioral challenges at each developmental stage, and learn age-appropriate strategies to support positive behavior. Walk away with practical tools to respond to behaviors with confidence and care across all age groups. (Trainer: Meg Fuehne) Age Focus: Infants, Toddlers, PreK

### **Part 3: Saturday, March 7, 2026 (K-State LV County Extension Office)**

**Cost: \$15**

**9:15-11:45 am - Little Minds, Big Feelings: Understanding Social Emotional Development in Young Children** Social-emotional skills are essential for the healthy development of all children. In this session, we'll explore seven key areas of social-emotional development and share practical strategies to support these skills in everyday routines. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of how positive, caring relationships and responsive interactions are the foundation when working with young children. (Trainer: Byra Nicodemus-Norman) Age Focus: Infants, Toddlers, PreK

**11:30 am-1:30 pm - Connecting from the Start: Creating Strong Relationships with Families** Developing positive relationships with the families and children in our early childhood settings is essential for the success of the child. In this session, we will look at how healthy and meaningful interactions with children build brain connections and social-emotional security. We will also explore ways to develop healthy and meaningful relationships with families, respect the family culture, and increase communication to best support the whole child. (Trainer: Byra Nicodemus-Norman) Age Focus: Infants, Toddlers, PreK

## **Managing Behaviors**

**Tuesday, January 13, 2026, 6:30-8:30pm**

**Cost: \$15**

*Location: Online via Zoom*

This course provides a brief insight into potential causes for challenging behaviors in children aged birth – 5 years as well as an in-depth perspective into ways caregivers can support young children in developing emotional and behavioral management skills.

(Trainer: Aimee Alderman) Age Focus: Infants, Toddlers, PreK

## **Every Child Belongs: Building Inclusive Early Learning Communities**

**Thursday, January 15, 2026, 6:30-8:30 pm**

**Cost: \$0**

*Location: KCPT, 125 E 31st St, KCMO 64108*

What does it mean to belong? Learning communities are built one person at a time. When people feel valued, they thrive socially, academically, cognitively, and emotionally. We will explore materials and teaching practices that will support learning for every child, family, and educator in the community. This session has time to collaborate and plan with your team or others in the session.

(Trainer: Byra Nicodemus-Norman) Age Focus: Toddlers, PreK

## **Frosty Moods and Cabin Fever: Managing Behavior and Energy in the Winter Months Series** **Cost: \$45**

*Location: Online via Zoom*

Winter can bring sluggish mornings, restless afternoons, and challenging behaviors as energy levels shift. This three-part series helps educators rediscover warmth, connection, and creativity during the colder months. Together, we'll explore ways to regulate energy, create joyful routines, and sustain positive momentum—all while nurturing a calm, connected classroom climate.

**Tuesday, January 20, 2026**

**6:30-8:00 pm - From Frost to Flow: Reclaim Your Purpose** Reconnect with your why and restore balance to your classroom energy. Through guided reflection and practical strategies, you'll explore the core themes of connection, reset, rhythm, and joy. Learn and practice simple reset techniques to support emotional regulation and help both you and your students move from stress to flow.

(Trainer: Jenna Bodensteiner) Age Focus: Infants, Toddlers, PreK

**Tuesday, February 10, 2026**

**6:30-8:00 pm - Turning Cabin Fever into Classroom Fun** Beat the winter slump by infusing your classroom with energy, creativity, and engagement! In this session, participants will explore how movement, flexible routines, and intentional classroom design can help meet individual student needs and transform stagnant energy into fun. Educators will leave with practical strategies they can try in their classrooms. (Trainer: Laura Begnoche) Age Focus: Infants, Toddlers, PreK

**Tuesday, March 3, 2026**

**6:30-8:00 pm - Spark to Flame: Energize & Thrive** Keep the spark alive in your classroom! Explore ways to celebrate wins, maintain momentum, and prevent burnout while reconnecting with your own rhythm. Walk away with practical strategies to sustain joy, energy, and engagement for yourself and your students. (Trainer: Ramya Silvers) Age Focus: Infants, Toddlers, PreK

## **Managing Biting Incidents in the Toddler Classroom (MO Clock Hours Only)**

**Thursday, January 22, 2026, 6:45-8:15pm**

**Cost: \$0**

*Location: Online via Zoom*

Biting is a common yet challenging behavior in toddler classrooms that can cause stress for educators, concern for families, and safety concerns for children. This session will explore the developmental reasons behind biting, offer practical prevention strategies, and provide guidance on how to respond when biting occurs. Participants will gain insights into toddler behavior, learn effective communication techniques for working with families, and develop proactive approaches to support a safe, responsive, and nurturing environment for all children. (Trainer: Ann Lachowitz) Age Focus: Toddlers

## **Leading on Purpose: Illuminating Care in Early Childhood Leadership Series (NEEC)**

**Cost: \$60**

*Location: NKC Hospital Pavillion, 2790 Clay Edwards Dr, NKC MO 64116*

This is a Four-Part "Lunch & Learn" Experience for Directors, Leaders, and Educators in partnership with the Northland Early Education Council (NEEC).

Inspired by the groundbreaking work of Carol Garboden Murray, this four-part professional learning series invites early childhood leaders to explore a powerful truth: care is not separate from education—it IS education. Join other early childhood professionals for an engaging Lunch & Learn series that centers care as both a pedagogical practice and a professional stance. Together, we'll

reflect on what it truly means to lead with purpose—to create environments where care is intelligent, intentional, and the cornerstone of quality. Lunch is included with the registration fee. (Trainer: Nancy Heathman)

Throughout the series, participants will:

- ☑ Deepen their understanding of care as an essential leadership practice
- ☑ Explore how the 7 Lamps of Care illuminate the way to excellence for us, our staff and the children
- ☑ Learn strategies to erase the myth that there is a divide between care and education
- ☑ Strengthen capacity to lead with clarity, compassion, and conviction

“Care is action! Care is Attitude! Care is Ethics and Care unites us as humans. Care requires us to be intelligent, thinking, respectful, state-of-the-art leaders and teachers of our youngest population. — Carol Garboden Murray, Illuminating Care

✦ Whether you're a program director, site leader, coach, or passionate advocate for young children, this series offers space and time to learn, grow, and be nourished!

#### **Sessions/Dates (Fridays, 11:30 am-1:30 pm)**

**January 23, 2026 - Reframing Leadership Through the Lens of Care**

**February 27, 2026 - Centering Care as a Right and a Partnership**

**March 20, 2026 - Embracing Care as Both Art and Science**

**April 24, 2026 - Honoring Care as the Foundation of Human Development**

#### **Foundations of Child Care Series (Two Starting Dates Available)**

**Cost: \$40**

**Tuesday, January 27, 2026**

**Monday, March 30, 2026**

*Location: Children's Campus of KC, 444 Minnesota, KCKS 66101*

Join us for this 3-day training series to receive the basic foundations of caring for children; 17 clock hours will be awarded. (An OPTIONAL 4th day for CPR/First Aid is available with separate registration for an additional \$50.)

Lunch is included each day.

The sample schedule will be (order may change):

Monday: From Diapers to Discovery: A Day in the Life with Infants and Toddlers (9:00-11:00 am)

Monday: Wrestling with Safe Sleep (11:30 am-1:30 pm)

Monday: Transportation (1:45-2:45 pm)

Tuesday: Emergency Preparedness for Early Care and Education Programs (9:00-11:00 am)

Tuesday: Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness (11:30 am-1:30 pm)

Tuesday: Healthy Environments: Disease Prevention and Control (1:45-3:45 pm)

Wednesday: Head to Toe: An Overview of Child Development (9:00-11:00 am)

Wednesday: Safe Supervision of Children in Early Learning Programs (11:30 am-1:30 pm)

Wednesday: Medication Administration (1:45-3:45 pm)

Thursday: CPR/First Aid (9:00 am-1:00 pm) Optional (Additional \$50, separate registration)

#### **Positive Strategies for Discipline 201**

**Tuesday, February 3, 2026, 6:30-8:30pm**

**Cost: \$15**

*Location: Online via Zoom*

Learn how brain development and positive connection with the children in your care effect their behavior and set the stage for positive discipline. Participants will discuss and practice a variety of positive strategies proven to increase positive behavior. (Trainer: Aimee Alderman) Age Focus: Infants, Toddlers, PreK

#### **Trabajando con el temperamento**

**Monday, February 16, 2026, 6:30-8:30pm**

**Cost: \$5**

*Location: Online via Zoom*

Cuidado infantil familiar. Flexibles, temerosos o enérgicos: los niños nacen con diferentes temperamentos, ¡y los adultos también!

¿Te has preguntado alguna vez cómo el temperamento de un niño puede afectar sus relaciones con otros niños... y contigo? En esta capacitación, hablaremos sobre los diferentes tipos de temperamento y analizaremos en detalle cómo tanto nuestro temperamento

como el del niño pueden influir en las relaciones en el cuidado grupal. (Instructora: Luisa Abellan-Pagnani) Age Focus: Niños pequeños, preescolar, cuidado infantil familiar

### **Right From the Start: Developmentally Appropriate Practice with Infants and Toddlers**

**Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 6:30-8:30pm**

**Cost: \$5**

*Location: Online via Zoom*

This session will focus on family child care. Caring for infants and toddlers is special - your activities and your interactions should look much different with this age group versus older children. Join us in this session as we review infant/toddler development and talk about appropriate activities to boost learning at this age. Participants will discuss Developmentally Appropriate Practice for Infants and toddlers and practice putting DAP into action in their programs. (Trainer: Meg Fuehne) Age Focus: Infants, Toddlers, In-Home Family Child Care

### **Working the Room: Sitting Still is Overrated**

**Thursday, March 12, 2026, 6:30-8:30 pm**

**Cost: \$0**

*Location: KCPT, 125 E 31st St, KCMO 64108*

Learn a variety of strategies to actively engage with children throughout the day to enhance their learning and your joy. (Trainer: Aimee Alderman) Age Focus: Infants, Toddlers, PreK

### **Directors Leadership Academy – Level 1**

**Cost: \$50**

Early childhood directors asked for deeper support, practical tools, and a community of leaders who understand the work. Futures First has answered with the Directors Leadership Academy—a transformational experience built by leaders in early education, for leaders in early education. Directors Leadership Academy (DLA1) is designed for current and aspiring directors, assistant directors, administrators and others who want to strengthen their confidence, sharpen their leadership skills, and create programs where staff, children, and families thrive. Through monthly approved training (29 + hours training offered) and individual coaching opportunities, participants explore what effective leadership truly looks like—how to communicate with clarity, build strong teams, navigate tough decisions, manage budgets with purpose, mentor adults, lead change, and create environments where everyone feels supported. DLA helps each program utilize the Program Administration Scale (PAS) assessment to identify strengths and set meaningful goals. Participants receive their own PAS book and personalized coaching throughout the sessions to help them turn their learning into sustainable growth. This isn't just training. It's a leadership journey—one that brings directors together, builds their skills, and strengthens the quality of early childhood programs across our community. DLA Level 1 will run from March-December 2026 with these date/time options.

**Option 1:** Thursday mornings (IN PERSON), 9 am-12 pm: 3/12, 4/9, 5/14, 6/11, 7/23 (ALL DAY Director Seminar), 8/13, 9/10, 10/8, 11/12, 12/10

**Option 2:** Thursday evenings (VIRTUAL), 6:30-9:30 pm: 3/12, 4/9, 5/14, 6/11, 7/23 (ALL DAY Director Seminar), 8/13, 9/10, 10/8, 11/12, 12/10

While we understand that the responsibilities of a Director can occasionally compete for your time, we encourage participants to make the Directors Leadership Academy a priority. To gain the full benefit of this unique learning experience, we ask that you commit to attending and engaging in the entire series. Fully participating in the Academy offers meaningful advantages: you'll build a community of supportive fellow leaders, have opportunities to personalize your learning, and enjoy dedicated time to refill your leadership cup—leaving you energized, inspired, and better equipped for the work you do every day. All registrants, both virtual and in-person, are invited to a kick-off celebration session on February 26, 9 am-11 am, in-person at Country Club Christian Church (6101 Ward Pkwy, KCMO) for snacks, info on sessions, and a celebration of you as an ECE Leader! All registrants also receive admission to the 2026 Directors Seminar (a \$100 value) on Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>!

### **Directors Leadership Academy – Leadership Training Series**

**Cost: \$50**

DLA-LTS (Directors Leadership Academy - Leadership Training Series) was crafted at the request of those who had completed one or more series of DLA 1. These sessions are created for early childhood leaders who refuse to stand still. Built on the foundation of the Directors Leadership Academy Level 1, this advanced experience offers brand-new content every year—fresh topics, current data, and relevant strategies that reflect the real challenges directors face today. That means you can return year after year and continue to grow, evolve, and stay ahead.

This series is designed specifically for directors, assistant directors, administrators, and emerging leaders who want deeper insight and stronger tools to support their programs, staff, children, and families. Each session takes you beyond the basics and into real problem-solving, advanced leadership thinking, and practical application you can use the very next day.

What sets the Advanced Series apart?

- \* Fully updated topics each year, grounded in the newest research and trends in early childhood leadership
- \* Individual coaching for every participant, ensuring your learning is personalized and aligned with your goals
- \* A continued and expanding community of supportive leaders—your people, your sounding board, your colleagues in the work
- \* Energizing conversation, shared wisdom, and new ideas that reignite your passion for leading

If you've completed Directors Leadership Academy Level 1 (or are completing it now), this advanced series is your next step toward stronger leadership, deeper impact, and renewed confidence. The Leadership Training Series will run from March-December 2026 with these date/time options. Please answer the registration questions with your preferred choice.

**Option 1:** Thursday mornings (IN PERSON), 9 am-12 pm: 3/19, 4/16, 5/21, 6/18, 7/23 (ALL DAY Director Seminar), 8/20, 9/17, 10/15, 11/19, 12/17

**Option 2:** Thursday evenings (VIRTUAL), 6:30-9:30 pm: 3/19, 4/16, 5/21, 6/18, 7/23 (ALL DAY Director Seminar), 8/20, 9/17, 10/15, 11/19, 12/17

While we understand that the responsibilities of a Director can occasionally compete for your time, we encourage participants to make the Leadership Training Series a priority. To gain the full benefit of this unique learning experience, we ask that you commit to attending and engaging in the entire series. Fully participating in the LTS offers meaningful advantages: you'll build a community of supportive fellow leaders, have opportunities to personalize your learning, and enjoy dedicated time to refill your leadership cup—leaving you energized, inspired, and better equipped for the work you do every day. All registrants, both virtual and in-person, are invited to a kick-off celebration session on February 26, 9 am-11 am, in-person at Country Club Christian Church (6101 Ward Pkwy, KCMO) for snacks, info on sessions, and a celebration of you as an ECE Leader! All registrants also receive admission to the 2026 Directors Seminar (a \$100 value) on Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>!

### **Promoting Engagement Amongst Families and Communities Served**

**Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 6:30-8:30pm**

**Cost: \$15**

*Location: Online via Zoom*

This session focuses on strengthening engagement efforts between service providers, their agencies and the families and communities they serve. Participants are introduced to new frameworks of community engagement that facilitate the fostering of shared ownership, accountability and collaboration with the families they are serving. By the end of the session, professionals will have a toolkit for fostering environments where families feel heard, valued, and actively involved as co-agents in the services designed to support them. (Trainer: Kimberly Miller) Age Focus: Infants, Toddlers, PreK

### **Elevate: From Environment to Emotion Series** (Register for each part separately.)

*Location: Atchison Early Childhood Association, 1326 Kansas Ave, Atchison, KS 66002*

This series will focus on Family Child Care. Join us for a three-part training series focused on the everyday strategies that make a big difference in early childhood settings — from classroom design and outdoor play to behavior guidance and family partnerships. Each session is packed with practical tools, thoughtful reflection, and real-world ideas you can use right away. The series consists of six sessions, totaling 12 clock hours (2 clock hours per session). Light refreshments will be provided. Our schedule for this series will be:

**Part 1: Saturday, April 11, 2026**

**Cost: \$15**

**9:15-11:15 am - Room to Grow: Facts and FUNDamentals of Early Learning Spaces** A well-designed classroom doesn't just look good—it helps children learn, explore, and feel safe. In this training, we'll break down the basics of room arrangement and show how the right setup can spark curiosity and create calm, safe spaces. Participants will have the opportunity to evaluate their current environments, share effective strategies, and reflect on ways to enhance their classroom design. (Trainer: Mary Williams) Age Focus: Infants, Toddlers, PreK

**11:30 am-1:30 pm - Let's Go Outside! Exploring Natural Play Environments** Play equipment is expensive! Use everyday tools and nature's gifts to create a natural play environment children can use to expand their imagination, explore nature and its environment, and continue to learn while being outdoors! (Trainer: Mary Williams) Age Focus: Infants, Toddlers, PreK

**Part 2: Saturday, May 2, 2026**

**Cost: \$15**

**9:15-11:15 am - Working with Temperament** Flexible, fearful, or feisty: children are born with different temperament traits - and adults are, too! Have you ever wondered how a child's temperament might affect their relationships with other children...and you?

In this training, we will discuss the different temperament types and look closely at how both our temperament and a child's may influence the relationships in group care. (Trainer: Meg Fuehne) Age Focus: Infants, Toddlers, PreK

**11:30 am-1:30 pm - Rooted in Respect: A Guide to Managing Behaviors** This training helps early childhood providers explore guidance and discipline concepts, understand common behavioral challenges at each developmental stage, and learn age-appropriate strategies to support positive behavior. Walk away with practical tools to respond to behaviors with confidence and care across all age groups. (Trainer: Meg Fuehne) Age Focus: Infants, Toddlers, PreK

### **Part 3: Saturday, June 13, 2026**

**Cost: \$15**

#### **9:15-11:15 am - Little Minds, Big Feelings: Understanding Social Emotional Development in Young Children**

Social-emotional skills are essential for the healthy development of all children. In this session, we'll explore seven key areas of social-emotional development and share practical strategies to support these skills in everyday routines. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of how positive, caring relationships and responsive interactions are the foundation when working with young children. (Trainer: Byra Nicodemus-Norman) Age Focus: Infants, Toddlers, PreK

**11:30 am-1:30 pm - Connecting from the Start: Creating Strong Relationships with Families** Developing positive relationships with the families and children in our early childhood settings is essential for the success of the child. In this session, we will look at how healthy and meaningful interactions with children build brain connections and social-emotional security. We will also explore ways to develop healthy and meaningful relationships with families, respect the family culture, and increase communication to best support the whole child. (Trainer: Byra Nicodemus-Norman) Age Focus: Infants, Toddlers, PreK

### **Setting the Stage for a Happy Classroom: Proactive Behavior Management**

**Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 6:30-8:30pm**

**Cost: \$15**

*Location: Online via Zoom*

How can you manage the classroom to prevent misbehavior and reinforce the behaviors you would like to see more often? In this session, you will learn the importance of clear directions and rules, redirection strategies, and how to focus your attention on positive behaviors to ensure that they will happen more often. (Trainer: Marsha Wiard) Age Focus: Infants, Toddlers, PreK

### **De la cabeza a los pies: una visión general del desarrollo infantil**

**Monday, April 20, 2026, 6:30-8:30pm**

**Cost: \$5**

*Location: Online via Zoom*

Al finalizar este desarrollo profesional, los participantes apreciarán los principios e influencias del crecimiento y desarrollo infantil y reconocerán que el desarrollo infantil es individual. Esta sesión aborda los cuatro dominios del desarrollo infantil e identifica puntos de referencia para cada área de desarrollo desde el nacimiento hasta los seis años de edad. (Instructora: Luisa Abellan-Pagnani) Age Focus: Bebés, niños pequeños, preescolar

### **Spring Mini-Conference**

**Cost: \$50**

**Saturday, April 25, 2026, 8:15 am-1:30 pm**

*Location: JCCC Regnier Center, 12345 College Blvd, Overland Park, KS 66210*

Join us for a morning of learning designed to strengthen early childhood practice and support the whole child. If you missed attending our annual Fall Symposium, here is your chance to receive 4 clock hours from engaging, research-based sessions that were featured at Symposium. Open to all early educators in Johnson County and surrounding counties, participants will explore how everyday interactions, environments, and instructional strategies can shape children's development and overall success.

Registration opens at 8:15; a continental breakfast and beverages will be served.

**9:00-11:00 am - Little Minds, Big Impact: How Screen Time is Affecting Learning & Behavior** Twenty years ago, the iPhone did not exist. Today, our youngest children have regular access to digital media through multiple devices. And the research is clear: screen time is affecting children's development. In this session, participants will learn about the latest research on how digital media is affecting children's learning and behavior, and we will discuss how to support healthy child development in today's technology-driven world. (Trainer: Meg Fuehne)

**9:00-11:00 am - Read Aloud, Connect, and Grow: Strategies for Building Language During Storytime** Reading aloud to children has many benefits including language and vocabulary development, building community and connection, and improving social skills. This session will cover strategies designed to help all learners (with an emphasis on English Language Learners) improve their English language skills in fun, respectful, and effective ways during Storytime. We will learn by doing: browsing books, brainstorming ideas, and creating a short read-aloud lesson plan (template provided). (Trainer: Luisa Abellan-Pagnani)

**11:30 am-1:30 pm - Every Child Belongs: Building Inclusive Early Learning Communities** What does it mean to belong?

Learning communities are built one person at a time. When people feel valued, they thrive socially, academically, cognitively, and emotionally. We will explore materials and teaching practices that will support learning for every child, family, and educator in the community. This session has time to collaborate and plan with your team or others in the session. (Trainer: Byra Nicodemus-Norman)

**11:30 am-1:30 pm - Creating a Joyful Toddler Classroom by Turning Chaos Into Calm** Are you an early childhood educator navigating the energetic, often unpredictable, yet wonderfully vibrant world of toddlers? Do you dream of a classroom where laughter outweighs meltdowns, transitions are smoother, and every day feels more joyful and less chaotic? Creating a Joyful Toddler Classroom: Turning Chaos into Calm is designed specifically for educators working with children aged 12-36 months. We understand the unique challenges and immense rewards of this developmental stage – from rapid growth and burgeoning independence to big emotions and boundless energy. This session will equip you with practical strategies to transform your toddler environment into a peaceful, purposeful, and profoundly positive space. (Trainer: Chantelle McCoy)

**Engaged Children are Learning Children**

**Thursday, May 14, 2026, 6:30-8:30 pm**

**Cost: \$0**

*Location: KCPT, 125 E 31st St, KCMO 64108*

When adults talk about children and attention they are often referring to “paying attention” - getting the child to listen to what a teacher or peer is saying. In this session, we will use the term engagement to emphasize that the goal is helping children remain involved in activities and events that interest them. Sustained engagement leads to ongoing discovery, which results in more learning than merely paying attention to something an adult is saying or doing. (Trainer: Ramyia Silvers) Age Focus: Infants, Toddlers, PreK

**The Journey from Junk to Joy**

**Saturday, May 16, 2025, 9:30-11:30 am**

**Cost: \$0**

*Location: Childrens Campus of KC, 444 Minnesota Ave, KCKS 66101*

Focus on Family Child Care. Children often find treasure in “trash”. As educators, we can learn to see the same way. In this session, you’ll discover fun, easy, and inexpensive ways to repurpose everyday items into intriguing learning conductors and toys for infants and preschoolers. (Trainer: Mary Williams) Age Focus: Toddlers, PreK, In-Home Family Child Care

**Interactions Matter**

**Tuesday, June 16, 2026, 6:30-8:30pm**

**Cost: \$15**

*Location: Online via Zoom*

We often hear the words "high-quality interactions" are really important. Did you ever wonder - "Just what do they mean?" Interactions are the foundation for all great teachers, we just need to identify and grow our skills. These tools help you deepen children's learning and build their confidence in social and academic ways. Join us as we explore the research and learn strategies to strengthen, improve, and measure your skills. (Trainer: Laura Begnoche) Age Focus: Infants, Toddlers, PreK

**\*Directors Support Group (No Clock Hours)**

**Meets first Thursdays of each month from 1:00-2:30 pm**

Directors Support Group (DSG) is a monthly, online gathering created to give early childhood leaders a place to learn, connect, recharge, and get real-time support. It’s free, flexible, and designed with today’s directors and emerging leaders in mind. Each session features a micro learning opportunity with a speaker, timely and relevant topics, resources you can use right away, and moments that spark new ideas. Because no clock hours are awarded, participants are welcome to join at any point during the session and stay for as long as they’re able. This time truly belongs to you. DSG sessions are intentionally crafted to be engaging, fun, informative, and fluid, responding to the needs and interests of the group. Whether you’re wrestling with a challenge, looking for fresh resources, or simply craving connection with fellow leaders who “get it,” this space offers support, conversation, and community. While DSG is designed specifically for directors and early childhood leaders, anyone interested in leadership, early childhood topics, or personal growth is welcome. Join us from your desk, your phone, or wherever you are—and be part of a community that lifts one another up. More information in the ECE Hub portal.

**\*Connect & Grow – Monthly Family Child Care Provider Networking (No Clock Hours)**

**Meets first Thursdays of each month from 1:00-2:30 pm**

Join us each month for FCC Network Connect & Grow — a welcoming space where peers come together to share experiences, exchange ideas, and develop effective strategies. These gatherings foster connection, collaboration, and growth within a vibrant, supportive community. For more information, please contact Amy ([acochran@futuresfirstkc.org](mailto:acochran@futuresfirstkc.org)) or Emma ([ebart-plange@futuresfirstkc.org](mailto:ebart-plange@futuresfirstkc.org)).

**REGISTER HERE**

