

2008 PRE-CONFERENCE



These sessions are open to all of the administrators, teachers, teacher assistants, principals and directors who work with the programs represented by the NC Office of School Readiness (OSR). Must pre-register. See registration form on page 11.

NC Office of School Readiness: Diversity and Inclusion in Action

Thursday, September 18 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

The sessions offered on this day will explore the NC Office of School Readiness: Diversity and Inclusion in Action. Five workshops will be presented concurrently during two sessions.

OSR Session I: 9:00 am – 10:30 am

OSR Session II: 10:45 am – 12:15 pm

Participants will select two workshops (one per session) to attend. Seating is limited for these workshops. Use the ranking system of 1-5, indicating your first choice with a "1". Every effort will be made to assign participants their first choice.

Workshop A - Inclusion Practices and ECERS-R Evaluations

Helpful hints on the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale-Revised (ECERS-R) for inclusive preschool classrooms. Session participants will hear perspectives, experiences and recommendations from evaluators, teachers and program administrators.

Workshop B – Considerations for Implementing Inclusive Preschool Classrooms

This session will address key factors in strategic planning before and during the initiation of an inclusive preschool program to ensure positive child outcomes, teacher support, professional development and overall program success. This session will address attitudes and beliefs about inclusion, support systems, key factors in classroom composition and staffing, and teacher observation, evaluation and feedback.

Workshop C – Strategies for Engaging Families

This session will provide best practices to engage families and support child development practices for home and school based settings. Participants will learn a variety of strategies to foster collaborative school-family partnerships to support successful child outcomes.

Workshop D – Effective Communication with Families and Children from Diverse Backgrounds

Many preschool children in North Carolina come from different cultures, homes of poverty, or have disabilities. This session will discuss the need to identify and value positive attributes of families and children to develop strong family-school relationships. This session is based on T. Berry Brazelton's Touchpoints Model.

Workshop E - Supporting Play for All Learners

Play is an essential and natural part of the growth and development of ALL children. During this interactive session, participants will review the importance of play for all levels of development and learning. We will discuss intentional planning for playful indoor and outdoor learning environments, and engage in an exploration of the teacher's role in facilitating and supporting children's play through the use of on-going assessments, observations and IEP goals.

Lunch on your own 12:15 pm – 1:30 pm

Keynote Presentation: Teaching Every Child, Reaching Every Family!

Florianna Thompson, M.Ed., Instructor of Early Childhood Education at Wake Technical Community College

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Children in our programs come from increasingly diverse backgrounds. For young children to develop and learn optimally, the early childhood professional must be prepared to meet their diverse developmental, cultural, linguistic and educational needs. This keynote will explore ways in which early childhood professionals can respond to and celebrate the cultural, linguistic and ability diversity of children in their classrooms while establishing respectful and meaningful relationships with families.

Open Forum Discussion

3:15 pm – 4:00 pm

An open forum discussion will center on questions brought forward from earlier sessions as well as topics generated by participants. Presenters and OSR staff will facilitate these conversations.