



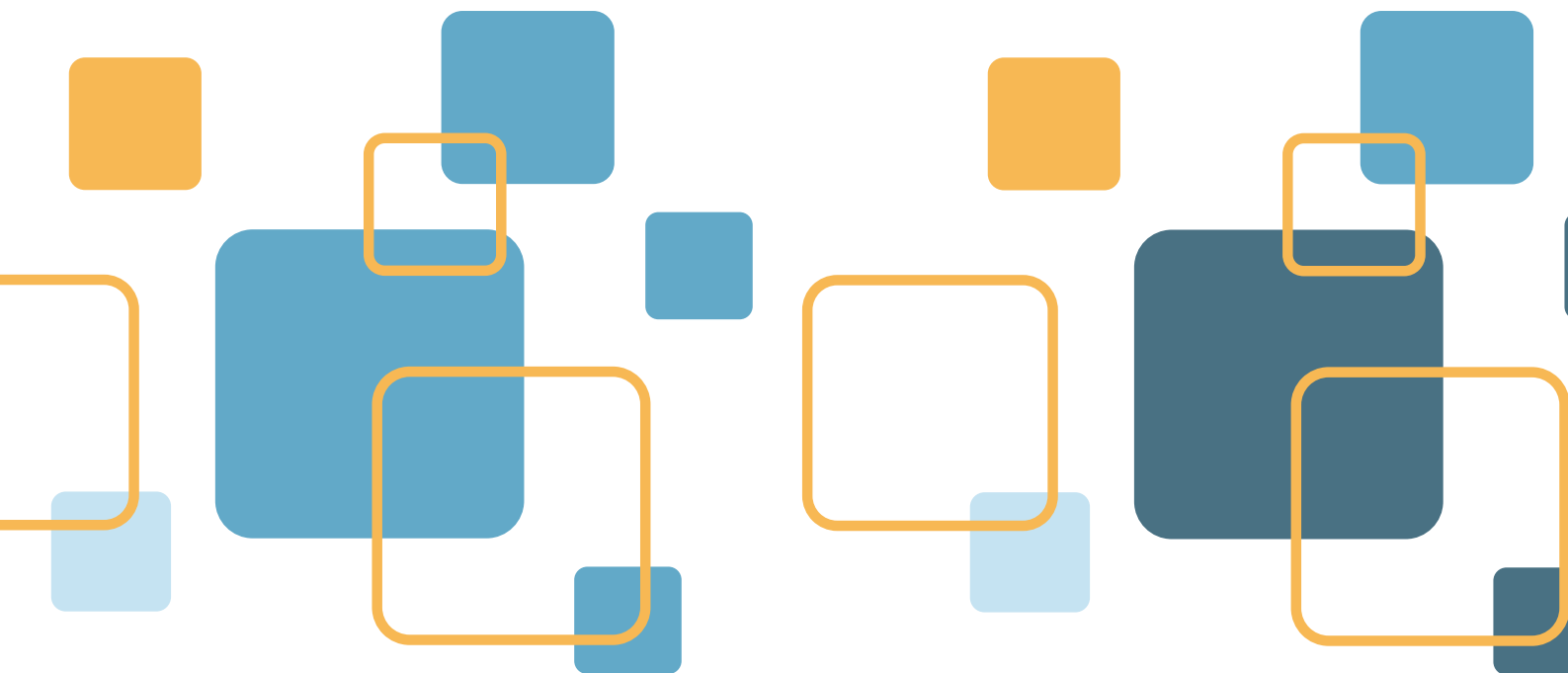
New Jersey Association for the Education of Young Children

An Affiliate
of **naeyc**

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

MAY 3, 2024















MEADOWLANDS HILTON HOTEL
EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ





SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM	REGISTRATION/EXHIBITORS/BREAKFAST
8:30 AM – 8:45 AM	WELCOME
8:45 AM - 9:45 AM	KEYNOTE PRESENTATION
9:45 AM – 10:00 AM	SPECIAL PRESENTATION
10:00 AM – 10:15 AM	BREAK
10:15 AM – 11:45 AM	AM WORKSHOPS
11:45 AM – 1:30 PM	LUNCH/BUSINESS MEETING/EXHIBITS
1:30 PM – 3:00 PM	PM WORKSHOPS



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

CECILIA ZALKIND

**President & CEO, Retired, Advocates
for Children of New Jersey**

Cecilia Zalkind has advocated for children in New Jersey for almost 40 years, retiring as the President and CEO of Advocates for Children of NJ (ACNJ) in December 2022. During her tenure, she led ACNJ in an ambitious agenda that secured measurable gains for children in many areas of child well-being, including early education, health, nutrition, family support, child welfare and juvenile justice.

Zalkind was instrumental in the enactment of critical legislation, including Universal Lead Screening, the Out-of-Home Placement Bill of Rights, the Kinship Legal Guardianship law and Thriving By Three, a 2022 initiative to develop more quality child care options for infants and toddlers. She argued before the NJ Supreme Court on preschool standards in *Abbott v. Burke*, the landmark educational equity case, and has led critical advocacy campaigns, including Breakfast After the Bell, which provided more children access to school breakfast, and Think Babies, a policy campaign to ensure the healthy growth and development of children, prenatal to age 3, and their families.

Cecilia holds a B.A. and M.A. from New York University and a J.D. from Rutgers Law School. Cecilia and her husband, Alan, are residents of Montclair and have two daughters and two grandchildren.



KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Child Care Leaders: Stepping Up in Challenging Times

The child care community has faced incredible challenges in navigating the impact of the pandemic and beyond as child care continues to be in crisis. Child care leaders have been instrumental not only in ensuring that child care survives but can thrive to become a system that truly meets the needs of families, the workforce and the economy. We will explore the leadership skills that the child care community brought to address these challenges and what leadership is needed now to build a stronger child care system, including the critical role of advocacy.

AM WORKSHOPS

1. UNLOCKING THE SECRETS OF FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

*REBEKKA ZYDEL, PRESIDENT COALITION OF INFANT/TODDLER EDUCATORS, RESEARCH SCIENTIST
GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LEADERSHIP AND EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANT*

Family engagement is a crucial aspect of a child's education and development. However, many struggle with engaging families and creating meaningful partnerships. In this session, we will unlock the secrets of family engagement and provide tips to improve family engagement efforts. Identify the ten principles of effective family engagement. Gain the skills to create policies, procedures, and practices that support family engagement. Shift perspective and look beyond traditional approaches.

2. EMBRACING IDENTITY AND DIVERSITY: WHO'S AT THE TABLE, WHO'S IN THE ROOM?

SAMANTHA COTÉ, CHILD CARE DIRECTOR, GRACE EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Join us as we embark on a transformative exploration of how our individual identities and perspectives shape our leadership styles and interactions within our diverse communities. Through engaging activities and discussions, we will uncover the components of diversity that resonate most with us and discover how these factors foster cohesion within our teams. Furthermore, we will delve into The profound impact of diversity among the children and families we serve, and how it informs our approaches to leadership. In this safe and supportive space, we will embrace flexibility and courageously navigate challenging conversations with the goal of fostering growth, understanding, and inclusivity in our practice.

3. PARTNERING IN A SPECIAL WAY: HOW TO SPECIALIZE DOCUMENTATION, CONVERSATIONS AND INTERACTIONS FOR OUR GROWING SPECIAL NEEDS POPULATION

LINDA RUTTER, CURRICULUM SPECIALIST, YMCA OF MEWSA

This training will include ways to identify children who may need further assessment and help families through the process. It will also include some therapeutic items and strategies that we can use in our classrooms.

AM WORKSHOPS

4. SEAMLESS CENTER MANAGEMENT: A GUIDE TO HARNESSING TECHNOLOGY

LISA ROBBINS – OWNER/DIRECTOR, THE DOGWOOD SCHOOL

In today's landscape, it's not a matter of IF but HOW you will incorporate technology to enhance efficiency. Beyond catering to younger parents, technology provides directors with valuable time, allowing them to prioritize meaningful personal interactions. Join me as we explore successful programs for marketing, enrollment management, administration, and communication, ensuring a smooth transition into the automated future of childcare administration.

5. CULTIVATING POTENTIAL: INSPIRING A GROWTH MINDSET AMONG EDUCATORS

STEPHANIE BOYSEN - SENIOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SPECIALIST, GROW NJ KIDS TAC NORTH

In this presentation, we delve into the transformative power of cultivating a growth mindset among teachers. Explore strategies to ignite a continuous learning attitude, overcome challenges, and foster resilience in the face of evolving educational landscapes. Discover how embracing a growth mindset not only enhances professional development but also creates a positive ripple effect, inspiring a culture of innovation and collaboration within the teaching community.

6. THE SECRET INGREDIENTS TO IMPROVE INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH.

GERALDINE HEALY MARINI, OTD, MSH, OT, ASDCS

This presentation provides an overview of the history of the field of infant/early childhood mental health to current research. We will discuss the importance of brain development and relational health during the early years and create strategies to support mental health and well-being in young children and their families.

PM WORKSHOPS

7. DIRECTOR'S ROUNDTABLE

FACILITATED BY CINDY SHIELDS, NJAEYC PRESIDENT AND SENIOR CHILD CARE DIRECTOR, YMCA OF MEWSA

Join fellow Directors from around the state to share and discuss current issues affecting early childhood education. Hear ideas and tactics that centers are using and offer suggestions that you have implemented. This session is an opportunity to network and learn from Directors with a diverse background of experience and viewpoints. This information sharing session will be driven by the attendees.

8. SUPPORTING TEACHERS, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AROUND GENDER AND FAMILY DIVERSITY

MARGIE BRICKLEY, MSed, IMHE® IV, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, FACULTY AND ADVISOR, INFANT AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM, BANK STREET COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

A four year old asks, "Why does Jamie have 2 daddies?"; a family tells you that their child who was assigned male at birth is now identifying as a girl and will be wearing dresses. As leaders, how do we support the teachers - finding language and strategies that are comfortable? How do we support the parents - offering resources to help them understand what is happening around gender and family structure in your programs? What books, materials and experiences can we offer the children as they explore these topics for themselves and for their peers? Join us for a discussion and opportunity to build your knowledge about gender and family diversity.

9. IRON TRIANGLE PRINCIPLES

AMANDA L. KRAUSE DISCALA, ED.M. EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANT, NJAEYC SHARED RESOURCES PROJECT MANAGER

As program leaders learning about, understanding, and using the Iron Triangle to guide your work will help you to build a more sustainable business. Join me for a session about to learn more about the Iron Triangle and how to implement the concept in your program today. Increasing business principles increases sustainability and is a tool for success.



PM WORKSHOPS

10. GET THE SCOOP: PRESCHOOL EXPANSION COLLABORATION 101

WINIFRED SMITH-JENKINS, ED. D.

Everything you have ever wanted to know about Preschool Expansion will be covered in this workshop. It is led by a former child care director with over ten years of collaborative experience working with Abbott and Preschool Expansion school districts. This workshop is an invaluable opportunity for current and aspiring child care directors to gain insider knowledge and practical advice on how to successfully partner with your local school district.

11. MAKING PROBLEMS PRODUCTIVE... TURNING YOUR STORIES INTO POLICY, MEDIA, AND ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES.


MEGHAN TAVORMINA, NJAEYC DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC POLICY & SUE DANNEMILLER, NJAEYC VP PUBLIC POLICY AND ADVOCACY

Through engaging mini round table discussions, participants will discuss the challenges they face in the day-to-day operations of early care and education centers. With an eye towards discovering shared struggles, participants will learn from one another about the differences and similarities between programs. This workshop will then lead participants to understand which problems can be addressed through different types of policy actions. Finally, we will spend time learning how to frame our day-to-day issues into strong advocacy actions that can be shared with policy makers and media outlets.

12. TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

SANDRA SANCHEZ - OWNER/DIRECTOR, SANDY'S KINDERLAND

Introducing the dynamics of working together as a team with professionalism and dedication to reach the organizational levels of quality and excellence.



REGISTRATION

Registration Fee for registrations received by April 15th

After May 1st an additional \$25 will be charged

NJAEYC Members (Standard and Premium levels): \$129

NJAEYC Entry Level Members: \$159

Non-members: \$189

Join now and receive the member rate

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ - _____ - _____

Position: _____

Employer Name: _____

Workshop Choices:

AM 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

PM 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

Breakfast and lunch and hotel parking are included

You can register and pay online at www.njaeyc.org or by mail to:

NJAEYC

PO Box 1024

Barnegat Light, NJ 08006

For more information, you can call 732-329-0033 or email mail@njaeyc.org