Work & Family Consulting, Inc.

Instructor Led Continuing Education Events

A Fresh Look at Positive Guidance: This session focuses on positive methods of guiding children in early childhood programs. Activities include examining ways to promote positive behavior in classrooms through prevention, rule-setting, etc., positive guidance techniques, positive verbal guidance and examining logical consequences.

Addressing Challenging Behaviors in Young Children: Effective approaches for addressing challenging behaviors are necessary for the development of children's social skills. These approaches may include knowledge of child development, strategies for implementation and an acceptance of differences in families and children. This session will focus on approaching challenging behaviors in ways that can help to reduce these behaviors by supporting children as they develop social skills.

Ages & Stages of Children's Development: As children progress through the various stages of development, there is usually a positive and a negative side to each stage. This session will focus on recognizing different (expected) stages of children's development and positive ways providers can help children successfully move through them.

Battling Burnout by Managing Your Time and Stress: Making a commitment to the children & families in your program requires hard work! This training focuses on ways to prevent burnout: managing your time, creating a positive work atmosphere, avoiding procrastination, and recognizing stressors. Included here are great ideas for implementing the change you need to win the battle against burnout!

Beginning Together- Infant & Toddler Care: So many miraculous things happen to babies in their first two years of life! This class examines the uniqueness of infants & toddlers and the uniqueness of the role of the professionals who provide care for them. Topics include the effects of adult/environmental stress on infants & toddlers, exploring infant & toddler behaviors, and the implications of staff interactions.

Building Skills through Block Play: Exploring with blocks contributes greatly to the development of children. Block play provides children with opportunities to practice skills such as problem-solving, decision-making, eye-hand coordination, fine motor development and many more. This class will focus on the benefits of block play for children, organizing and equipping a block area and techniques to enrich and stimulate block play.

Care & Concern for Children in Crisis: When crisis comes into the lives of the children you care for, what is the right thing to say? What is the right thing to do? This class will focus on what to say, what not to say and how to provide care for children in a crisis. Discussion will include life events such as moving, death, terminal illness, sudden loss of a parent, deployment, abuse/addiction, divorce, etc.

Child Abuse & Neglect: This is a perfect refresher course for staff on child abuse and neglect. This session meets the Wisconsin DCF training requirements for child abuse & neglect.

Child Portfolios-Using Authentic Observation to Document Children's Development: Over time, appropriate construction of portfolios can communicate to parents, early childhood educators, and quality rating assessors a child's growth & skill development. This session discusses authentic assessment and how to use it for gathering information, how to construct curriculum based upon authentic assessment, and how to create portfolios which clearly illustrate a child's progress and are in alignment with the Wisconsin Model Learning Standards.

Conducting Effective & Developmentally Appropriate Group Times: Most early childhood programs have at least one large group meeting per day. This training will help providers spice up their group times and motivate children to participate. Age-appropriate group times and activities are emphasized, and many new ideas are presented.

Cooperative Caregiving-Professional Practice in Child Care: In order for early childhood employees to be professional, they need to know what being professional looks like. In this course, participants will explore the general standards of the field and the behaviors that indicate an employee is upholding those standards. Participants will also identify professional and unprofessional practices and will have an opportunity to explore tools for managing conflict.

Creating Culturally Sensitive Classrooms: The early childhood environment has a great impact on a child's ability to learn. Recognizing similarities and differences among people, exploring various cultures, integrating the development of social skills into the curriculum, and involving families are ways to support the cultures in a classroom. This class helps teachers to understand how to create and manage a culturally sensitive classroom which will create an environment for each child to grow to his/her potential.

Cuttin' Up in Class-Creative Art Activities for Preschool & School Age: Understanding the value of creative art experiences is the main focus of this session. Participants will receive first-hand experience on the recommended ways to facilitate creative art experiences, set up the art center, and new ideas for art!

Developing Leadership Skills in Children-The Role of the Teacher: Good teachers can be good leaders and this session examines the leadership skills teachers may possess or may need to develop in order to be a good leader for children and to help children learn to be good leaders themselves.

Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum Planning for Infants & Toddlers: One of the many important roles of infant & toddler teachers is to intentionally plan for each child's individual development. This class explores the aspects of creating a developmentally appropriate curriculum for infants and toddlers.

Early Childhood Environment: A Powerful Teaching Tool: The learning environment is a powerful teaching tool which helps children develop and learn. This class examines the fixed & flexible aspects of classrooms when planning arrangements, the characteristics of optimal learning environments, ways to multiply the number of learning experiences and ways to create spaces which currently do not exist in a classroom.

Embracing Culture-Appreciating Similarities & Differences Among Children and Their Families: In their book "Anti-Bias Education for Young Children and Ourselves," Louise Derman-Sparks and Julie Olsen Edwards offer practical guidance to confront and eliminate barriers of prejudice, misinformation, and bias. (Derman-Sparks, Olsen Edwards, 2010) Using the resources from their book, this course includes tips for helping teachers and children respect each other, themselves, all families and all people.

Essential Skills for Successful Children: This course is based on Ellen Galinsky's work from her book *Mind in the Making*. Her research has identified the seven most essential skills that children need to master so that they can become successful adults.

Getting Along: Helping Staff Appreciate Their Different Temperaments: Can we really classify people according to their temperaments? Human behavior is complex and unpredictable. Having knowledge about temperament types and the behaviors associated with them can help employees appreciate their differences. This class explores temperament types, the behaviors associated with each and ways to cope with each other's personalities.

Hitting & Spitting…I'm Quitting! This brainstorming session is solution-focused, not problem-focused. There are 5 main reasons why children may display inappropriate behaviors which will be examined. After a brief review of positive guidance techniques participants will create strategic plans for using positive methods of guidance to begin changing specific inappropriate behaviors they are dealing with in their classrooms.

I'm Paid to Play-The Importance of Adult Interaction During Play: Play is the means through which children learn valuable life skills. In this class participants will learn about the stages & value of play, setting the stage for play, and the key role that early childhood teachers have during children's play.

I'm So Angry! Helping Children Identify & Manage Their Angry Feelings: In today's world, learning to cope with angry feelings in a positive way may be one of the most important tools to give a child. This class will examine techniques to help children identify their feelings and will equip participants with activities for use in helping children learn to express and deal with their anger in a positive way.

Infant Attachment & Bonding: When infants and toddlers have parents and caregivers who respond to their needs a secure attachment is formed. Circumstances in a child's life may cause an insecure attachment to form. This class focuses on interaction, healthy brain development and practices which form secure attachments in children.

The Joy of Process Art with Infants & Toddlers: Infants & toddlers learn through their senses. Offering activities for process art exploration provides even more sensory learning experiences. This class discusses the planning, implementation, and value of process art activities for infants & toddlers. "Art time" is included also!

Keeping Children Safe & Healthy: Keeping children safe & healthy lays a solid foundation for children's growth and development. A safe and healthy child is better prepared to learn and experience success in the opportunities presented to him or her. This class is a great review and reminder of the many responsibilities involved in providing safe & healthy environments for children.

Large Muscle & Creative Movement Activities: What can you do when the weather is not cooperating, and the children are climbing the walls? Ideas will be presented for active games and activities that will burn energy for both teachers and children! This is an active class so dress for movement & comfort!

Leading from the Classroom-What Matters Most: For a program to do its best for children and families, leadership must be present at all levels within an early care & education program. Leadership qualities must come from teachers, support staff – every adult. (Sullivan, 2003) This training event emphasizes ways for teachers and support staff to lead in their programs.

Managing Food Allergies & Intolerances: This introductory course examines the differences between food allergies and food intolerances and explores easy ways to manage allergies in childcare, including field trips, special events, classrooms, and transportation. Ideas will be discussed for prevention, reading food labels, parent communication, and dealing with food intolerances.

Nurturing Self-Esteem in Children: The development of positive self-esteem begins at a very early age and early childhood professionals have a wonderful opportunity to support that in many ways. Examine these various aspects of self-esteem: stages of development, the teacher's role in promoting positive self-esteem, ways to undermine the development of healthy self-esteem and activities which help develop self-esteem.

Nutrition Habits in Children-Teachers as Role Models: How can early childhood professionals promote good nutrition and healthy food choices? This session provides information on ways to encourage good nutrition in children and to increase their consumption of healthy foods through interactions, activities, and role modeling.

Observing & Recording Children's Growth & Development: The emphasis of this session is on techniques for observing children, procedures for documenting information and ways to use the valuable information collected to create a program which meets the individual needs of the children.

Planning Perfect Field Trips: Get ready for field trip season with this informative, hands-on continuing education session. Emphasis in selecting & planning age-appropriate field trips, safety, communication, transportation, and field trip lesson planning are included.

Plugging into Families: This session examines ways to plug into families with great communication systems from the start. Prevent "electrical shocks" from your families with these tried-and-true parent partnership activities. Participants will review samples of tools to use for asking families to evaluate the program.

Positive Teacher & Child Interactions: Healthy brain development is dependent upon positive interactions with adults and a stimulating environment. Participants will examine how relationships built with children through powerful interactions enhance bonding and attachment, how the social climate of a classroom is created through interactions and how teaching styles and intentional interactions help children to learn and develop social skills.

The Power of Pretend Play: Pretend play is one of the most important pastimes of children. Through these experiences, a strong foundation for literacy and social/emotional success is being built. In addition, children cope with their personal real world through pretend play. This class will focus on the benefits of pretend play for children, organizing and equipping a dramatic play area and techniques to stimulate pretend play.

Principles of Safety in Early Childhood Programs: One of the most important responsibilities of the employees in an early childhood education program is keeping children safe. The principles of safety which are examined in this course include advanced planning, rules regarding safety, supervision, and education for both the children and the families. A great review!

Professional Responsibilities in Early Childhood Education: This session focuses on performance standards of the childcare field and expectations of early childhood professionals. Other topics discussed are quality programming, preventing gossip and maintaining licensing rules as part of being a professional.

Quality Supervision of Young Children: Supervision is one of the most important elements of creating a safe environment and children depend upon adults to protect them. In this session, participants will consider how thoughtful planning and communication systems are important for maintaining appropriate supervision.

The Quest for the Outdoors: Children learn through their senses and the outdoors is a great environment for multi-sensory learning. Bring your classroom outdoors with loads of fun, theme-related activities detailed in this course.

Recognizing & Marketing Your Strengths: This class is designed to help center staff identify what the key features of their program are and what their role is in marketing and communicating these features to their families and to the public. Participants will discover how their families benefit from each of the center's key features and will brainstorm ways to be a part of marketing & communicating the quality of the program.

Saying Goodbye: Helping Children Deal with Separation Anxiety: Providers can help children jump over the developmental hurdle of separation anxiety by learning why children experience it. By learning why children experience separation anxiety, teachers will be able to support them when they are saying goodbye to their families. Participants also explore ways to communicate with families in this sometimes, difficult situation.

Scream Your Theme! This class presents early childhood professionals with ways to integrate a weekly theme into their program. Emphasis is placed upon choosing appropriate themes for children, planning theme-related activities & enrichments for all learning centers and creating bulletin boards which teach & reflect your theme.

Sensory Play-More Than the Sand Table: Young children learn through their senses. In this session, teachers will learn about the "7" senses and the value of sensory play. Introductory information on sensory processing disorders and sensory integration dysfunction in children is discussed. Other topics include potential safety issues, how to prevent accidents during sensory play, and many activities or suggestions for activities.

Serving with A Smile-Customer Service Matters: Customer service in early childhood programs is all about doing what it takes to satisfy the families who have chosen your program. When families are greeted with a smile, listened to and respected, a relationship of trust is built. Satisfied customers can be your greatest source of advertising.

SIDS Risk Reduction Practices: This session covers the basics of risk-reduction in the area of "Sudden Infant Death Syndrome", and meets the Wisconsin DCF requirements for SIDS training.

State of Wisconsin Abusive Head Trauma Training: This course meets the state requirements for those working in programs serving children 5 years of age and younger and is approved by the WI DCF.

Staff Relations & Teamwork: Working close proximity with other team members can be challenging. This session focuses on both behaviors that break down staff relations and those that build them up. If you are looking for a more positive work environment, here are some great ideas!

Strategies for Literacy & Language Development: Literacy education should be an everyday practice of early childhood programs. How do teachers know if their classroom environments and interactions are providing children with the opportunity to develop literacy skills? This session provides insight and resources for the development of children's language and literacy skills.

Supporting Learning Styles & Multiple Intelligences: Learn more about the 3 basic learning styles & 8 multiple intelligences theory, identifying individual learning styles for yourselves and children, adaptation of classroom environment and planning activities & transitions to meet each child's individual style of learning.

Transition Tricks: This session examines the children's perspectives of the schedules, routines, and transition times in their day and their value and importance in children's development. Participants will examine techniques and activities to help children move smoothly between activities to prevent frustration and behavior issues.

Understanding & Working with Sensory Processing Disorders: Children with sensory processing disorders (SPD's) need providers who understand their condition. This session is based on current research in SPD's and provides participants with valuable insight into the signs of behaviors associated with, activity planning for, and environmental considerations for Sensory Processing Disorders. (2.5 hours in length)

Working on Wellness: Promoting Wellness in Early Childhood Programs: How would promoting wellness across the center affect an early care & education program? An attitude of wellness would, undoubtedly, have a positive effect on the children, staff and families in the program. Join us for a fun and active session which focuses on exercise, healthy eating, and creating curriculum which promotes wellness.

Quality Training at an Affordable Price

Work & Family Consulting, Inc. is committed to offering current, relevant, hands-on training to early childhood professionals. Our training events are guaranteed to introduce providers to new ideas and tools to improve their current practice. We present topics in fresh, updated ways and include activities to make the events memorable and fun. If you are searching for a positive training experience for your staff, Work & Family will deliver it.

Length of Training Events

All continuing education events with Work & Family Consulting are a minimum of 2 hours in length.

Cost of training events

Contact us at Work & Family for pricing information which is determined by location and length of training:

- Green Bay/Fox Valley area and surrounding communities are considered local.
- Outside of local programs, mileage will be charged.
- Our trainers are willing to travel state-wide.

Schedule a Training Event

Training events may be scheduled Monday through Saturday daytime, evening, or naptime with the exception of Friday & Saturday evenings. Full day or half day events may also be scheduled.

Contact us soon to schedule your next staff meeting or training day!

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