

17th Early Childhood Collaboration Conference

AHOY MATE!!

KEEP CALM AND SAIL ON!

Helping Children Navigate Their World



Saturday September 23, 2017

*Dixie State University
St. George, Utah*

The Early Childhood Collaboration Conference has been designed to provide a quality training experience that brings together the many partners in our early childhood community. Our goal is to educate each other on who we are and how we all fit together. It is our hope that we can provide opportunities to establish connections and highlight the resources available in our communities so we can work together more effectively to improve the quality of life for our youngest citizens.



CONFERENCE

SCHEDULE

7:30 am—8:30 am	Registration	Gardner Center
8:30 am—8:45 am	Welcome	Gardner Center- Ballroom A
8:45am—9:45 am	Keynote Presentation	Gardner Center- Ballroom A
9:45 am—10:00 am	Break	Vendors will be at the Gardner Center
10:00 am— 11:00 am	Session 1 Workshops	Workshop sessions will split between the Gardner Center and the second level of the Udvar Hazy Building. Please see workshop description for room and topic.
11:00 am—11:15 am	Break	Vendors will be at the Gardner Center
11:15 am— 12:15 pm	Session 2 Workshops	
12:15 pm— 1:15 pm	Break	Vendors will be at the Gardner Center
12:30 pm—1:30 pm	Lunch and Learn (lunch will be provided)	Gardner Center Ballroom raffles during lunch; must be present to win.
1:30 pm—2:00 pm	Advocacy Project/Raffles	
2:00 pm—2:15 pm	Break	Vendors will be at the Gardner Center
2:15 pm—3:15 pm	Session 3 Workshops	
3:15 pm—3:30 pm	Break	
3:30 pm—4:30 pm	Session 4 Workshops	

A great big thank you to all those who contributed to the success of this conference. Many agencies contributed time, people, materials and money to make this happen and keep the cost of the conference affordable for everyone.

A special thanks goes to the Department of Workforce Services and Utah Office of Child Care.

Their continued financial support makes this conference possible.



KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Nathan Cureton



Want to love your job? Want kids to love learning? Of course! Does that always happen? Well... But hey, don't lose hope! Daily classroom success does not have to be a grandiose, euphoric dreamland; like thousands of teachers who practice sound, research-based education principles, it can be reality.

The ultimate objective of a teacher is to create a classroom environment empowering students to choose success for themselves. So, how is this done? Together, we'll explore two such vital teaching tools, expectations and relationships, and their synergistic effect when properly and consistently applied. You will leave empowered with conceptual and practical skills that will produce an immediate impact in your classrooms and for your students, thus helping that dreamland become reality, your reality.



LUNCH AND LEARN

Keri Allred

This session is a look at how the expectations we have for the children we teach speak not only to what we need to teach children, but what we need to learn about ourselves. The emotions that arise from teaching a group of children are a lesson in what we need to work with in ourselves, what we can change and what we can let go of. Being in high energy as opposed to low energy can be the difference between frustration and fulfillment.



WORKSHOP SESSIONS

SESSION 1 10:00-11:00 AM

SESSION 2 11:15-12:15 PM

Utah's Child Care Quality System –Family Providers

(Session 1 10:00-11:00am)

Karrie Phillips

All Ages

Gardner Conference Room B

Come and learn about the Department of Workforce Services, Office of Child Care (DWS/OCC) proposed Child Care Quality System (CCQS). This is your opportunity to learn about and give feedback on how Utah will be implementing new requirements of the federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF).

Let's Fish! The Power of Intrinsic Motivation

(Session 2 11:15-12:15pm)

Nathan Cureton

All Ages

Gardner Conference Room B

As the old proverb goes, "If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. If you teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime." Researchers conclude that fish giving systems of motivation, or extrinsic motivators where rewards are dangled in front of individuals, have a substantially negative effect on motivation. In this session, we'll learn together the power of ditching those extrinsic stinky fish and replacing them with fishing poles instead, with research-based, proven methods of intrinsic motivation that will transform your classroom culture, empowering students with a love of learning.

THE FOLLOWING CLASSES ARE OFFERED IN BOTH SESSIONS 1 AND 2

Sensory Bins and You

Cheryl Dyer

Ages (3-5)

Gardner Conference Room C

In this workshop you will walk away with the knowledge of what types of materials to use, how best to set them up, and what different types of themes that you can use in your sensory bins.

Staying Afloat in Stormy Seas: Helping Children to Calm Themselves in a Stressful World (Yoga)

Christina Pay & Bethany Tracy

All Ages

Gardner Conference Room D

Mindful meditation moments can have a profound impact on the day to day events in a child's life. This workshop will explore different methods of self-calming that allow children to express emotions constructively as well as how to create harmony when life gets stressful.

Trauma Awareness 101

Mary Beth Vogel-Ferguson

All Ages

Hazy 203

This workshop will use presentation, videos, and peer to peer conversation, to explore the basics of trauma and the impact it has on children. We will discuss tools for recognizing and building children's resiliency. We will also discuss the need to build our own resiliency as the impact of secondary trauma can impact our ability to provide the level of empathic care we all want for the children we serve. The goal is for all of us to leave the session with concrete tools for understanding the impact of trauma and our ability to build resilience in the next generation.

Keep Calm and Move With the Groove

Jennifer Farish & Tonya Smith

Ages (3-5)

Hazy 204

As a class, we will discuss the need for effective, smooth transitions, and brain breaks in the preschool classroom. Through class discussion and sharing, participants will walk away with great ideas to implement within their classrooms.

WORKSHOP SESSIONS

SESSIONS 1 & 2 CONTINUED

From Teacher to Child Empowerment Coach

Monica Iglesias

All Ages Hazy 230

Do you find yourself trying to follow a schedule, a curriculum, or just going day to day doing your JOB? Do you experience discipline problems and job related stress? Or are you simply looking for more powerful ways to positively influence a child's life. What if, by shifting a few minor things, you could shift the energy of your classroom and the positive impact you have on the life of a child. Join Inspirational Children's book Author and Radio Show Host Monica Iglesias for renewed vision of your job description in order to better empower the children in your stewardship.

Navigating the Storms of Early Childhood Behavior

Marian Hunt, M.Ed. & Stacy Heaps, MSW/LCSW

Ages (2-12) Hazy 218

Trying to understand the challenging behavior of young children is often like being adrift in a storm. This workshop will teach the basic principles of *Positive Behavior Support* and help participants understand why challenging behavior appears.

Participants will begin to "navigate" through difficult behaviors by understanding the function and purpose of the behavior for the child.

The Sibling of ASD: Navigating the Journey

Brynn Bell

Ages (2-15) Hazy 219

Every family is unique in its dynamic, structure, and culture. One thing is always true: the experience of having a child with Autism affects the whole family. A look at the research regarding siblings of children with Autism shows that the experience can be both strengthening and stressful. Learning to cope with the unique demands of having a sister or brother with Autism can help the experience be one of personal joy and positive growth. Educators, therapists, and parents can all contribute to decreasing related stress for these siblings and supporting positive behavioral and emotional development. This presentation will briefly address the research, stressors and demands, and emotional affects of having a brother or sister with Autism; then will further explore environmental and relational interventions to better equip these siblings to navigate a positive and successful journey in the family.

Deep Sea Dive Into the Important Role of Brain Science in Early Childhood Education

Cari Buckner

Ages (3-7) Hazy 229

This presentation will provide background knowledge on what we are learning about the development of the brain. It will also provide modeling and participation in instructional strategies that are proven to improve the brain development for young children. This presentation will include lecture, group discussion, and hands-on experiences. At the end of their Deep Sea Dive, each participant should walk away with a treasure chest of valuable artifacts.

Creating Math Skills for Later Success

Crystal Knippers

Ages(2-5) Hazy 220

In this class participants will learn tips and techniques for offering math opportunities in their class that will help to create life long skills. Math is everywhere and there are many ways to add it to our class in a fun and exciting way. We will look at ways to encourage algebraic thinking, and add kindergarten readiness skills for the children in our care.

WORKSHOP SESSIONS

SESSION 3 2:15-3:15

SESSION 4 3:30-4:30

Utah's Child Care Quality System -Centers

(Session 3 2:15-3:15pm)

Karrie Phillips

All Ages

Gardner Conference Room B

Come and learn about the Department of Workforce Services, Office of Child Care (DWS/OCC) proposed Child Care Quality System (CCQS). This is your opportunity to learn about and give feedback on how Utah will be implementing new requirements of the federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF).

Discussions With the Pros

(Session 4 3:30-4:30pm)

Nathan Cureton

All Ages

Gardner Conference Room B

Well, who are the pros? You! Join Nathan as he leads participants in a Q&A discussion on teaching topics of your choice, with ideas exchanged by all attendees. After enjoying Nathan's keynote (and perhaps his workshop on motivation), come prepared with questions and insights, and we'll all learn together, like pros.

THE FOLLOWING CLASSES ARE OFFERED IN BOTH SESSIONS 3 AND 4

Let's Explore! Creating Nurturing Outdoor Spaces With Loose Parts!

Carolyn Ellsworth & Denise Waagen

Ages: (2-8)

Gardner Conference Room C

There are many benefits when it comes to children and their natural curiosity in outdoor spaces. Giving children opportunities and freedom to explore will allow them to develop many skills necessary for later success in life. These benefits include an increase in their creativity, scientific and social skills, connecting with nature, exposure to fresh air, sunlight, stress-reduction, increasing their imagination and many other abilities necessary for life as an adult. This workshop/make-n-take will explore and create experiences that will be used to develop children's skills and abilities to spark interesting conversations that can turn into child-directed activities if you pay attention.

More Than Lullabies; Using Music and Movement to Calm Energy

Tara Dunn

All Ages

Gardner Conference Room D

The interactive workshop will explore the different ways music can affect the sensory system to calm, excite, and overstimulate and how to use it appropriately to get the results you want. The primary focus will be strategies for calming energy and helping children self-regulate. Participants will explore different materials, motor movements, sensory paths, as well as participate in group dances, listening activities, and open discussions.

The Zen of Working Together

Keri Allred

All Ages

Hazy 203

This session is a continuation of the lunch and learn, and instead of talking about working with children, and what that teaches us about ourselves, this session will focus on working with each other as co-workers, and the lessons that can bring. Topics include ways to find resolution, communication, expectations, and the cycle of feedback.

The Early Signs of Autism: Diagnosis and Treatment

Nicole Stevens

All Ages

Hazy 204

Understanding the early signs of Autism can be key to identifying children who should be evaluated for the diagnosis, in order to facilitate early intervention and treatment. However, these signs can look differently for different children. It is important to understand how these signs can look differently for children, as well as how to best go about implementing effective treatment. There are many common myths about Autism treatment, which will be discussed in depth. Finally, success stories.

WORKSHOP SESSIONS

SESSIONS 3 & 4 CONTINUED

Creating Safe Harbors: Anchoring on Positive Reinforcement Strategies to Shape Behavior

Rian Jensen & Kristie Latimer MSW/LCSW

Ages 2-12

Hazy 218

A positive and reinforcing environment can be a safe harbor for young children. It is also key in shaping challenging behaviors and building the self-esteem and confidence of a young child. This workshop will explore simple techniques for reinforcement, as well as how to deliver frequent, positive, and effective reinforcement as interventions in attempting to change behavior.

STEM– The Water Cycle

Beth Thode, Tyler Young & Taylor Hintze

Ages (3-11)

Hazy 219

Our plan is to demonstrate the water cycle: Evaporation, Condensation, Precipitation, and Collection.

Open-Ended Play

Amie Andelin

Ages (0-6)

Hazy 220

“Play is a child’s work and should be treated as such.” The workshop will discuss the importance of play and what current research has concluded. Ideas will be given on how to setup an early childhood environment that is conducive and lends to child-directed learning. This will include but not be limited to: set-up of play areas, materials and toys placed in center areas and guidelines to ensure the safety and success of the children.

“I’m Already Doing Assessments; Why Do I Need Developmental Screenings?”

Justin Nuckles

Ages (0-5)

Hazy 229

Developmental screening is a complementary part of assessing young children and meeting their needs. This workshop helps participants understand how it differs from what they’re already doing, the basics of the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) tools, and how they can begin offering developmental screening to their families on the State’s dime.

The Brain: What is Impacting Your Child’s Development?

Tammy Bingham & Annie Farley

Ages (3-17)

Hazy 230

We will discuss developmental milestones and the environmental influences that can impact proper development of children of all ages. We will discuss “red flags” to look for in children and give insight into why these are happening and ways to help get your child back on track developmentally.

Keep Calm and Embrace Creativity

Marijean Aguayo

Ages (3-5)

Hazy 242

Art is an important tool for exploration and expression for young children. It helps frame their perceptions of their world. Through their artwork, children can explore complex ideas and emotions at a manageable level. Children naturally gravitate toward art as a way to explore new materials and experiment with an ongoing creative process. Come learn how to create an art-rich classroom that provides opportunities for art exploration.



Sailors Aboard

Amie Andelin is originally from Salt Lake and has lived in St. George for the last 16 years. Amie enjoys spending time with her four children. She has a Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education and a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership. Although she enjoys working with young children, her passion is educating child care providers and helping them to make a difference in children's lives.

Annie Farley is from Pleasant Grove, Utah and graduated from Utah Valley University. She has worked with children and families for more than five years through Brain Balance. She has been able to work with many types of children over the years and has a deep love for what she does and those that she works with. She can't imagine doing anything else!

Bethany Tracy is founder and CEO of Hippie Skin, a healthy natural skin care company based in Ogden, Utah. She has been a certified Yoga instructor since 2012. Bethany firmly believes that establishing a foundation upon which children and their caregivers/teachers can manage stress contributes to a well-rounded, healthy childhood.

Beth Thode has a Bachelor of Science, and has worked in After School for more than ten years, seven of them at DSU-Kidspace. Beth is married with two sons. She really loves her job—the staff, and the students make for a wonderful program.

Brynn Bell graduated from BYU with her Masters of Social Work and went on to obtain her LCSW. She later pursued coursework through the Florida Institute of Technology to become a behaviorist (BCBA). Brynn is passionate about mental health therapy and applied behavior analysis (ABA), and has worked with children and adults with disabilities for over a decade. She believes in an integrated model of behavior analysis, skill building, and solution focused therapy. She loves to work with a team to help individuals succeed and enjoys working with clients and their families for the whole person approach. Brynn is married to her childhood friend and neighbor, and together they have four spirited and wonderful children. She loves living in the desert, days at the lake, hiking in red rock or green mountains, and singing.

Cari Buckner has taught in the elementary classroom and the university classroom for over 30 years. She currently serves as Department Chair of the DSU Family Studies and Human Development Department. As she has worked with young children over the years, her instructional strategies have focused on developing and implementing learning experiences for each individual child to help them reach their full potential.

Carolyn Ellsworth has over 18 years experience in the Early Education field, working with teachers, caregivers, parents, children, Head Start, Early Head Start, and private childcare. She is currently the Professional Development Coordinator for Care About Childcare in the Salt Lake Metro area, and an adjunct faculty at Salt Lake Community College teaching, Developing and Administering EC Programs.

Cheryl Dyer is 38 years old and has lived in Southern Utah for thirteen years. Cheryl earned her degree in Early Childhood Education in 2013 and began teaching at an outdoor Preschool Program in September 2013 and then started at the Washington County School District Preschool in 2016. She loves creating sensory bins so that the children can experience all kinds of tactile play.

Christina Pay has been an advocate for children for most of her adult life. She has worked for The Center for Shaken Baby Syndrome and Education Coordinator for Intermountain Healthcare at Logan Regional Hospital. Christina has taught preschool and worked as a center director. She has volunteered with the PTA, Bear River Safe Kids Coalition, and is currently the Eastern Representative for Utah Association for the Education of Young Children.



Sailors Aboard

Crystal Knippers has worked for Care About Childcare for 16 years and enjoyed every minute of it. She is a proud mom of a wonderful daughter who just graduated from high school and is attending Utah State with the desire to pursue Veterinary Medicine as her career choice. In her free time, she is attending classes and enjoying time with family and friends.

Denise Waagen has over six years of experience in the Child Care field as a center teacher and center assistant director. She is currently the Professional Development Consultant for Care About Childcare at Children's Service Society.

Jennifer Farish has a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education (K-8th grade), preschool teacher for seven years and preschool teacher coach for this last school year. She was the Early Childhood Teacher of the Year for the State of Utah in 2015, a presenter at SUECON in 2015 and precentor at this Collaboration Conference.

Justin Nuckles has always loved both serving children and training others. He received a Bachelor's in Psychology, completed a certificate in Infant Parent Mental Health, and obtained his Master's Degree in Child Development to help him do just that, simply better. When he isn't working to help professionals around the state serve families better through developmental screening, he's spending time with his wife, three girls, and their Golden doodle, preferably outdoors.

Karrie Phillips was born and raised in Utah. She has been married for forty years, has seven children, three who are autistic and thirteen grandchildren. Karrie was a licensed family child care provider, first licensed in 1980 and closed her business in 2006. She then went back to school and earned her Bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family studies. She worked for Child Care Licensing as a trainer for six years and a manager for two years. She now works for the Department of Workforce Services, Office of Childcare as a Program Specialist overseeing the Care About Childcare programs and Utah's quality system. Her favorite thing to do on her day off is play with grandkids and teach all the things that their parents used to do! Just in case you do not know, her favorite color is orange.

Keri Allred serves as the executive director of a large, rural Head Start program in Southeastern Utah. Ms. Allred is currently the Director Tri-Chair for the Utah Head Start Association. Ms. Allred's love for children has been the focus of her career, in both higher education instruction and Head Start. She believes education is the way to success and teaching with humor makes that journey even better!

Kristie Latimer MSW/LCSW Kristie is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with experience working with individuals and families across a variety of social service settings. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Utah State University, and graduated with a Master's Degree from the University of Utah in 2007. Currently, Kristie works as a Behavior Specialist, training staff and supporting adults with disabilities to find success in their homes and communities. She is the mother of three children.

Marian Hunt, M.Ed. has a Master's Degree from Utah State and a background in special education. She has worked over 40 years in the areas of childhood development, early intervention, education, special education, and positive behavior change supports for children and adults with disabilities. Marian spent many years working in the Jordan School District, for private provider agency, and is a sought after trainer and consultant in the area behavior change. Marian is a mother and grandmother and splits her time between St. George and Sandy, Utah.



Sailors Aboard

Marijean Aguayo has a Master's Degree in Teaching and Diversity in Early Childhood. Her early childhood passion started as a young college student at Orange Coast College in CA. While attending school and working in the field, Marijean learned about the importance of play for young children's optimal development. Her hands-on learning experience and own personal play experiences have led her to be the educator she is today.

Mary Beth Vogel-Ferguson, Ph.D., CSW received her Ph.D. in Social Work from the University of Utah in 2008. For the past 18 years, she has directed multiple studies and program evaluations with state and regional level government agencies and is currently the principal investigator of several studies sponsored by Utah's Department of Workforce Services (DWS). These include evaluations of the work focused cash assistance program, state labor exchange services and employment for formerly chronically homeless individuals. She has assisted all levels of agency management, from senior leadership to front line workers, in using data for program and policy development.

Monica Iglesias after being raised in abuse, Monica became the abuser. She has since been able to break the cycle of control and abuse by discovering the value within herself and ways to empower the children in her stewardship. Today, in addition to being a wife, mother, and former teacher, Monica is also an inspirational children's book author, speaker, mentor, and radio show host. She lives her passion and purpose by guiding others through personal transformations and teaches mothers and teachers how to empower the children in their stewardship.

Nathan Cureton is a passionate teacher, author, speaker, and leader. With teaching and leadership experience at all school levels, Nathan's influence also extends throughout the region as a sought-after researcher, author, and keynote speaker at schools, conferences, and universities on the subject of creating a classroom culture of student success. Also, his novel for teachers, *Empowered*, is a university-required text and is widely used in schools across the region. Nathan's entire professional world has been wrapped up in creating successful classrooms. He is known for his engaging wit, dynamic instruction, and motivating style; his influence continues to spread throughout the education community, influencing both teacher and student alike. Thus, the title he most prefers is that singularly noble word – teacher.

Nicole Stevens earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology and her Master's in Marriage and Family Therapy. She provides behavior therapy services in Iron County and also provides Neurofeedback therapy. Nicole maintains certification as a BCBA and is a Behavior Supervisor, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, and Director for Utah Behavior Services.

Rian Jensen, MSW/LCSW is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with over 20 years experience in the area of behavior change and management. She has worked with children, families, and adults in changing challenging behavior through positive behavior approaches. Rian is employed by TKJ, a community-based agency serving children and adults with disabilities. Rian is also a private consultant and facilitates a training grant on positive behavior change. She has appeared on KSL's Studio 5 and she is the mother of three children.

Stacy Heaps, MSW/LCSW is a Washington County resident and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. She is the owner of Sand S Counseling and Adoption and has previously been employed as a therapist, adoption counselor, social worker and behavior specialist. Stacy has served as the president of the Southern Utah Down Syndrome Association and is the mother of 4 children.

Sailors Aboard

Tammy Bingham, a mother of four, was instrumental in bringing Brain Balance to Utah and now to Arizona because of the profound changes the program made in the lives of her two sons and family. In 2011, the family made the difficult decision for Tammy and the children to move temporarily across the country so their two sons could participate in the Brain Balance program. Tammy's husband stayed at home and worked, flying out often on the weekends to be with the family. Due to the great success that their sons experienced in Brain Balance, Tammy and her husband determined to bring the miracle of Brain Balance to other families. Tammy serves as the director of the Brain Balance centers in Utah and Arizona. Her personal experience with the program, from the point of view of a parent, helps to ensure that with Brain Balance there is hope for every child and harmony for every family.

Tara Dunn Tara's journey as a Kindermusik educator began after seeing her daughter Jordyn, who has special needs, benefit greatly from Kindermusik. When Jordyn's teacher moved away, Tara quit her job to open a Kindermusik program in her hometown of Port Clinton, Ohio. Tara has been a licensed Kindermusik educator and business owner since 2002. She has focused on integrating children with special needs into her classes and designing classrooms that work best for all children. She and her family moved to Utah in 2006 and in 2011 she was invited to start a Kindermusik program at The Learning Center for Families. Kindermusik International has recognized Tara's program as being in the top 1% of all programs worldwide. She has the largest Kindermusik program integrating children with special needs in the US and the second largest in the world. Tara has an Early Intervention credential for the state of Utah and is a life long pianist.

Taylor Hintze & Tyler Young This year will be Taylor and Tyler's third year at Kidspace. They are both students at Dixie State University. Taylor is majoring in Elementary Education and has just started her internship in a first grade class. Tyler is a Senior in the Digital Design Program and he is the jack-of-all trades— we can count on him for anything and everything!

Tonya Smith attended Dixie State where she received her Associate Degree in 1990 and then continued studying Technical Sales at Weber State University. She has worked in Head-start for a year, then received her CDA and has been a teacher for Washington County School District for the past five years in the Title 1 preschool program. She loves to inspire not only the young but teenage girls while she has helped with and been the director of the Washington City Scholarship Pageant. She has been a presenter for the Southern Utah Early Childhood Conference and SUECON in 2015. She is currently a student at Dixie State University in the Early Childhood program.





Notes





Notes



ALL ABOARD

PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS



Care About Childcare - Five County Association of Governments

Works with child care professionals, parents and community members to improve the quality of child care in ten Utah counties: Beaver, Garfield, Kane, Iron, Washington, Millard, Sanpete, Sevier, Piute, and Wayne. Care About Childcare provides referrals and information about what quality programs look like to

parents who are looking for child care. They also provide training and technical assistance to child care providers and help with recruitment and start-up grants for new providers.

Carrie Sigler, Director, Care About Childcare—Five County, 1070 W. 1600 S. Bldg. B St. George, UT 84770 (888) 344-4896 or visit our websites: www.childcarehelp.org and www.careaboutchildcare.utah.gov

Office of Child Care Licensing

This state agency ensures a minimum level of health and safety for children in child care facilities. This is accomplished through the writing and administration of health and safety rules, annual inspections and the investigation of complaints.

The office works in partnership with child care providers to ensure environments meet the needs of children and families. **Southern Region (800) 894-2588**



Dixie State University

Dixie offers a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education and courses in Child Development. **Call (435) 652-7690 to speak with an Advisor.**

SUU Head Start

Southern Utah University Head Start serves approximately 400 children and families in Iron, Washington, Beaver and Millard Counties. Head Start serves children age 3 to 5 years old. Children are served in two different Head Start classroom options; four hours a day, four days a week or six hours a day five days a week. The program was excited to add two full day class options this year. In each community, Head Start teaching teams, family advocates and families work together to build an enhanced quality of life for families and children. **Thomas Morgan, Director, Southern Utah University Head Start, 2390 Highway 56 #1 Cedar City, UT 84720 (435) 586-6070**



Early Intervention Baby Watch (ages 0-3)

These programs provide early identification and developmental services for families of infants and toddlers, birth to three, with developmental delays and disabilities. The programs are contracted through the Utah Department of Health. Beaver, Garfield, Iron & Kane counties **Collette Orton, Program Coordinator, SUU Box 958 Cedar City, UT 84720 (435) 586-6070, Washington County TLC 435-673-5353 x 111**

Southern Utah University

SUU offers an Associates Degree in Early Childhood Development and a Bachelors Degree in Family Life & Human Development with an emphasis in either Early Child Development or Family Services. **Call (435) 586-1945 to speak with an advisor.**



Utah Association for the Education of Young Children

The purpose of the Utah AEYC is to 1) Serve and act on behalf of the needs, rights, and well-being of all young children, their families, and early childhood professionals in the State of Utah. 2) Lead and consolidate the efforts of individuals and groups working to achieve healthy development and encourage constructive learning experiences for all young children. **President, Linda Smith, uaeyc.mail@gmail.com**

The Learning Center for Families

This is a program for pregnant women, and families of children from birth through age five. It serves families in Washington County who want to help their children be the very best they can be. Parents of enrolled families receive home visits that focus on their child's growth and learning. Visits also focus on family goals for health, well-being and self-sufficiency. In addition to home visits, parents attend fun educational and social activities with other families. To apply or learn more, please contact Stacey Parra, Eligibility and Enrollment Coordinator (435) 673-5353 x 164 or stop by 2044 S. Mesa Palms Dr. St. George, UT 84770 TLC also now has center-based options. For information about our child care center **Caterpillar Clubhouse** or to schedule a tour, contact **Kamie** at ext. 171.



Southwest Utah Public Health Department

The role of Southwest Utah Public Health Department is to promote and protect the health and safety of all community members. This mission is accomplished by: identifying health risks in the community, maintaining a safe and healthful environment by detecting, investigating, and preventing the spread of disease, promoting healthy lifestyles, providing primary care for individuals with limited access to such care from the private sector and ensuring that health care practitioners meet the requirements for providing adequate care. **Cedar City Office (435) 586-2437 St. George Office (435) 673-3528**

Help Me Grow

Help Me Grow is a FREE information line connecting families to community resources and child development information.

More specifically, we offer the following services:

- Information on general child development and parenting topics
- Referrals to community resources, such as early intervention agencies, family therapy, literacy support, mentoring and tutoring programs, parenting classes, recreational opportunities, and much more!
- Developmental screening questionnaires, the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ), for children ages 0-65 months (approx. 5.5 years)
- Care coordination to ensure that families successfully connect with resources

Jodi West, Community Liaison (435) 215-8074



School District Preschools



The goal of Washington County School District's Preschool program is to provide a high quality and developmentally appropriate Preschool experience for young children in our community. Children ages 3-5. 2 and 4 day programs available. 2 hours and 45 minute sessions. Title I, TANF, and Special Needs scholarships available, as well as private pay tuition options. Available at schools throughout the district.

For more information call (435) 673-1557

PFCCA

The Professional Family Child Care Association of Utah is committed to the professional development of family child care providers in pursuit of quality care for all children. It's goals are:

- To raise public awareness of quality child care.
- To offer professional development opportunities and increase member benefits.
- To collaborate with other child care and/or professional organizations.
- To strengthen the structure of the organization.
- To maintain the fiscal management of the organization.

For more information call (800) 430-6026





Build Your Advocacy Skills and Knowledge

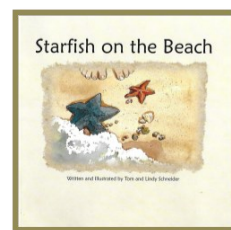
According to seap.org.uk “Advocacy... seeks to ensure that people, particularly those that are most vulnerable in society are able to:

- Have their voice heard on issues that are important to them
- Defend and safeguard their rights
- Have their views and wishes considered when decisions are being made about their lives.”

No one understands children and their needs better than those that work with them every day. Yet we find so often in this field our patience is driven by fear. We are afraid of what parents will think. We are afraid our children won't be “ready for school”. We are afraid we won't meet the right benchmarks and our funding will be affected. We are afraid we aren't doing enough. And we are afraid we won't say or do the right thing if we do try to educate and advocate.

But standing up is easier than we think. Standing up can be as simple as telling your story. This year the Southern Utah Early Childhood Collaboration Committee is asking you to do just that. Tell your story. Tell us of a time you made a difference in the life of a child. Share from the heart why you believe early childhood is worth investing in. Make it more than about numbers and tests. Make it personal.

The little girl in the story of “Starfish on the Beach” loved gathering beautiful treasures as she walked on the beach with her mother. When she discovered a starfish that needed extra help to get back to the ocean, she felt a sense of compassion and determination to help. She soon realized that there were many more starfish who needed her help. The task was difficult and yet she continued on and with her mother's help one by one, they did make a difference for each individual starfish they approached.



We too can make a difference for the children we serve if we will adopt that same compassion and determination. We need to stand up for those that need our attention and help as we do everything possible to make a difference in their lives just as the little girl did for each of the starfish she helped that day.

*“You support children and families everyday.
You are an expert. You are a storyteller.
And you –you must be –an advocate,
who is informed, engaged, and effective.”*

NAEYC.org—

At the end of the conference we will gather these stories and use them in advocacy efforts at the local, state, and national levels. As ECE professionals we do such important work every single day. This advocacy project will help us expand our influence for good and inspire others to do the same!

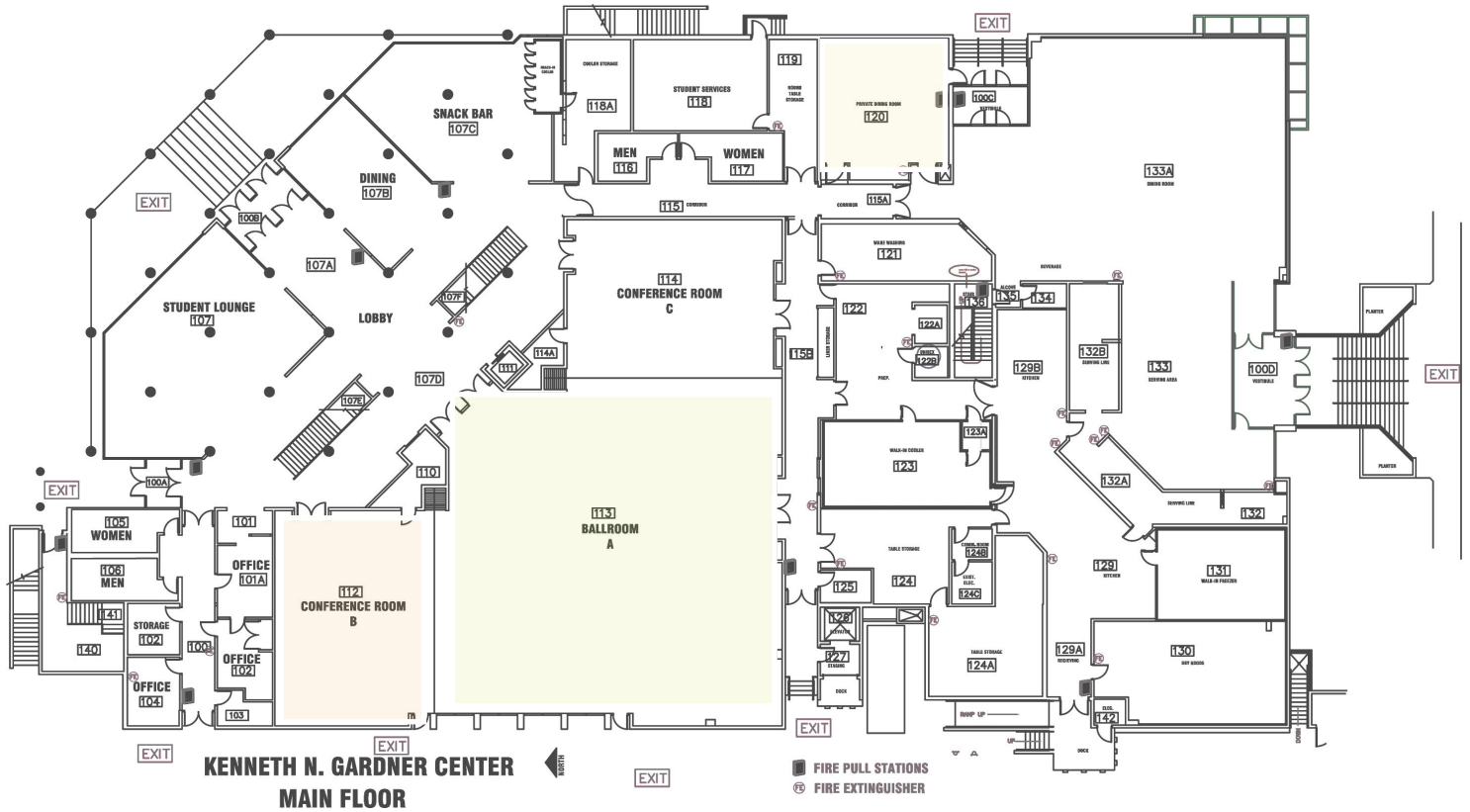
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