



V A H S A

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PASSION. PATIENCE. PARTNERSHIPS.
Together, We Elevate our Profession.

Tuesday, October 24 – Thursday, October 26, 2023
Harrisonburg, VA

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Hello and Welcome!

Dear Early/Head Start Friends:

Welcome to Harrisonburg! We have spent many hours planning to ensure that the training opportunities will expand your knowledge while offering new ideas, resources, and networking opportunities. Our theme, “Passion, Patience, Partnerships: Together We Elevate our Profession” is designed to showcase the multi-layers and roles that Early/Head Start employees play in early childhood and family development. Despite any challenges in our evolving post-pandemic world, our eye is always on our prize, our children and families, and with our passionate focus we are able to work through to provide our quality comprehensive services.

It is so important in our demanding public-service profession that you can be rejuvenated and feel validated for your hard work. Our hope is that you leave this conference with more than you came with, and therefore feel charged to continue your hard work. Thank you for what you do every day to empower Virginia’s young children, families, and communities to ensure bright futures in our society. We proudly recognize you and together, we elevate our profession!



Dawn Ault
Executive Director



Melissa Palombi
Communications & Events
Manager

Thank you to our Platinum and Gold Partners

Platinum Partner



Gold Partners



Quick Links



General
Overview



Conference
Schedule



Keynote
Speakers



Presenter
Bios



Handouts for
Sessions

Time/Room Location	Activity
7:00am – 8:00am	Breakfast Buffet, Registration, and Exhibitor Tables Open
8:00am – 9:15am Shenandoah B & C	Keynote: Empowering Parents and Teachers Through Social Emotional Learning with Sign Language with Lillian Hubler Tobin
9:15am - 9:30am	Break
9:30am - 11:00am	Session One Workshops
Shenandoah B & C	Hubler: Positive Preventive SEL Skill Building Activities Using Sign Language
Shenandoah A	Merritt: Supporting Inclusive Teaching in Divisive Times
Appalachian A	Brown: Engaging Families of Young Children with Disabilities
Appalachian B	Tripodi: Creative Movement Experiences for the Infant/Toddler Classroom
Appalachian C	Mathur: Character Building in Young Children-What Does Play Have to Do With It?
Allegheny A	*Rucker: Examining How Adults Contribute to Children’s Challenging Behaviors
Allegheny B	M. White: Effective Monitoring of your Early/Head Start
Allegheny C	Workman: Commit To Your Passion and Reach Your Goals
Board Room	Crouch: Understanding Emergent Literacy and Why it Matters to School Readiness
11:00am - 12:00pm	Network Part 1 - See back page bottom left corner for room assignments
12:00pm – 1:15pm	Lunch
1:15pm - 2:45pm	Session Two Workshops
Shenandoah A	Kavanagh: Disrupting Microaggressions in Early and Elementary Classrooms
Appalachian A	Brown: Cultural Humility-Creating Safe Spaces for Collaboration with Diverse Families
Appalachian B	Saxon: Building Self-Determination in Preschool
Appalachian C	Wenger: Childhood Poisoning Prevention: Tools for Early Learning Professionals
Allegheny A	*Rucker: Examining How Adults Contribute to Children’s Challenging Behaviors
Allegheny B	M. White: How to Effectively Utilize Data in Your Early/Head Start Program
Allegheny C	Condrey: Conscious Discipline-An Introduction
Board Room	*Newlin: Story Strategies
2:45pm - 3:00pm	Break
3:00pm - 4:30pm	Session Three Workshops
Shenandoah B & C	Hubler: 100 Easy Ways to Promote Social-Emotional Learning
Shenandoah A	Meehling & Jeffries: VDOE Coordinated Preschool Enrollment
Appalachian A	Morris: Building Relationships with Children
Appalachian B	Sanchez: Infant/Toddler Brain Development and Communication
Appalachian C	*Cartwright: ACES and Relational Health
Allegheny A	Jenkins: Head Start as a Maternal Health Intervention
Allegheny B	Waddell: Relationship Based Competencies-Focus on Family Well Being and Practices
Allegheny C	Lloyd: Teaching Toddlers Social Skills with Conscious Discipline
Board Room	Black: Sprouting Success with Incorporating Agriculture in the Classroom
4:35pm	Raffle - Shenandoah B & C (must turn in stamped Passport Card and be present to win)

* Denotes the workshop is repeated at a another time

Time/Room Location	Activity
7:00am – 8:00am	Breakfast Buffet, Registration, and Exhibitor Tables Open
8:00am – 9:15am Shenandoah B & C	Keynote: Practical Strategies to Minimize Challenging Behaviors for School Readiness with Freda Carter
9:15am - 9:30am	Break
9:30am - 11:00am	Session One Workshops
Shenandoah B & C	Carter: More Strategies to Minimize Challenging Behaviors
Shenandoah A	Mathur: Cultivating Competency in Underprepared Teachers of Young Children
Appalachian A	Gibson: Creating Playful Environments, Starting with Infants/Toddlers
Appalachian B	Plum: Help Children Succeed with Meaningful Classroom Jobs
Appalachian C	Hubler Tobin: Caring Center Play to Enhance SEL for Young Children
Allegheny A	*Cartwright: ACES and Relational Health
Allegheny B	Small: Building World Class Culture as a Recruitment Tool for Staff
Allegheny C	Meehling & Wise: Virginia’s Unifed Early Childhood System
Board Room	Meeting Space - Open to All
11:00am - 12:00pm	Network Part 2 - See back page bottom left corner for room assignments
12:00pm – 1:15pm	Lunch
1:15pm - 2:45pm	Session Two Workshops
Shenandoah A	Waddell: Goal Setting with Families to Make Progress Towards Outcomes
Appalachian A	Harvey: Strategies for Successful Staff Meetings
Appalachian B	Brinkman: Building a Framework for Personalized Professional Learning
Appalachian C	Meyers & Jeffries: VQB5 Practice Year 2 Results and Next Steps for Improvement
Allegheny A	Austin: Literacy Routines-Maximizing Moments to Ignite Children’s Literarcy
Allegheny B	Floyd: Teachers’ Perspectives on Head Start Program Perfomance Standard
Allegheny C	Pearce: Smile and Mean It
Board Room	Preece: Supporting Children’s Social and Emotional Well Being
2:45pm - 3:00pm	Break
3:00pm - 4:30pm	Session Three Workshops
Shenandoah B & C	Terry-Bryant: Using Music to Explore Math in Children’s Literature
Shenandoah A	Sprouse: Using CLASS for Improvement-Designing an Effective Path Forward
Appalachian A	Quan: Making a Difference Through Early Interactions
Appalachian B	*Turner: Schools and Families Partnering for Learner Success
Appalachian C	J. Reynolds: Coparenting for Third Parties
Allegheny A	Pettit: Every Interaction Counts-Science Behind How Conversations Build Brains
Allegheny B	Yarbrough: Families-Moving Between Resilience and Recharge
Allegheny C	*Kapur: Leadership to Grow Programs-Communication and Teamwork
Board Room	Mowry: Preschool STEM-Purposeful Integration of Mathematics in Engineering
4:35pm	Raffle - Shenandoah B & C (must turn in stamped Passport Card and be present to win)

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Time/Room Location	Activity
The Conference Evaluation will be emailed soon. You will receive a Certificate of Participation upon completion.	
7:00am-8:00am	Breakfast
8:00am-9:00am Shenandoah B & C	Keynote: Pull the Alumni Lever- A Tool For Tough Times with Malkia Payton-Jackson
9:00am - 9:15am	Break
9:15am - 10:25am	Session One Workshops
Shenandoah B & C	Blackburn: Movement Powers Learning
Shenandoah A	O'Connor: Building Intentional Relationships between Program & Fiscal Managers
Appalachian A	Sprouse: A Day in the Life of a Coach
Appalachian B	*Chase: Infants/Toddlers Playing Outside the Box
Appalachian C	Henry-Whitehead: Building Family Partnerships & Connecting with Early Learners
Allegheny A	*Turner: Schools and Families Partnering for Learner Success
Allegheny B	*R. Reynolds: Creating a Culturally Relevant Classroom
Allegheny C	Cobler: Effective Teaching for both the Group and Individual
Board Room	Meeting Space - Open to All
10:25am-10:35am	Break
10:35am-11:45am	Session Two Workshops
Shenandoah B & C	Blackburn: Outsmart the Wiggles
Shenandoah A	Temple: The Importance of Proprioceptive and Vestibular Sensory Input
Appalachian A	Sprouse: Practice Based Coaching Cluster
Appalachian B	*Chase: Infants/Toddlers Playing Outside the Box
Appalachian C	*Newlin: Story Strategies
Allegheny A	*Kapur: Leadership to Grow Programs-Communication and Teamwork
Allegheny B	*R. Reynolds: Creating a Culturally Relevant Classroom
Allegheny C	Lewis: Collaborating with Families to Address Challenging Behaviors
Board Room	Meeting Space - Open to All

Silver Partners

Bronze Partners

Room	Network Meetings: Tues & Wed 11:00am-12:00pm
Shenandoah A	Family Services Network
Allegheny A	Health Advisory Committee Network
Allegheny B	Directors Network
Allegheny C	Instructional Staff/Education Network
Appalachian A	Career Pathways for Parents
Appalachian C	Social-Emotional Learning Strategies

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ONLINE STORE!**

