



*with special keynote Keith Pentz*

# 2017

## Infant-Toddler Conference

October 21st  
7:30 am - 2:30 pm

St. Petersburg College  
Gibbs Campus  
6605 - 5th Avenue N.  
St. Petersburg, FL 33710

Presented By:



# **27<sup>th</sup> Annual Infant-Toddler Conference**

## **Registration Brochure**



**Featuring**

**Keith Pentz**

**National Early Learning Specialist**



**Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>  
Saint Petersburg College - Gibbs Campus  
6605 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33710**

**Conference Fee \$25.00**

# **Registration Directions**

**\*\*PLEASE READ BEFORE REGISTERING. \*\***  
**Pre-registration for each session is required.**  
**PLEASE FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS BELOW**

1. Review all of the Session workshops on the brochure prior to registering online.
2. Go to the Early Learning Coalition website at: [www.elcpinellas.net/trainings](http://www.elcpinellas.net/trainings) or **Click HERE**.
3. You will choose one class for each of the two breakout sessions.
4. Follow the steps to register using your last name and email.
5. Follow registration instructions listed on each page.
6. Make sure the choices you select are what you want to take.  
**No changes can be made once you select them.**
7. Submit payment method.
8. You will receive an email confirming registration and details. Please print your confirmation e-mail and bring it with you to the conference.

## **Schedule**

### **Registration**

**7:30am-8:00am**

### **Welcome/Announcements**

**8:00am - 8:15am**

### **Keynote**

**8:15am - 9:45am**

### **Breakout Session A**

**10:00am - 11:45pm**

### **Lunch**

**11:45am - 12:45pm**

### **Breakout Session B**

**12:45pm - 2:30pm**

# KEYNOTE

8:15am - 9:45am

## **The Role of Language in Establishing a Foundation for Infant and Toddler Cognitive Development**

Keith Pentz, National Early Childhood Specialist for Kaplan Early Learning Company

As language and communication abilities develop with an increasing understanding and use of vocabulary and other means of sharing information, infants and toddlers begin to create neural and cognitive links that lead to concept and memory formation, self-control, empathy, a sense of self, and other critical information retention. By providing infants and toddlers with lots of verbal stimulation through books, songs, stories, fingerplays, rhymes, games, and other interactions and communication along with eye gaze, cuddling/holding, noticing, etc., the very young child can and will become proficient in processing information and ultimately learn about his or her world, the environment, relationships, and other significant aspects of life.

# SESSION A

10:00am - 11:45pm

## **A-1 Shaping Infant Minds**

Keith Pentz, National Early Childhood Specialist for Kaplan Early Learning Company

The physical and tangible aspects of the body and brain and how they interconnect have been and continue to be researched and studied. While not everyone agrees, understands, or believes in a separate influence on the body and brain, the mind appears to actually be a regulating “force” that changes the brain, how we think, what we choose to do, what we experience, and therefore, who we are. This session will examine the research and notable applications of specific practices and interactions that appear to promote the development of mind through the mechanism of the brain

## **A-2 Classroom Makeover or the Toddler’s Take Over**

Kenneth Buchanan, M.Ed., Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas. Inc.

Having a difficult time “keeping your puppies in a box”? When challenges arise, we often feel like we need to control the children. However, controlling the environment has been proven to yield better results. Participants will learn how room arrangement, scheduling, and effective transitions can reduce challenging behaviors and lead to positive productivity.

### **A-3 Communication Intervention and Strategies: From the Therapy Setting to Home and Transitioning to Preschool - for Children with Severe to Profound Expressive Communication Disorders**

Deborah R. Campbell, M.A., CCC-SLP: Speech/Language Pathologist and Education Advocate, Superior Therapy Services, Inc., Special Education Law and Advocacy

This workshop is intended to be a discussion of therapy techniques that are used in the therapy setting and applied to the home setting. We will discuss the transition from the home to preschool setting and strategies that can be used to facilitate and enable communication as the child transitions to the school setting.

### **A-4 Engaging Families**

Teresa Rojek, LCSW and Lesley J Norms, LMHC, Suncoast Center, Inc.

Do you know how important your relationship with families is to their child's school readiness? From the first time parents leave their child with you, an important connection in family engagement occurs. This workshop will highlight ways to develop family engagement with and within the families of infants and toddlers. Topics will include: the importance of family engagement in infant/toddler care; the connection to school success; steps in successful engagement; specific engagement activities for parents; increasing inclusion with diverse families; and tips on how to involve less engaged families. Best practices will be shared as well as, strategies for implementing them.

### **A-5 What's the plan? Linking the ASQ to Lesson Planning**

Camille Eckrem, Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas, Inc.

How do you lesson plan for babies?! This is a question many infant and toddler teachers have asked or been asked. It can be difficult to think of developmentally appropriate activities for the youngest children in our care. This hands-on workshop will help you put the Ages and Stages Questionnaire to work when it comes to planning daily experiences in your classroom. Discover the connection between screening and effective lesson planning. You will leave with a multitude of activity ideas and strategies to support healthy development in your children. This session is ideal for anyone currently using the ASQ or anyone interested in using it to enhance their lesson plans.

### **A-6 Engaging Infants and Toddlers in Multisensory Language Development**

Susanne Moeller, FDLRS (Florida Diagnostic Learning & Resources System)

Studies show that children learn through what they see, hear, and do. So, take those first steps toward discovering the ease and value of using sign language to stimulate and enhance communication with infants and toddlers. You will learn many signs that you can use right away in your classroom. You do not need to have any prior knowledge of sign language to enjoy its benefits. By incorporating signs into your curriculum, you are capturing the whole child – every child. Come play and sign with me!

## **A-7 Babies are People Too: Encouraging Intentional Infant Interaction**

Dan Berman, M.Ed., Education Consultant

Too often teachers working with infants are viewed as glorified babysitters, only responsible for overseeing feeding, sleeping, and changing diapers. But the most crucial and fundamental things we believe children need to learn; walking, language, bonding, all form during the infancy period. We will look at the important developmental milestones occurring during this period, and strategies to make the infant teacher truly feel like a teacher in appropriate ways

## **A-8 ELC Escambia Grow With Me/LENA Initiative**

Walter Bruce Watson, Executive Director Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

An overview and discussion of the Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County's Grow With Me quality initiative and the use of the LENA device in infant/toddler classrooms. Details of the program will be provided to include funding, objectives and the various tools used, such as the intentional coaching model, CLASS Assessments, and the LENA word odometer device. A summary of the performance results for the first year will be presented.

### **\*\*\*Lunch Break\*\*\***



**11:45am - 12:45pm**

Jason's Deli will provide a boxed lunch. All lunches will include a sandwich, pickle, chips, and cookie. Bottled water and sweet tea will also be available. Please choose from the following sandwiches:

**Ham Sub, Turkey Sub or Spinach Veggie Wrap**

# **\*\*\*SESSION B\*\*\***

**12:45pm - 2:30pm**

## **B-1 Moving Beyond Empty and Fill. To Deep Investigations**

Keith Pentz, National Early Childhood Specialist for Kaplan Early Learning Company

Toddlers, by nature, are inquisitive. They explore, investigate, ponder, and willingly attempt new experiences when given opportunity and guidance in a safe environment. The toddler is continuing to develop speech and language along with other communication skills, has cognitive powers that are beginning to formulate explicit memory connections, and has new-found physical skills beyond those of infancy. By utilizing thoughtful engagement, teachers and caregivers can effectively move toddlers beyond simple, singular activities to sustained and expanded provocative projects and experiences (STEM/STEAM oriented session).

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## **B-7 Managing Mealtime Mayhem**

Paula Buerger, RDN, LDN, Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas, Inc.

This workshop will focus on a variety of topics ranging from menu planning to picky eaters. As a bonus, participants will learn how to respond to food related emergencies such as learning to use an Epi-Pen and what to do if a child is choking. Participants will leave knowing how to keep toddlers happy during mealtime and help them learn to enjoy a healthy, safe diet for life.

## **B-8 Understanding the Legal Obligations in the Education of Infants/Toddlers**

Mark S. Kamleiter, Esquire, Special Education Law and Advocacy

This workshop will provide an overview of the rights of children (Infants/Toddlers), with disabilities. The objective is not to make lawyers of the participants, but to help non-lawyers understand in simple but accurate terms what rights these children have and our responsibilities we have as their teachers and care-takers; including suggestions for how we can provide reassurance to parents, who are entrusting their children to us, and take on a role as co-advocates assuring that our children receive an appropriate and excellent education, a true “early intervention,” that will empower these children for success throughout their educational career.

## **B-9 Picasso Babies: Infant/Toddler Art**

Angela Loring, M.Ed., Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas, Inc.

Creative art is a sensory experience that delights infants and toddlers. It is also vital to development during the first three years. This hands-on workshop will provide a multitude of ideas for fun, age-appropriate infant and toddler art activities that can be implemented right away!

## **Presented by:**

