



Communities of Practice



September 2024 - May 2025

FREE MONTHLY ECE-TRIS APPROVED TRAINING SESSIONS

Share your passion for teaching with like-minded peers. Dig deep and reflect on your teaching methods and classroom choices. Discover new perspectives as we learn from each other. The benefits of joining a Community of Practice (COP):

- Resource funding and study tour opportunities
- Earn up to 16 hours of ECE TRIS approved credit for free (8 monthly sessions)
- Connect with other Early Childhood Professionals
- Choose from 4 different COP topics (Family Child Care COP also available)



The Language of Art

Third Wednesday of the month 12:30-2:30 pm (first session 9/18)

Location: Hybrid - virtual & in person sessions at 4-C (908 S. 8th St)

Join us on this creative journey as we unlock the power of art-making in early childhood education! In this COP, we will be guided by the ideas and principles from Ann Pelo's influential book, *The Language of Art*. Explore different types of art media each month and learn how to infuse our own practices as early childhood educators with the same artistic spark presented in the book. Discover practical strategies and techniques to create inclusive and engaging art experiences that celebrate children's creativity, ignite curiosity, foster problem-solving skills, and encourage critical thinking. Come embark on this monthly creative journey and see how art can unlock new and rich learning opportunities in your classroom! **To learn more about this track & register, please contact Courtney Pearce at courtney-pearce@4cforkids.com**

PLAY-ology: Rooted in Play

Second Thursday of the month 12:30-2:30 pm (first session 9/12)

Location: 4-C (908 S. 8th St) and other Natural Settings

Dive into the transformative world of play-based learning with PLAY-ology: Rooted in Play. This immersive program is designed for educators, caregivers, and play advocates who believe in the profound impact of nature-based play on child development and learning. Once a month, gather in natural settings to engage in vibrant discussions with peers and mentors, sharing insights and experiences. Explore how outdoor environments promote holistic development, enhancing both mental dexterity and physical well-being. Enhance student engagement and gain hands-on tools and techniques to implement play-based learning in various settings. Join us in PLAY-ology and transform your approach to education through the power of nature and play! **To learn more about this track & register, please contact Liz Walker at liz-walker@4cforkids.com**

Delving Deeper into The Principles and Practice of the Reggio Emilia Approach

Third Thursday of the month 9:30-11:30 am (first session 9/19)

Location: Highland Presbyterian Weekday School (2114 Highland Ave)

Are you interested in deepening your knowledge of the Reggio Emilia Approach (REA) to Early Childhood Education? Join our COP designed for educators eager to refine their skills and understanding. Explore the foundational principles and philosophy of the REA in greater detail. Learn how to implement complex, child-centered learning projects and environments, discuss ways to capture and interpret children's learning processes through various forms of documentation, and share our challenges and solutions to incorporating these principles into our everyday practices within our own early childhood programs. This is your chance to connect with a community of like-minded educators committed to excellence and innovation in early childhood education. **To learn more about this track & register, please contact Lisa Branstetter at lisa-branstetter@4cforkids.com**

Director Essentials

Second Wednesday of the month 12:30-2:30 pm (first session 9/11)

Location: Virtual

Join us each month for Director Essentials, a professional development learning circle created specifically for directors in child care. Zoom in, engage with other directors in our area, and discuss topics relevant to leading and operating a child care center. We will discuss a new topic each month. Upcoming topics include Guiding Your Program With A Vision, Building and Supporting Community and Belonging, Coaching and Guiding Staff, and The Director's Role of Managing and Leading Staff. **To learn more about this track, please contact Angie Kinser at angie-kinser@4cforkids.com. To register, go to our training calendar: www.4cforkids.org/training**

