

The Washtenaw Early Childhood Directors Association (ECDA) 2022–2023



The Washtenaw Early Childhood Directors Association (ECDA) is a professional organization for the directors, administrators, and leaders of early childhood programs. Our goals are to support directors, to serve as advocates of children's issues, and to provide resource and networking opportunities for early childhood professionals.

You will have the opportunity to attend 8 talks on relevant early childhood education topics as well as network with your peers and be a part of the local early childhood community. Program membership is required to attend. Newly interested programs may attend one meeting for free before having to join to participate.

Doors open at 11:15, lunch is served by 11:30 am. We will begin the presentation promptly at Noon. We start with announcements and news and then the speaker will present. Meetings end at **2:00pm**, except for the April meeting which ends at 3:00pm. Training completion will be noted in MiRegistry.org.

****NEW for 2022–23: We will meet at the Washtenaw Golf Club, located at 2955 Packard St, Ypsilanti, MI 48197****

September 28, 2022: It's Almost CLASS Time! An Overview of the Classroom Assessment Scoring System Tool // Melissa Pinsky

Effective teacher-child interactions are the backbone of the work that educators do every day in the classroom. Learn how CLASS observers capture that important work using the CLASS tool, how the tool is organized, how feedback is provided, where there are overlaps with the Classroom Coach (formerly PQA-R), and more!

October 26, 2022: Understanding of the Millennial and Gen Z Workforce// Christie Mentzer & Amy Hinkle

This interactive training is designed to increase understanding of the Millennial and Gen z workforce and awareness of best practices to support them. Hear insights and effective strategies to approaching the different parts of the employee life cycle (attract me, get me started, develop me, engage me, wish me farewell and compliance), focusing on the challenges post covid and the different generations within the workforce.

November 16, 2022: Striving for Inclusion in Early Care and Education Settings: Classroom Strategies and Community Resources that Support Young Children with Special Rights // Johanna Mabry, Good Start Social Worker, WISD

Creating high-quality inclusive environments improves outcomes and increases access for all children in a classroom. This session will provide centers with tools to navigate necessary community resources and build a foundation for understanding high-quality inclusive practices. Participants will, 1) understand how to navigate the resources available, 2) be able to define what high-quality inclusion looks like, and 3) identify the evidence-based practices that support young children with special rights, neurodiversity, and/or other behavioral challenges.

January 25, 2023: Early Childhood Education in America: The Past, Present, and Future // Dr. Andy Hashikawa

In this workshop, learn about the landscape of quality early education and child care from birth to kindergarten from a health, safety, and development perspective. Learn how the U.S. child care system developed separately from the education system which makes it different from the rest of the world. We'll discuss the current challenges as well as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the steps that are needed to improve early childhood for the next generation.

February 22, 2023 Hot Topics In Early Childhood // Peer-to-Peer Discussions

This session is designed to allow you to network and problem solve with your peers about the topics most important to you and your work. Guided discussions on topics you help determine!

March 22, 2023: Where are all the Teachers? // Michele Davis, Gretchen's House

Early Childhood programs across the country are struggling to find qualified teachers and support staff. This workshop will focus on: Recruiting and hiring trends past and present; New and innovative ways to draw employees in; Employee retention tools. Disclaimer: This workshop will not solve staffing shortages. What it will do... is give all of us the opportunity to share ideas and problem solve as we look to the future!

April 26, 2023 Kid-Safe Workplace and "Red Flags" & Warning Signs in Adults // Amy Lang This meeting ends at 3pm.

This workshop will encompass two topics:

- a. An informed staff is a safer staff. When you know what to watch out for in other adults, and are empowered to talk about it, everyone is safer.
- b. Private Parts & Playmates – Sexual Behavior in Young Children: Preschoolers are naturally curious about bodies – their friends' and their own. They also love potty talk and aren't shy about nudity. When you know what kinds of sexual behaviors in young children are typical and what's not, everyone is safer.

May 24, 2023 Mental Health in Staff- Anxiety and Depression // Carly Ly, Mental Health Consultant, WISD

Working in early childhood education can be stressful, and certain types of stress can negatively affect physical and mental health. Preschool teachers face high demands, such as managing disruptive classroom behaviors, completing required paperwork, and ensuring that children are socially and academically ready for kindergarten. In this session, we will address some of the causes of staff stress, coping strategies that staff can use to mitigate the impacts of stress, and specific actions that programs can take to minimize staff stress.

2022-2023 Steering Committee

[Shannon Peitz](#) - President
Gretchen's House - Dhu Varren

[Tammie King](#) - Vice President
WCSACCA Liaison
Bemis Farms Preschool & Childcare

[Karin Nowak](#) - Secretary &
Public Policy
Gretchen's House - Oak Valley

[Carrie Anderson](#) - Treasurer &
Past President
Morning Star Child Care

[Patty Sherwood](#) - Venue/Events
Adventure Center

[Debbie Belcher](#) - Joint Luncheon
The Discovery Center

[Laura Griswold](#) - SBS/QPP Liaison
Gretchen's House - Administration

[Candy Sorensen](#) -
Membership/Communication
Child Care Network

Members at Large:

[Chrissy McKiddie](#)
Gretchen's House - Mt. Vernon

[Shannon Steinbach](#)
Gretchen's House -
School-Age Coordinator

[Etta Heisler](#)
Apple Playschools

Registration Information:

Annual Membership Fee (September-May): \$70 *Multi-site programs pay \$30 for each additional site
Monthly Training Fee: \$25 includes lunch, dessert, drink and gratuity

How it works:

1. Each program wishing to become a member completes the Membership Registration form here: <https://forms.gle/adxcB3XkMRKVm9hD7> *membership is required to attend the monthly trainings.
2. **Membership payment should be made out to ECDA (*not CCN) and brought to the September meeting, or mailed to:** Child Care Network Attn: ECDA/Candy 3941 Research Park Dr., Suite C, Ann Arbor, MI 48108