

# The Washtenaw Early Childhood Directors Association (ECDA)



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. The ECDA Steering Committee is composed of program directors and representatives from local organizations.

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. 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**.

**\*\*We meet at the Washtenaw Golf Club, located at 2955 Packard St, Ypsilanti, MI 48197\*\***

## **September 27, 2023: YOU as a Leader in ECE // Christine Snyder, U of M**

A common skill required for leadership and management in early childhood is the ability to help people work together professionally, collaboratively, and with a positive work ethic. Leaders often struggle with getting members of teaching teams to get along, engaging adult learners in evaluation and growth processes, and establishing a shared vision among a large program. During this talk I will share tools and strategies to work better together through examining organizational culture, establishing a shared vision, reflecting on leadership practices and implementing concrete action steps to address tension.

## **October 25, 2023: Follow the Leader: Persuasive Leadership in Early Childhood // Chamayne Green**

Leaders sustain the greatest impact on an organization's success and failure. Leaders set the tone for the culture of the organization. Participants will assess their current leadership style and explore approaches of leading and coaching teams in an organization. Together, we will examine the characteristics of a leader, build a culture of authenticity and set goals to create persuasive and effective leaders in early childhood

## **November 15, 2023: Self-Care: More than mani-pedis and mindfulness! // Heidi McFadden and Beth McLampy, Gretchen's House**

Research confirms the critical connection between the health and well-being of children and the wellness of the adults caring for them. Because of this important connection, it is essential that adults take care of themselves, so that they can provide high-quality care to the children in their lives. In this workshop, we will explore research-based tools that can help you strengthen your own sense of well-being and resilience. You will receive practical ideas and tools to use as soon as you return to work and home.

## **January 24, 2024: What to Expect When You're Expected to Work With Kids: A Roller Coaster Ride Through the Twilight Zone Known as Early Childhood Education // Jerod Wesney, Gretchen's House**

Working with kids can be strange, but it isn't a horror movie; most of the time.

## February 28, 2024 \*VIRTUAL\* Navigating Developmental and Behavioral Concerns // Dr. Nikki Hamp

\*This session is virtual via Zoom due to historically awful weather!\*

Dr. Nikki Hamp is a board-certified developmental-behavioral pediatrician. She is Medical Director at Arbor Autism Centers in Ypsilanti and adjunct clinical assistant professor at Mott Children's hospital in Ann Arbor. She will be sharing information with us on promoting child development in early childhood education, identifying and referring children for developmental and behavioral concerns, and supporting and advocating for families and children as they navigate complex systems of care.

## March 27, 2024: Hot Topics In Early Childhood- Director Speed Dating! // Peer-to-Peer

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 a variety of topics!

## April 24, 2024 Illuminating Care // Karin Nowak and Pam Preston, Gretchen's House

In her book, Illuminating Care, Carol Garboden Murray asks us to "challenge the notion that care is subordinate to education". Join us as we explore the importance of keeping "care" as a core value in our early education practices. We will discuss our pedagogy using 7 lamps of care described in the book: Care is education; Care is a right; Care is a partnership; Care is bodily; Care is an art; Care is a science and Care is what makes us human. We will discuss how the lamps of care can guide us in our practice of care and early education.

## May 22, 2024 Helping or Hurting: Microaggressions and Inclusive vs Exclusive Language // Christine Snyder and Holly Delgado, U of M

As caregivers and educators, we approach our work with good intent to help others feel valued, included, and accepted but we may sometimes overlook subtle interactions that may unintentionally marginalize, exclude, or erase people whose identity is different than ours. Through discussion and small group activities, participants will define "discrimination", explore the complexity of identity, consider microaggressions and how/when they occur in ECE settings, distinguish between inclusive and exclusive language in interactions and practices, and create a plan to modify or improve interactions and practices to be more inclusive.

## 2023-2024 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 \$40 for each additional site  
Monthly Training Fee: \$25 includes lunch, dessert, drink and gratuity

## How it works:

1. Registration and Membership are now available on MiRegistry! **Membership payment can be paid via MiRegistry when you register for training OR a check can be made to 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