

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.

NEW for 2024-25: We will now be entering the training into MiRegistry for 2.5 hours as 11:30a-Noon is spent collaborating, connecting, and networking and is a crucial part of ECDA.

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

September 25, 2024: Help Me Grow/Early On // Courtney Gupta, Stephanie Mann, and Alicia Kruk

Learn about Help Me Grow and how it provides additional support to your child care providers and the families you care for. We will discuss when and how to connect to Help Me Grow as well as share our vision for supporting the early childhood sector across Michigan. We will also share how you can access free developmental screening and, if relevant, refer children in your care to Early On and Build Up.

October 23, 2024: Looking at Children Through a Sensory Lens // Willow Therapy

In this session, occupational and speech therapists from Willow Integrated Therapy will discuss ways to supporting all children using the targeted support strategies often used with the children in their work. They plan to talk about the sensory systems, how the sensory systems influence and impact skills, various sensory profiles/how to identify them, what adults can do to improve self-regulation in general, what strategies and techniques work for specific sensory subtypes previously defined.

November 13, 2024: Determining Effective Methods of Presentation to Engage All Adult Learners in Training Content // Shannon Lockhart, HighScope

In this session, participants will examine their own content of training and how they currently present the information and engage their teachers. Participants will identify and connect their presentation content to a variety of types of methods of presentation that are active and engaging while incorporating opportunities for their teachers to process information and apply it to their own teaching practices.

January 22, 2025: Cultivating a Reflective Stance in ECE //Alyssa Selasky, MAIMH

Reflective Supervision/Consultation (RS/C) in early childhood education settings is shown to help reduce stress for both children and adults, improve classroom culture, and foster stronger relationships between educators, teaching teams, children, and families. During this session we will dive into what Reflective Function is and how it supports infant/early childhood mental health, enhances adults' capacity to understand and respond to children's emotions, and supports educators' wellbeing. We will identify concrete strategies for using the reflective stance in the classroom, explore ways to bring reflective practice to your center, and practice wondering out loud together about our work with infants, young children, and their families.

February 26, 2025 *VIRTUAL* Neurodivergence & Sexuality in Early Childhood (and Beyond) // Amy Lang

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

Learn more about Neurodivergent kids, what to expect, how to support them and when to get extra help. Neurodivergent children tend to express themselves in different ways, oftentimes they will blurt inappropriate things, and misunderstand social cues about bodies and boundaries.

March 19, 2025: Nature School // Maggie Fritz, University of Michigan, North Campus Children's Center

In this session, participants will learn more about outdoor and nature based early childhood education. We will explore the how and why to integrate seasonal learning and abundant outdoor play into your curriculum, including discussions on risky play, social emotional development and nature connection. We will also share resources on various ways to support educators and families with outdoor play.

April 16, 2025 Brain Architecture // Beth McLampy & Heidi McFadden, Gretchen's House

The Brain Architecture Game is a game about the powerful role of relationships on early brain development. Playing the game supports participants in gaining a deeper understanding of how genetics and life experiences impact brain development. The content looks closely at what we can do to build resilience and protective factors for children and families when they face adverse life experiences. Participants will discuss what this means for the young children in their care and plan for ways to support children and families in coping with trauma.

*note date change due to the HighScope Conference

May 21, 2025 This or That? Refining your Coaching and Mentoring Hat // Christine Snyder, U of M

As early childhood educators and leaders, we wear a lot of hats! As a leader, supervisor, coach, expert, and mentor, the types of conversations and strategies you're using with your teams can cover a broad range of purposes and sometimes overlap or get a little blurry. In this session, we will distinguish between supervising and coaching and when to use each approach. We will practice concrete strategies for putting research-based coaching strategies in place as soon as tomorrow.

2024-2025 Steering Committee

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

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

Members at Large:
[Chrissy McKiddie](#)
Gretchen's House - Mt. Vernon

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

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

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

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

[Michelle Freund](#)
UM North Campus

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

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

Registration Information:

Annual Membership Fee (September-May): \$75 *Multi-site programs pay \$40 for each additional site
Monthly Training Fee: \$30 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