

Day 1 – Wednesday	March 3, 2021
Time	
1:00 P.M – 2:10 P.M.	Opening Keynote: Ensuring Head Start's role as an Engine for a Transformative, Anti-racist Early Childhood Agenda, Iheoma U. Iruka, Ph.D.
	Science is clear about the power of the early years and early childhood programs and services. As one of the innovative drivers of early childhood programming, such as through intergenerational supports, Head Start stands as an important example and agenda-setter. As the country is reeling from a global pandemic and racial reckoning, early care and education has not been spared from examining how it can strengthen its racial equity focus. This keynote will focus on Head Start's strengths as an engine of innovation from programming to its place-based approach, while also examining how it can strengthen an anti-racist agenda for early care and education. Participants will also engage in what they and their organizations can do to incorporate a racial equity and intersectionality lens to engage in creating and implementing a transformative anti-racist early childhood agenda.
2:10 P.M. – 2:25 P.M.	Networking and Brain Break Exhibitor Opportunity
2:25 P.M. – 3:40 P.M.	Concurrent Education Tracks
Curriculum/Instruction/Inclusion	Let's Give them Something to Talk About: Supporting Language & Vocabulary Development in the Preschool Classroom, Suzanne D. Adinolfi, VPK Regional Facilitator, Northwest, Office of Early Learning  Recent research supports a strong connection between oral language and vocabulary skills and reading success. Expanding preschoolers' word and world knowledge fosters their development in several key areas and prepares them for school success and beyond. This session will focus on research, share creative classroom strategies, and provide high-quality early childhood professionals resources. The presenter will discuss best practices for delivering integrated activities that support language and vocabulary development throughout the day. Additionally, the presenter will share suggestions for community events and partnerships.
Suggested Audience	Directors; Family Support; Head Start Parent/Guardians; Teachers: New; Teachers: Experienced; Training & Technical Staff
Session Content Level	Introductory (0-3 years' experience), Advanced (4+ years of experience)



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Social Equity & Innovation	A New Approach to Special Education, Kelvin Weathers, Transformational Speaker- Minister  It's called special education, but where are the specialists? Where are the therapists? The spiritual advisors? Where are the people with specializations that can help identify students' specific obstacles and develop an academic success plan? This affects minority children, underserved populations significantly because of this problem in special education. This session will address social equity and innovation related to early learning settings and provide a therapeutic approach in early education on how unfair labeling of children affects their mental and social well-being.
Suggested Audience	Administrators, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Training & Technical Staff, Head Start Parent/Guardians
Session Content Level	Introductory (0-3 years' experience)
<b>Day 1 – Wednesday</b> 2:25 P.M. – 3:40 P.M.	March 3, 2021
Ongoing Care & Well-Being	Cultivating a Culture of Wellness, Kathleen Sullivan, Vice President of Programs / HS & EHS Director and Philip Tavill, Chief Executive Officer, Children First Inc.  Achieving a culture of wellness occurs over the years, not days, weeks, or months. Hear from Children First, Inc. Chief Executive Officer and the Head Start & Early Head Start Director at one of the Best Places to Work in Sarasota / Manatee on how their organization has created a wellness culture among their staff and families. They will give specific examples of what they have initiated using data to inform their wellness program related to Mental Health, Social-Emotional Well-being, and Staff Health and Wellness.
Suggested Audience	Administrators, Directors, Training & Technical Staff, Policy Council Members, Site Managers
Session Content Level	Advanced (4+ years of experience)
Organization Leadership	Continuous Quality Improvement and Data Analysis – Tales from the Front Lines in Head Start  April Morris, Partner, CCR Analytics and Rick Mockler Principal Early Intel  Come learn about Head Start programs' real experiences using their data to engage in Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI). We will explore how a group of Head Starts banded together to embark on similar data analysis projects, shared experts to inform continuous quality improvement and support each other along the way. We will explore benchmarking benefits, check out innovative dashboards, and explore quality improvement processes that will benefit all programs.



Suggested Audience	Administrators, Directors, Family Support, Training & Technical Staff, Home Based Supervisors, Site Managers
Session Content Level	Introductory (0-3 years' experience), Advanced (4+ years of experience)
Family, School & Community	The Power of Words: Using Strength-Based Language to Communicate with Diverse Families  Dr. El Brown, CEO, KinderJam  Communication is a crucial component to establishing and maintaining positive relationships with the diverse families we serve. In this training, learners will build skills to effectively communicate with families while demonstrating an acknowledgment of and respect for their unique and individual strengths. Additionally, the participants will leave this workshop with practical strategies to apply a Strength-Based Approach to their daily verbal, non-verbal, and written professional communication.
Suggested Audience	Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors
Session Content Level	Introductory (0-3 years' experience)
3:40 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.	Networking and Brain Break Exhibitor Opportunity
Day 1 – Wednesday	March 3, 2021
4:00 P.M. – 5:15 P.M.	Concurrent Education Tracks
Family, School & Community	Building Community through Compassion: Accessing Empathy through Shared Experience, Cory Berg, Executive Director, Hope Day School / ECE from the Heart with Cori Berg  The pandemic has tested our relationships, emotional regulation, and our resilience. Yet this has been an opportunity to connect with our children, families, and colleagues in deeply meaningful ways. In this session, we will discuss the brain science of threat and responding to challenging interpersonal moments. We will explore the concept of vulnerability in the early education setting, co-regulation strategies to support community, and self-compassion as a tool to connect.
Suggested Audience	Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff, Home Based
Suggested Addictive	Supervisors, Site Managers, Head Start Parent/Guardians
Session Content Level	Introductory (0-3 years' experience), Advanced (4+ years' of experience)



	Teaching Children Who Don't Look Like You, Leonard Richard Webb, Educational Consultant, Webbolutionary Motivation
A COCO	Even before teachers get to know their students, they have already formed assumptions. This session will define and explore implicit bias and understand its role in working with diverse families. Attendees will leave understanding the role of structural and institutionalized racism and its impact on society's inequities, particularly in education.
Social Equity & Innovation	
Suggested Audience	Administrators, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Head Start Parent/Guardians
Session Content Level	Introductory (0-3 years' experience)
	March 3, 2021
4:00 P.M. – 5:15 P.M.	
	Intentional Mindfulness: Coping with Everyday Stressors, Natacha Bazin, Child Safety, Health, & Nutrition Program Manager, Lutheran Services Florida Palm Beach HS/EHS
	Mental health professionals that work with families, children, and staff witness the stress of their daily lives. The current climate also perpetuates anxiety; things that may seem minuscule are becoming some of the most significant stressors for our community. This session will help participants identify everyday stressors and provide coping tips to alleviate stressors. Participants will learn techniques to improve their overall healthier work/life balance,
Ongoing Care & Well-Being	increase mental capacity of setting intentions/mindful mediation, and maximizing social-emotional well-being. These techniques are in alignment with staff health and wellness.
Suggested Audience	Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff, Home Based Supervisors, Policy Council Members, Site Managers, Head Start Parent/Guardians
Session Content Level	Introductory (0-3 years' experience), Advanced (4+ years' of experience)
	Mind-Mapping to Success, K'ron Lightbourne, MPM - Master Project Manager  All ideas begin mentally. To be effective and efficient in achieving goals requires high levels of planning. This session will condition participants' mindset and motivate them to embrace flexibility, change, and continuous improvement. This presentation journeys the path from conceptualizing to planning to accomplishment to continual improvements.
Organization Leadership	



Suggested Audience	Administrators, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Home Based Supervisors, Site Managers, Head Start Parent/Guardians
Session Content Level	Introductory (0-3 years' experience), Advanced (4+ years' of experience)
	Family, School and Community Partnerships, Entsar Elsayed, ESE Teacher, Orange County Public Schools
Family, School & Community	Schools and families have an essential role in promoting children's well-being. This session will focus on the significant role family, school, and community engagement play in promoting children's well-being, social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development. We will explore innovative approaches to enhance family, school, and community engagement.
Suggested Audience	Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff, Home Based Supervisors, Policy Council Members, Site Managers, Head Start Parent/Guardians
Session Content Level	Introductory (0-3 years' experience)
Day 1 – Wednesday	
5:15 P.M 5:30 P.M.	March 3, 2021
	Exhibit Hall Opportunity
	End of Day One



Day 2 – Thursday	March 4, 2021
Time	·
9:00 A.M. – 10:15 A.M.	Concurrent Educational Sessions
	Process Quality Throughout the Learning Environment, Ron Mohl, Lead Educational Presenter, Lakeshore  As teachers, we must become facilitators who encourage children to expand their learning. The presenter will dive into how play promotes cognitive and social-emotional development in children. In this session, you will learn how to effectively plan and promote intentional play activities to allow children the opportunities to spark their curiosity. The presenter will identify process quality characteristics observed in three areas: emotional support, classroom organization, and instructional support.
Curriculum/Instruction/Inclusion	
Suggested Audience	Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced
Session Content Level	Introductory (0-3 years' experience)
	Nurturing the Nurturer: Self-Care for Providers & Parents, Debra Sosin, LICSW, Brazelton Touchpoints Center, Boston Children's Hospital  In times of stress and crisis, we all need to take care of ourselves. Yet, many people in caring professions and family members neglect their own mental health as they prioritize others' care. This webinar will explore self-care practices for early care professionals and the families they work with. You will be introduced to various self-care strategies and learn why we all need self-care, particularly during extremely stressful times. You will learn how to make the oftentimes difficult shift from nurturing others to nurturing yourself first.
Ongoing Care & Well-Being	
Suggested Audience	Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff, Home Based Supervisors, Policy Council Members, Site Managers, Head Start Parent/Guardians
Session Content Level	Introductory (0-3 years' experience), Advanced (4+ years' of experience)
	ERSEA Services During A Pandemic  Karen Surprenant, Management/Governance Specialist and Nicole Holman-Alexander, Program Management & Governance Specialist, Head Start  National Center on Program Management and Fiscal Operations  Rethinking ERSEA during this Pandemic? Join us as we review ERSEA through the lens of Covid-19 and identify challenges and trends that impact
	services. This session will explore the elements of ERSEA and identify strategies to support planning and service delivery.
Organization Leadership	
Suggested Audience	Head Start Directors, ERSEA, Family Service Staff



Session Content Level	Introductory (0-3 years' experience), Advanced (4+ years' of experience)
Day 2 - Thursday	March 4, 2021
Time	·
9:00 A.M. – 10:15 A.M.	Concurrent Educational Sessions
	Keeping Staff Motivated during Uncertain Times, Cynthia Krosky, President, Achieving Corporate Excellence, Inc.  Employees take their cues from those who lead them, and research shows that 60 to 70% of retention is directly linked to leadership behavior.  Employees who feel valued perform at their highest potential. 2020 presented agencies with challenges. This session offers six strategies for keeping staff motivated during these uncertain times, along with tools and techniques to empower and validate your team.
Organization Leadership	
Suggested Audience	Administrators, Directors, Site Managers
Session Content Level	Introductory (0-3 years' experience)
	Family and Community Engagement: How and Why during a Pandemic, Kristin Lewis, CEO & Founder, Breakthrough For Me, LLC.  Equipping Head Start Providers with a way to engage families and their communities is a must. This session offers resources to increase enrollment, help identify community stakeholders to increase funding and community partnerships. The session is vital in the hour that we are surviving and attempting to thrive amid the current pandemic to meet Head Start Performance Standards.
Family, School & Community	
Suggested Audience	Administrators, Directors, Site Managers
Session Content Level	Introductory (0-3 years' experience), Advanced (4+ years' of experience)



Day 2 – Thursday	March 4, 2021
10:15 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.	Networking and Brain Break
	Exhibitor Opportunity
Time	Concurrent Educational Sessions
10:30 A.M. – 11:45 A.M.	
	Navegando Mundos Diversos: Autenticando la Conciencia Racial y Etnica de los Preescolares (Navigating Diverse Worlds: Addressing Preschooler's Racial and Ethnic Understanding), Ana L Gonzalez-Mora, VPK Regional Facilitator, FL DOE Office of Early Learning
Curriculum/Instruction/Inclusion	Children are curious about differences. Dialoguing with preschoolers about racial identity and ethnicity can be difficult for educators.  How can educators developmentally appropriately respond to children's inquiries and affirm their racial and cultural identities throughout the school year? In this presentation, we will examine children's cognitive and social-emotional development related to race and consider how our practices shape their identities and behaviors.
Suggested Audience	Direct Service Providers, Directors, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff, Head Start Parent/Guardians
Session Content Level	Introductory (0-3 years' experience)
	Communicable Disease Prevention in Early Education, Gillian Gansler, Vice President, Business Development Quality Assist, Inc. and Michelle Salcedo, Kaplan Early Learning Company  Even before the national pandemic, communicable disease prevention was a challenge in early education settings. Young children are naturally curious and do not yet understand basic health procedures like proper handwashing. This session will provide an overview of strategies for reducing the spread of all diseases in early education, including the methods for sanitizing and disinfecting classrooms. We will also review some of the American Academy
Ongoing Care & Well-Being	of Pediatrics guidelines for excluding young children to prevent the further spread of illness.
Suggested Audience	Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff, Home Based Supervisors, Policy Council Members, Site Managers, Head Start Parent/Guardians
Session Content Level	Introductory (0-3 years' experience), Advanced (4+ years' of experience)
	Keeping Your Spirit Healthy with Music, Maryann K Harman, Educational Consultant / Founder of Music with Mar. Music with Mar., LLC  When times get tough, reach for a song. One of music's greatest gifts is touching the human spirit. This session will focus on brain research with its primary focus on how much it helps our mental health and well-being. Attendees will leave with a better understanding of how music can lift the spirit. The presenter will also provide resources for music and activities. If you want to feel energized, come to this session.
Ongoing Care & Well-Being	



Suggested Audience	Direct Service Providers, Directors, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff, Home Based Supervisors, Head Start Parent/Guardians
Session Content Level	Introductory (0-3 years' experience), Advanced (4+ years' of experience)
ČŠ.	Adaptability in Times of Crisis, Early Head Start all Hands on Board! Alina Jurado Chaney, Family and Community Services Manager, Early  Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County
	It is essential to share the challenges and successes that the Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County faced and overcame during the COVID19 health crisis with our Head Start community. It takes preparation during times of peace and from the bottom up to have the structure and then the capacity to respond, act, and sustain operations regardless of the circumstances. This presentation will describe the preparation and processes
Organization Leadership	implemented to create a culture of adaptability, togetherness, and support, in addition to administrative changes to respond with services in a moment of crisis.
Suggested Audience	Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff, Home Based Supervisors, Policy Council Members, Site Managers, Head Start Parent/Guardians
Session Content Level	Advanced (4+ years' of experience)
Family, School & Community	Choosing Your Attitude: Using Strength-Based Family Assumptions, M. Dewana Thompson, PhD, Brazelton Touchpoints Center, Boston Children's Hospital  Providers' assumptions and emotions can sometimes get in the way of effective engagement with families. For example, when a family doesn't follow through on a recommendation, the provider can become frustrated. Choosing to adopt strength-based family assumptions supports providers in discovering the families' strengths with whom they work, which leads to improved relationships. In this session, you will learn how to use strengths-based assumptions in your interactions with families. You will learn about family engagement strategies for using the Strengths-Based Family Assumptions that you can immediately apply to your work.
Suggested Audience	Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff, Home Based Supervisors, Site Managers, Head Start Parent/Guardians
Session Content Level	Introductory (0-3 years' experience), Advanced (4+ years' of experience)
Day 2 – Thursday	March 4, 2021
1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.	"Hot Topics" Networking Roundtables Rooms  Health ERESA  Disabilities  Policy Related Issues  Education



2:00 P.M. – 2:15 P.M.	Networking and Brain Break	
	Exhibitor Opportunity	
	End of Day Two	



Day 3 – Friday	March 5, 2021
Time	
9:00 A.M. – 10:15 A.M.	Concurrent Educational Sessions
	Identifying Red Flags for Autism Spectrum Disorder and Developmental Disabilities, Chelsea Pierce, M.Ed.  Teachers of young children have a lasting impact on their growth and development. During this session, participants will learn the most current statistics regarding diagnoses of ASD and other Developmental Disabilities. Participants will gain insight regarding differences between different diagnoses, common red flags to spot these challenges, and what to do next in the referral process. This session leaves participants feeling confident and well-equipped to support the needs of all learners.
Curriculum/Instruction/Inclusion	
Suggested Audience	Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff, Home Based Supervisors, Head Start Parent/Guardians
Session Content Level	Introductory (0-3 years' experience)
	Diverse Perspectives, Autumn Tomas, Vice-President of Head Start/Early Head Start, Episcopal Children's Services  Recognition of diverse perspectives requires self-awareness, intellectual flexibility, and broad knowledge that enables the perception of the world through the eyes of others. This presentation will challenge your views on physical appearance, expand your thinking, and motivate change.
Social Equity and Innovation Suggested Audience	Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Home Based Supervisors, Policy
Juggested Addience	Council Members, Site Managers, Head Start Parent/Guardians
Session Content Level	Introductory (0-3 years' experience), Advanced (4+ years' of experience)



Day 3 - Friday	
Time	
9:00 A.M. – 10:15 A.M.	Concurrent Educational Sessions
Ongoing Care & Well-Being	Building Compassionate Self-Awareness in Early Childcare and Education, Tatiana Larionova, Nutrition Manager, Early Learning Coalition of Miami Dade Monroe  This session will allow staff to develop self-acceptance practices, positive reassurance, mindfulness, stress-coping, and responsive and purposeful interactions with others, including children in their care. By building self-awareness and self-compassion and practicing the skills, staff are more likely to develop emotional resilience and tend with compassion for others.
Suggested Audience	Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff, Home Based Supervisors, Policy Council Members, Site Managers, Head Start Parent/Guardians
Session Content Level	Introductory (0-3 years' experience), Advanced (4+ years' of experience)
Organization Leadership	Keeping Program Goals Alive in your Program! Maria McNair, Deputy Director, Tonica Whittaker, Quality Assurance Manager, and Catherine Penton-Gooch, Early Childhood Education Manager, Lutheran Services Florida, Inc.  Is establishing and monitoring program goals just ONE of your many job responsibilities? This session is designed to help program leadership, particularly new managers & directors, develop program goals and monitor progress towards achieving those goals. The presenters will discuss the planning cycle & how-to set-up the process to establish program goals aligned with the agency Strategic Plan.
Suggested Audience	Administrators, Directors, Training & Technical Staff, Site Managers
Session Content Level	Introductory (0-3 years' experience), Advanced (4+ years' of experience)
	Budget Planning for Emergency Preparedness, Shandra Davis, Monitoring Support Lead, Natalie Williams, Fiscal Specialist, and Mark Mazon, Executive Coach, National Center on Program Management & Fiscal Operations (NCPMFO),  Documentation, documentation, & more documentation! We have all heard that, if you do not have it, it did not happen. In this session participants will explore the concepts of allowability, reasonableness, and allocability as it relates to the budgeting process, procurement, recordkeeping & reporting, and cost allocation during emergencies.
Organization Leadership	
Suggested Audience	Administrators, Directors, Training & Technical Staff, Site Managers
Session Content Level	Introductory (0-3 years' experience), Advanced (4+ years' of experience)



10:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.	Networking and Brain Break
	Exhibitor Opportunity
10:30 A.M. – 11:45 A.M.	Concurrent Educational Sessions
	Leveraging Developmentally Appropriate Practices to Provide Quality Distance Learning, Cody Summerville, Senior Content Expert, HATCH Early Learning  Developmentally appropriate practices are essential, even when providing distance learning opportunities. This session empowers teachers and administrators to hold true to developmentally appropriate practices when adapting the learning environment for distance learning so that all children are meeting critical milestones and making progress towards kindergarten readiness.
Curriculum/Instruction/Inclusion	
Suggested Audience	Administrators, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced
Session Content Level	Introductory (0-3 years' experience)
Day 3 – Friday	March 5, 2021
Time	
10:30 A.M11:45 A.M.	
	Elevating Equity, Inclusiveness, and Belongingness in Everyday Conversations and Interactions with Children, Families, and Communities, Eurnestine Brown, PhD., Brazelton Touchpoints Center, Boston Children's Hospital  This interactive workshop session will explore creative strategies for bringing an equity, inclusiveness, and belongingness (EIB) lens to our work with children, families, and communities. Key terms will be defined and examined. This session will provide real-life examples highlighting how a shared EIB vision strengthens infant/child, family, and community well-being. An authentic, intentional, and meaningful EIB lens can significantly influence the socioemotional and relational lives we experience.
Social Equity and Innovation	
Suggested Audience	Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff
Session Content Level	Introductory (0-3 years' experience)



	Cultivating a Culture of Self Care in Uncertain Times, Melissa C. Harrell, Mental Health Coordinator, WAGES Community Action Agency  The events of 2020 have taxed our mental load. This unique session will allow a space for personal awareness and reflection of how these unprecedented times have impacted individuals and organizations. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of their biological responses to stress, where they are in the burnout cycle, and how to mitigate/ heal with mindfulness skills.
Ongoing Care & Well-Being	
Suggested Audience	Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff, Home Based Supervisors, Policy Council Members, Site Managers
Session Content Level	Advanced (4+ years' of experience)
	Center Directors Take the Lead, Michelle Toral, Head Start Section Manager and Dr. Maite Riestra-Quintero, Head Start & Early Head start Director, Assistant Director of CAHSD, Miami-Dade County Community Action & Human Services Head Start & Early Head Start  Center Directors are the backbone of a program, but their professional development needs are often overlooked. Come learn how Miami-Dade County Head start focused on their center directors' professional development needs. Participants will learn how to identify training needs, develop meaningful professional development opportunities, and create a community of practice to encourage collaboration.
Organization Leadership	
Suggested Audience	Administrators, Directors, Training & Technical Staff, Site Managers
Session Content Level	Introductory (0-3 years' experience), Advanced (4+ years' of experience)
	Engaging Fathers as Stakeholders in Children's Academic Achievement, Dwayne Meeks, Executive Director, Urban Colors Arts and Mentoring  Do you understand the value fathers bring to children's lives? This session will focus on the mental models of fathers and families of underserved populations. Participants will receive resources to use to support fatherhood engagement.
Family, School & Community	
Suggested Audience	Administrators, Direct Service Providers, Directors, Family Support, Teachers: New, Teachers: Experienced, Training & Technical Staff, Home Based Supervisors, Policy Council Members, Site Managers, Head Start Parent/Guardians
Session Content Level	Advanced (4+ years' of experience)
12:00 P.M. – 12:15 P.M.	Networking and Brain Break Exhibitor Opportunity



1:30 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.	Closing Session: Head Start Leaning into the Curve  During times of uncertainty, everyone is experiencing a learning curve as we adapt to all the world changes. Rather than resisting, we are "leaning into the curve" to become more adaptable and innovative. Join us for a panel discussion on how programs have adapted, and lessons learned to prepare for the next era of early childhood education.
	End of Conference