New Jersey Association for the Education of Young Children

The Comeback Conference

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021

October 21, 2021

HILTON MEADOWLANDS
2 Meadowlands Plaza, East Rutherford

njaeyc
New Jersey Association for the Education of Young Children

An Affiliate of naeyc
Schedule Overview

Thursday, October 21

7:15 am–8:15 am  Breakfast/Exhibits/Registration
8:30 am–8:45 am  Welcome
8:45 am–9:15 am  Special Guest
9:15 am–10:15 am  Keynote Presentation
10:15 am–11:15 am  Author Signing / Exhibits
11:30 am–1:00 pm  AM Session
1:00 pm–2:30 pm  Lunch (Included) / Exhibits
2:30 pm–4:00 pm  PM Session
4:00 pm–5:00 pm  Networking / Raffle Prizes

COVID-19 INFORMATION:

At this time, our upcoming conference will take place as planned and we are adhering to the NJ state guidelines. However, if you are sick or feeling you are getting sick, we ask that you please stay home.

Please keep in mind the CDC recommendations on how to keep yourself and others healthy:
• Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
• Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
• Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

NJAEYC provides a forum through which individuals can gather and discuss issues vital to those who work on behalf of children and families. Although NJAEYC encourages the exchange of diverse opinions, the ideas presented do not necessarily reflect any of NJAEYC’s official positions. NJAEYC assumes no responsibility for any statement of fact or opinion presented at this conference, nor does acceptance of advertising or exhibits imply endorsement of any products or services by NJAEYC.

Photographs will be taken during the conference and may appear on the NJAEYC website.

NJAEYC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its policies, scholarships and professional development opportunities.
REGISTRATION AND FEES

• FIRST 50 MEMBERS TO REGISTER WILL RECEIVE A COMPLIMENTARY BOOK SIGNED BY COY BOWLES.
• Early Bird registration must be post-marked by September 15, 2021.
• After September 15, 2021, mailed registrations will only be processed if the payment includes a $25 late fee.
• On-site registration fee (based on availability) will be $25 higher than early bird registrations.

PAYMENT OF FEES

• Fees are listed on the registration page.
• If paying by check, checks must be made payable to NJAEYC.
• Purchase Orders must be approved by contacting mail@njaeyc.org.
• Refunds of registration fees are made only upon written request prior to September 15, 2021. A $25.00 processing fee is deducted from each refund. Absolutely no refunds are issued after September 15, 2021.
• A registration can be transferred to another person upon request.
• Send your registration and payment to:

  NJAEYC Conference
  PO Box 1024
  Barnegat Light, NJ 08006

Register and pay online by credit card at https://njaeyc.org/2021-conference-register/

MEMBERS ONLY BENEFITS

• Discounted registration
• Members only giveaways
• Priority to author signing events
• Book giveaway

Don’t miss out. Join now at Join or Renew NAEYC Membership | NAEYC and you’ll not only get an immediate discount to the conference but you’ll also be eligible for the aforementioned benefits as well.

CONFIRMATION

• NO CONFIRMATION WILL BE SENT. YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR NAME TAG AND CONFERENCE MATERIALS AT THE CONFERENCE.
SEATING

• Seating in workshops is limited to those people who are specifically registered for that particular workshop and assigned workshops will appear on your name tag.

FOOD

• There will be a complimentary continental breakfast provided on Thursday for conference attendees.
• Attendees will also receive a complimentary lunch.

LEVELS (appear in parentheses after workshop title)

• Level I - Individuals at this level are at the first step in their commitment to a career in early care and education.
• Level II - Individuals at this level have participated in formal study leading to a degree and/or certificate and have refined their knowledge through guided and reflective experience with young children.
• Level III - Individuals at this level have extensive academic preparation and experience in the field and can be responsible for mentoring those at Levels I and II.

I/T = Infant/Toddler
PS = Preschool
K = Kindergarten/School age
FCC = Family Child Care

CEUs

• Continuing Education Units will be awarded for successful completion of requirements. Packets must be picked up at registration.

PARKING

• Complimentary parking is available at the hotel.
CONFERENCE ETIQUETTE...

A successful Annual Conference requires that we extend professionalism and courtesy to one another. The following tips will ensure a pleasant experience for all participants:

- Turn off cell phones.
- Participants are encouraged to refrain from taking more than one copy of handouts.
- Bring business cards for networking and requesting materials from presenters.
- Presenters are encouraged to have handouts for their attendees and recommend that presenters post handouts on NJAEYC’s website.
- If it is necessary to leave a session early or arrive late, please make the interruption as nondisruptive as possible.

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

The conference committee has a limited number of positions open for Undergraduate and Graduate students to attend the conference at no cost. Visit our website at [www.njaeyc.org](http://www.njaeyc.org) to download the NJAEYC Student Volunteer Application Form.

*Remember to sign up early. Student applications are accepted in the order in which they are received.
Special Guest

Coy Bowles
Musician & Children’s Book Author

Literacy and early education advocate by day, and multi-platinum music star by night, Coy Bowles has some pretty exciting things for us on the horizon.

A Georgia native born and raised in Thomaston, Coy Bowles is probably best known as a guitarist, keyboardist, singer and songwriter for the three-time Grammy Award-winning Zac Brown Band. However, off stage, he is a teacher and parent blazing trails in the world of early education. With four highly-praised children’s books under his belt, Coy recently released a social-emotional learning kit based around his hit book Behind the Little Red Door, an unforgettable story of imagination and creativity. His new children’s album, “Music for Tiny Humans” won a Gold Award from the Parents’ Choice Foundation.

His creative journey began at 11 years old when he started playing guitar. Raised with love and support and through guidance of an influential teacher, Coy was able to dream big and knew that he could do anything he put his heart and soul into.

His successful musical career enabled him to create an advocacy platform for literacy, early education and teacher appreciation. “With having such a blessed life and career, I feel motivated to give back to teachers and give kids a better understanding of confidence and creativity.” he says. Coy is highly involved in the state of Georgia’s early education system. He is a board member for GA Foundation for Early Care and Learning, involved with the Georgia Governor’s office education initiatives, and was the 2019 keynote speaker for GAEYC, and recently became Region IV Head Start Ambassador on Early Literacy.

This Summer, Coy is unveiling his new childrens’ education and creativity company, Coyco Creative. Standing for “Creative Opportunity Yields Creative Output,” Coyco will deliver new and original children’s books and music, play-based learning, and unique opportunities for both in-person and digital classrooms.
The debut children's book by Zac Brown Band member Coy Bowles is a story of self-confidence and reassurance, accepting who you are and the realization that our differences make each of us beautiful and unique. The reader is taken into a world of imagination through the eyes of Amy Giggles and her boisterous laugh. A portion of the proceeds of sale of this book will be donated to Camp Southern Ground, Inc., a non-profit organization. Order a signed copy today!


Will Powers: Where There's a Will There's a Way is a tale about overcoming self-entitlement and achieving your goals with dedication and a strong work ethic. Will's journey with music teaches him the value of hard work and the power of believing in yourself. It is a classic story with a message that kids, parents, and teachers can all relate to and rejoice in.

https://www.shopcoybowles.com/product-page/will-powers-where-there-s-a-will-there-s-a-way

Sneezing? Coughing? Taking a sick day? Don't worry, you'll be feeling better soon thanks to this hilarious picture book from Coy Bowles, guitarist of the Grammy Award-winning Zac Brown Band. Full of encouraging—and super-silly—rhyming advice on how to face sick days with courage and a positive attitude, When You're Feeling Sick is just what the doctor ordered!

https://www.shopcoybowles.com/product-page/when-you-re-feeling-sick

Behind the Little Red Door is the latest children's book from Grammy-award winning Zac Brown Band guitarist and celebrated Georgia author, Coy Bowles. Incredibly imaginative in text and cleverly illustrated by Joanna Davidovich, this delightful picture book encourages children to use their creativity to determine what is behind the little red door in each spread. Bowles' whimsical, singsongy approach to storytelling will charm children of all ages. Behind the Little Red Door encourages reading, innovation, and fun while learning for children, side-by-side with their adult counterparts.


Behind the Little Red Door: Can You Touch A Color? is the latest children's book from Grammy-award winning Zac Brown Band guitarist and celebrated Georgia author, Coy Bowles. Can You Touch A Color? encourages children to use their creativity to explore and appreciate color: from the colors in nature, to the people, places and things around us, to our very own identity.

Keynote Speaker

Sharron Krull
Early Childhood Consultant

Sharron Krull is a passionate, enthusiastic, and inspiring early childhood educator. She has a B.S. in Education from Miami University (Ohio) and a California Community College Early Childhood Teaching Credential. Sharron’s teaching experience spans over fifty years, encompassing nearly all areas of early childhood education. She is a veteran preschool teacher, having taught and directed at parent co-operative preschools for 20 years, with 12 years as an Outdoor Teacher. She has been a child development instructor at several California community colleges. Sharron is the co-author of two teacher resource books, “Circle Time Activities for Young Children” and “Play Power: Games and Activities for Young Children.” She is currently a “Teacher of Teachers” through her company Play Power at www.sharronkrull.com and an Educational Consultant for Discount School Supply. With her down-to-earth approach and hands-on teaching methods, Sharron speaks at early childhood conferences nationwide conducting workshops, keynotes, and staff trainings.

KEYNOTE:

CELEBRATE CHILDREN! Rediscover the Child in You

Exercise your mirth muscles, let your hair down, and allow your inner child to come out and play! Join Sharron as she shares a cornucopia of practical and playful ideas; including music, movement and creative activities to help you live, love, laugh, and learn with children. Discover how to create a nourishing environment where children and adults can flourish and reach their potential.

NJAEYC would like to thank Discount School Supply for sponsoring Sharron Krull.
Advocacy and Leadership

1. The Child Care Community Finds its Advocacy Voice: Lessons from the Field Becoming the Catalyst for Change (I/T, PS, FCC, Level I, II, III) Cynthia Rice, Senior Policy Analyst, Advocates for Children of NJ; Winifred Smith-Jenkins, Senior Director, Zadie’s Early Childhood Centers, East Orange and Summit, and Cindy Shields, Senior Child Care Director, The YMCA of Metuchen, Edison, Woodbridge and South Amboy

Now more than ever, strong child care policies and funding to support those policies is desperately needed in order for this “essential” industry to survive. But can our voices make a difference? Hear first-hand, how child care providers have recently voiced their concerns, identified recommendations and brought about change at the state and federal level. Learn the strategies they used and the support they needed to bring about these changes. Also, hear how anyone can be a champion for child care change!

Brain Research

2. The Brain Architecture Game (All, Level I, II, III) Michelle Barnea, RN, MSEd, Early Childhood Consultant

In this hands-on experience, participants will explore how positive experiences, tolerable stress and toxic stress can impact the structure and development of the brain. Based on research from the Center for the Developing Child, the game allows participants to use materials to build the strongest brain possible while incorporating life experiences. The essential and valuable role that nurturing caregivers play will be examined.

Business Practices

3. United in Care: A Shared Services Initiative Designed to Elevate Change in the New Jersey Child Care Field (All, Level I, II, III) Michelle Roers, LSW, DRCC, Senior Director of Strategies for ALICE; United in Care and ALICE Action Network, United Way of Northern New Jersey; Amanda DiScala Ed.M. Child Care Specialist, United in Care, United Way of Northern New Jersey

Participants will learn of a new multi-faceted shared-services model being piloted across NJ that partners centers with family/home-based providers. We’ll share methods to address issues of access to quality care for children/families, affordability of care, equitable and livable wages for childcare professionals, and improve industry retention and sustainability. We will review data that has been gathered and analyzed thus far.

Collaboration (workshop presented in Spanish)

4. Entrar en conversaciones difíciles de forma eficaz – Effectively Entering Difficult Conversations (All, Level I, II) Glenda James, LCSW Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Clinician at Montclair State University – Center for Autism and Early Childhood Mental Health

Nuestras interacciones diarias pueden tener momentos cruciales, con resultados que afectan la calidad de nuestras relaciones, carreras y vida. Este taller nos ayudará a superar problemas difíciles o sensibles, a mejorar los resultados y lograr los resultados deseados.

Our daily interactions can hold pivotal moments, with outcomes that affect the quality of our relationships, careers, and life. This workshop will help you overcome difficult or sensitive issues, to improve results and achieve desired outcomes.
AM WORKSHOPS 11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Curriculum

5. GIGGLES & WIGGLES with a BAG of TRICKS! Circle Time Fun & Transition Tips (PS, FCC, Level I, II)  
   Sharron Krull, Early Childhood Consultant

Join in this hands-on, participatory workshop demonstrating a variety of techniques and props for inclusion at circle time and transitioning children from one activity to the next. Have fun, get inspired and take home lots of new ideas to make your group time and transitions more active and fun!


This session will look at how teachers and caregivers can align nutritional activities and experiences across the early childhood curriculum, as well as linking literacy and nutrition together. Participants will also look at, and experience, many of the wonderful children's books that have a nutritional and food theme to them.

Diversity and Cultural Competencies

7. Update your diversity, equity and inclusion vocabulary. Update your philosophy (All, Level I, II, III) Dr. Zeynep Isik-Ercan, Professor of Early Childhood Education, Rowan University

In this workshop, the presenter will provide an overview of vocabulary that describes most recent approaches to diversity, equity and inclusion in early childhood education, discuss the appropriateness of different terminology and offer updates on newest terms and concepts. This will support participants to revisit vocabulary, terms, and wording they use in their program and gain important insights into the meaning of certain terms and to utilize inclusive wording, concepts and key terms in their program philosophy, handbooks, policies and curriculum guidelines.

Guidance and Challenging Behaviors


Participants will develop an understanding how neuro-development influences emotional regulation and adjustment in young children, particularly in relation to early adverse experiences. Preventive practices, including: structuring the child's routine, giving them developmentally appropriate choices, and establishing rapport will be reviewed. Participants will learn how to set limits with children using choices and natural consequences through video examples, experiential exercises, and group discussion.

Professionalism


This workshop will provide an introduction to Reflective Practices for Early Care and Education Professionals who work with young children and their families. We will explore the intense emotions that are stirred up when our work involves forming relationships with young children and their families. During the continuing transitions that we are all experiencing, reflection is one of the most important tools to support our work.
**Quality**

10. Help ECERS is coming! Tips and hints for preschool teachers. (PS, Level I, II, III) Dr. Holly Seplocha, Professor Emerita, William Paterson University and Dr. Renee Whelan, Assistant Professor Early Childhood Education, William Paterson University

Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale is widely used throughout NJ in Child Care Programs, Public Pre-K classrooms, Head Start, and nursery schools. As a classroom teacher, anyone observing in your classroom can be unnerving, but when someone walks in with that yellow ECERS book, your heart races. In this session, you will learn how to prepare, survive and thrive in your ECERS observation.

**Social / Emotional Development**


Say it with a book! We can learn so much by sitting down and reading a children’s book. Explore the many possibilities of incorporating children’s books into your daily routine. We will explore social-emotional skills that a children’s book can teach and how incorporating social stories can have a positive impact on your classroom.

12. Social Emotional Support as Children and Teachers Re-enter the Classroom (PS, Level II, III) Patti Jo Wilson, Professional Development Specialist, Lakeshore Learning Materials

As we return to a new “normal”, children and families will need support integrating back into the routine of childcare. We will focus on strategies to support the social emotional needs of children. We will explore environment, routines, and interactions through the lens of social emotional development and the impact isolation at home has had on us all.
Advocacy and Leadership


Session focuses on the benefits of delegation, why we don’t delegate and why we should. A self-assessment activity around daily activities will help early child care leaders identify those tasks that they MUST do and ones that they can delegate out. Setting expectations, understanding how to provide feedback, and motivating others through empowerment will help any center director with better time management and a culture of teamwork.

Business Practices


Few FCC providers begin this journey with a business background yet overnight we become Small Business Owners. Providers will leave this workshop having gained insight from industry and financial pros, focusing on compliance and financial strategies available to small businesses planning to grow. Time has been carved out for participants to enroll, register, and connect live with support experts!

Child Growth and Development


The most important life skill to teach children is self-regulation! Did you know that the prime time for its development is between the ages of 3 to 5? Learn how to integrate movement and self-care activities that support the development of impulse control, focus, and well-being. Playing self-control games can help children learn the necessary skills to self-regulate while keeping it fun!

Curriculum

16. Linking Science and Literacy Together (PS, Level I, II, III) Jason A. Verdone, Consultant (Learn and Play the Preschool Way)

Participants will look at utilizing content-based science concepts as they align with the NJ Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards and how those concepts can be linked to children’s books with a science theme. The focus of this session will be to utilize non-fiction children’s books for developing and implementing hands on, and interactive learning tools centered around science related concepts and topics.

17. Interactive Storytelling: It’s not just a workshop it’s an adventure! (All, Level I, II, III) Don Dougherty, Author/Storyteller; Classroom Adventures, LLC

Those who attend this workshop will participate in a highly interactive adventure story while learning how to use “storytime” to teach life lessons to their students.
Diversity and Cultural Competencies

18. Operating Below the Radar: Implicit Bias in Early Childhood Programs and Schools (All, Level III)
   Gerard Costa, Ph.D., Director, Center for Autism and Early Childhood Mental Health, Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning, Montclair State University

This workshop examines “implicit bias” in early childhood programs and schools. What it is and how it operates “below the radar”, without our full awareness, through the “secret” operations of our brains and memories. Research on how it affects decisions about children and how it contributes to preschool expulsion will be examined. Strategies on how to disrupt it will be described.

Family and Child Circumstances

19. Every day can’t be a parent-teacher conference: Building Parent Partnerships with the 3R’s: Relationship, Respect and Reflection (All, Level I, II, III)
   Michelle Newman-Keenan, MA. Ed, Master Teacher of Pre-K, Barnegat Township School District; Linda Trapani, Behavior Specialist & Preschool intervention and Referral Team, Barnegat Township School District

Working with children and families IS a relationship-based practice. Often, we as teachers and administrators may find it difficult to move out of our comfort zone to engage with families. Establishing a good rapport enables us to foster conversations regarding development, behaviors and daily happenings. We discuss strategies, 3 R’s and the concept of “Beware of the Over-Share!”

Guidance and Challenging Behaviors (presented in Spanish)

   Yolanda Sosa Ortiz, Lead Early Childhood Consultation Specialist/Montclair State University-Center for Autism and Early Childhood Mental Health

   1. El concepto de Self Reg®-auto regulación emocional e integrar las cinco áreas de estrés/ The concept of Self Reg® and discuss the five stress domains
   2. Cómo al ver a un niño o niña desde una perspectiva diferente, vemos a ese niño o niña diferente, e identificamos el significado de las conductas de estrés que afectan o nutren a través del reencuadre; nuestra relación con ellos/ How in seeing a child differently, we see a different child, and identifying stress behaviors meaning through reframe.
   3. La importancia de la co-regulación. que los cuidadores adultos ofrecen al proporcionar calma a los niños y niñas/ The importance of adult caregivers finding and lending their calm to children in co-regulation.

Professionalism

21. Professionalism in Early Childhood Education (All, Level I, II, III)
   Tirusha Dave, Owner, Ellie’s Academy and Jah’nay Edwards, Kindergarten Teacher, Ellie’s Academy

As we work with children, there’s an obvious responsibility to providing high-quality care. As we work throughout the day, as ECE professionals we wear many hats. Therefore, it is vital we practice professional excellence. This session will focus on professionalism in ECE and its significance within the field.
Quality

22. Wondering about Joining Grow NJ Kids? (I/T, PS, FCC, Level II, III) Lori Harrje, Project Lead/Technical Assistance Specialist, Grow NJ Kids Technical Assistance Center North, Central Jersey Family Health Consortium; Stacey Cummins, Owner/Director of Little Wonders Childcare & Learning Center; Jennice Young, Education Director, New Jersey Division, The Salvation Army

Have questions about Grow NJ Kids? We have answers! Learn from directors themselves why hundreds of early childhood professionals in New Jersey have made the commitment to reflectively and vulnerably look at their programs and make them even better through Grow NJ Kids. If you’ve thought about joining Grow NJ Kids and would like to learn about strategies to achieve success from people who have ‘been there and done that’, this is the session for you!

Social / Emotional Development


In this workshop, the importance of supporting children’s social-emotional learning through play will be explored. Photo and video examples will demonstrate how children use play for communication and expression, and gaining a sense of control over adversity. Next, the benefits of teaching staff using play to facilitate their young student’s social-emotional learning will be shared. Participants will receive guidance in how to engage children in play during indoor play times.

Special Needs/Inclusion


In this session, we will explore usage of the Inclusive Classroom Profile to better include children with disabilities and special needs. We will review this research, based on indicators of high-quality inclusion.
RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY SEPTEMBER 28, 2021
Hilton Meadowlands
2 Meadowlands Plaza
East Rutherford, NJ 07073

ROOM RATES:

**Wednesday, October 20**
$119* single/double

*plus taxes • when booking rooms use code NJA20A or the booking link below:

Before completing this form be sure you have read the terms and fees. Please print clearly to ensure your information is accurate. Complete one registration form for each person.

ANY WALK-INS OR REGISTRATIONS POSTMARKED AFTER SEPTEMBER 15, 2021 MUST INCLUDE A $25 LATE FEE TO ENSURE PROCESSING. SPACE IS LIMITED. IF THE CONFERENCE IS SOLD OUT, CHECKS AND REGISTRATIONS WILL BE RETURNED.

First Name: __________________________ Last Name: __________________________
Address: _________________________________________________________________
City: __________________________ State: ___________ Zip: _________________
Position/Title: __________________________ School/Work: __________________________
Day Phone: __________________________ Evening Phone: __________________________
E-mail Address: ____________________________________________________________

Mail payments to:
NJAEYC
c/o Helen Muscato
PO Box 1024
Barnegat Light, NJ 08006

NOTE: If 3 or more people from 1 center attend and are paid for by one check, deduct $10 from each registration. Group discount only available on early bird registrations.

**Early Bird Rates** (Registrations postmarked by Sept. 15)

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<td>Non-Member</td>
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**Rates** (Registrations postmarked after Sept. 15)

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**PLEASE INDICATE WHICH WORKSHOPS YOU ARE SELECTING:**

AM (1–12)  1st Choice  ________  2nd Choice  ________  3rd Choice  ________

PM (13–24) 1st Choice  ________  2nd Choice  ________  3rd Choice  ________

For additional information, contact Helen Muscato at (732) 329-0033 or at mail@njaeyc.org
OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The New Jersey Association for the Education of Young Children (NJAEYC) is dedicated to advancing excellence in the field of early childhood education.

This is YOUR NJAEYC

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

You’ll receive:

• Free access to the Shared Resources platform - [www.njsharedresources.org](http://www.njsharedresources.org) for standard and premium members
• 20% discount on books, videos, posters and other resources through the NAEYC website
• YOU choose your subscription to an award winning magazine: Young Children or Teaching Young Children
• Professional development opportunities on a local and state level
• Reduced rates to local state and national conferences
• Lots of networking opportunities
• Sign up for e-news updates on policy issues
• You vote in NJAEYC elections to help shape the future of our organization
• Volunteer and leadership opportunities
• Online Courses
• Opportunities to participate in various insurance plans designed to meet your personal and professional needs, including professional liability insurance.
• Join as a standard or premium member and you will receive complimentary NAEYC books.
PROMOTING
HIGH QUALITY
EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION