

Creating Safety in Early Childhood

June 21st, 2025

USCB Bluffton | One University Blvd
Bluffton, SC, 29909

 **DSS**
SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT of SOCIAL SERVICES



College of Education
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

SOUTH CAROLINA
CCR&R
Child Care Resource & Referral

Morning Sessions

🌀 Health Insurance for Child Care Providers

9:00AM-10:00AM

Room 159

1 credit

Susannah Lee, the Lee Group: This session will explore the many options for providing health insurance to child care providers: individual, small group, and large group.

🌀 Outdoor Play and Learning Environments

9:00AM-10:00AM

Room 276

1 credit

Alyssa Willis, ABC Quality: This session will focus on the importance of the two ABC Quality Process Quality standards and indicators that impact the design of a program's outdoor play and learn environment. Participants will review the elements to consider when designing their outdoor play space to maximize potential ABC Quality scoring. The session will help participants identify NLI and Grow Outdoors SC resources to support developing or refining their outdoor play and learning environments.

🌀 Do You Understand the Words That Are Coming Out of My Mouth!

9:00AM-10:00AM

Room 204

1 credit

Guanessa Smith, Horry County First Steps: Can you hear without truly listening? In this session, participants will explore the importance of active listening in early childhood settings. We'll focus on how listening with your whole body builds stronger connections with children, families, and colleagues. Learn how to recognize the impact of not listening and practice strategies that promote full, respectful attention in daily interactions.

Nap Time Blues

9:00AM-10:00AM

Room 275

1 credit

Jennifer McConnell, Child Care Consulting for Smarties: Nap time doesn't have to be a daily struggle. In this session, participants will learn how to create predictable, peaceful routines that support restful sleep in early childhood settings. Through practical strategies and supportive discussions, providers will explore ways to meet the needs of both restful and restless children. Participants will also discover how to implement calm, safe spaces that nurture a positive association with rest. Whether you're looking to enhance your current routine or troubleshoot common challenges, this training will help you foster a nap time environment that supports every child's well-being.

Reframing Challenging Behavior

10:15AM-11:15AM

Room 276

1 credit

Karissa Wylie, SC PITC: This session will help early educators better understand the difference between typical developmental behaviors and those that may signal a need for further support. Participants will explore how to guide positive behavior through developmentally appropriate strategies and reframe challenging behaviors with compassion and intention. By focusing on what children are communicating through their actions, educators can respond with empathy and effectiveness, creating safe, supportive learning environments for all children.

Child Care Scholarship Prospective Payment and Enrollment

10:15AM-11:15AM

Room 159

1 credit

Christi Jeffcoat, SC DSS: This session will discuss paying child care providers prospectively and based on enrollment vs attendance for Child Care Scholarship Program children.

Streamline Your Child Care Business Through Technology

10:15AM-11:15AM

Room 204

1 credit

Faith McCaul, Early Learning Ventures: This session will showcase how a Child Care Management system can streamline day-to-day business practices for both Family Home Child Care and Centers. With the use of cloud-based software for tracking daily logs, billing, CACFP, and attendance via the web and apps.

Jump, Run, and Dig: Embracing Physical Activity in Nature

10:15AM-11:15AM

Room 275

1 credit

Caitlin Woodard, Early Childhood Health Outdoors: Outdoor time that promotes and supports physical activity is critical for child development. However, how can you embrace active play beyond a traditional play structure? In this session, learn ways nature can create and promote opportunities for active play. Participants will plan for different types of movement, including climbing, kicking, throwing, and lifting, and strategize how unique play elements, including stumps, water, and ribbon, can promote whole body development. Participants will also learn from examples of intentionally designed outdoor spaces that support the physical development of children.

the Keynote

Panel: Creating Safety Through Regulation and Best Practice

11:30AM-12:45PM

Room 156

1 credit

Facilitated by Melissa McDonald, this keynote panel brings together leaders in child care licensing, including Cynthia Lara and additional regulatory experts, to explore how updated regulations support safe, high-quality early care environments. The discussion will frame licensing not just as a compliance requirement, but as a foundation for best practices in early childhood education. Panelists will highlight how current policies promote child safety, guide provider practices, and empower programs to exceed the minimum for the benefit of children and families.

Afternoon Sessions

🍷 What's Cooking? Sprinkled with CACFP Seasoning...

1:45PM-2:45PM
1 credit

Room 276

Greta Avery, the Child and Adult Care Food Program: This session will introduce and present the Child and Adult Care Food Program meal pattern requirements. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in the development of a menu that includes the components for each meal service and discuss healthy nutritional options.

🍷 Fast Feedback

1:45PM-2:45PM
1 credit

Room 204

Keith Young, AKY Consulting: Effective feedback must be quick, meaningful, and developmentally sensitive in fast-paced infant, toddler, and preschool environments. This session equips directors and staff with four real-time feedback strategies to strengthen instructional quality and responsive caregiving. Participants will learn to deliver praise with purpose, tailor feedback timing, choose the right moments, and keep guidance brief but impactful. Walk away with practical tools to support continuous improvement and elevate both educator performance and child outcomes.

🍷 Family Child Care Homes New Regulations

Room 275

1:45PM-2:45PM
1 credit

Stacie Turcotte, SC DSS: The session provides a brief overview of the new Family Child Care Home Regulations that were passed in 2024 and are now in effect. session will support SC Early Learning Standards HPD 2 and 4. Join us to develop a gross motor plan for your classroom.

🌀 All Day, Every Day! Teaching Social-Emotional Skills to Young Children

1:45PM-2:45PM

Room 156

1 credit

Joanne Osterland, Pyramid Pieces: During this interactive session, participants will explore the vital role of social-emotional learning in early childhood. Guided by the Pyramid Model framework, the session will focus on teaching core skills such as friendship building, emotional literacy, self-regulation, and problem-solving. Educators will engage with practical strategies and hands-on activities, selecting from a variety of resources to create materials they can immediately use in their classrooms. Walk away with tools, ideas, and a deeper understanding of how to support children's emotional growth and positive behavior.

🌀 Introduction to Directing Your Family Child Care Home Business

3:00PM-4:00PM

Room 275

1 credit

Jenn Adams, SC CCR&R: This training is designed for individuals who are either starting or currently running a family child care home business. It covers the fundamental aspects of directing a successful child care home, including legal requirements, business planning, operational strategies, and creating a positive environment for children and parents.

🌀 Little Creators: Introducing Children to the World of Art

3:00PM-4:00PM

Room 276

1 credit

Darlene Faucette, SC CCR&R: This training session is designed for preschool educators and curriculum developers, focusing on the integration of art into early childhood education. Recognizing the vital role of art in developmental stages, the session aims to equip participants with innovative strategies, activities, and understanding necessary to foster creativity, imagination, and expression among preschool children. Through hands-on activities, theoretical insights, and practical examples, educators will learn how to create an engaging, inclusive, and developmentally appropriate art curriculum that supports overall growth and learning.

Essentials of Small Business Finance

3:00PM-4:00PM

1 credit

Room 204

Paul Featheringill, Small Business Development Center: This session will discuss key elements of small business finance that must be understood for a business to be successful. This includes proper documentation, different kinds of financial statements and key concepts such as break-even that are crucial to effective financial management of a small business.

Talking to Families About Challenging Classroom Behaviors

3:00PM-4:00PM

1 credit

Room 132

Susan Kear and Emily Durham, Palmetto Shared Services Alliance: This session will help providers recognize developmental behavior versus challenging behavior by age and milestones. Providers will practice strategies for talking with families about challenging classroom behaviors.