

Registrations for the MAESA Early Childhood Educators' Conference on Nov. 4, 2022 will be entirely on-line via a Google Form found [HERE](#). Please share these descriptions of the conference speakers and workshop offerings with your teachers so they have the opportunity to read about the wonderful experts and topics we have planned this year before they register themselves. The [conference webpage](#) contains a link to workshop descriptions and presenter bios.



**2022 MAESA EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATORS' CONFERENCE**
November 4, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.
Washington Episcopal School, Bethesda, MD



***“Early Childhood From the Inside Out”
Developmental Professionals and Early Childhood Practitioners Weigh-In***



Keynote Address by Berni Kozlowski

***The Art and Science of Shifting from Surviving to Thriving:
“A Modern Approach to Mindfulness Practices for Educators”***

As an educator, have you been under stress, the unrelenting kind? The art of growing the minds & hearts of children can't happen when you — their teacher — are constantly stressed. What if you were more fully present to yourself and to your students? What if you could be profoundly calm in the face of overwhelm and urgency? What if you had as much energy, stamina, and enthusiasm at the end of the school year as at the beginning? You barely have time to eat lunch or answer emails. How do you find time to be mindful during a school day even when you know that your stress impacts the social and emotional context of the classroom and student well-being and learning?

[Bernadette \(Berni\) Kozlowski](#), a certified meditation coach who taught science in independent schools for 25 years, will share surprisingly SIMPLE techniques and strategies that make quiet time for yourself feel more like an indulgence than a discipline. Berni skillfully blends neuroscience and physiology with mindfulness traditions, teaching educators research based easy-to-implement strategies for themselves and their students, helping them be more gently responsive to day to day challenges.

1.5 hours Core Knowledge Areas: MSDE: Professionalism; OSSE District of Columbia: Professionalism & Advocacy

2022 CONFERENCE WORKSHOP OFFERINGS:

Using [this Google Form](#), please select two workshops from the following descriptions. Each participant will attend the keynote address, two workshops and the closing plenary session. Each workshop will be limited to approximately 20 participants, and is on a first come basis. You are encouraged to coordinate with your fellow teachers to attend a variety of workshops allowing space for all of our participating schools in the sessions offered. CHOOSE TWO WORKSHOPS TO ATTEND.

Title: *Early Reading and Numeracy: A multisensory evidence-based approach to teaching all learners.* Mona Iyer, AMS, CALT, CDT, [Atlantic Seaboard Dyslexia Education Center](#)

Description: Workshop participants will learn about core instructional practices proven to provide a strong foundation in reading, writing, comprehension, and numeracy to young learners.

K-Reading/Numeracy training enables teachers to prevent learning failure among struggling learners and the assessments enable them to identify learners with learning difficulties. Workshop participants will participate in interactive group activities that they can implement when they return to their classrooms.

1 hour Core Knowledge Areas: MSDE: Curriculum; OSSE District of Columbia: Curriculum

Presenter: Mona Iyer, AMS, CALT, CDT with Atlantic Seaboard Dyslexia Education Center (ASDEC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit training and advocacy center dedicated to preventing academic failure through evidence-based multisensory reading and math instruction. Mona has been in the field of education, focusing on teaching young children for over 25 years. She received her American Montessori Society (AMS) certification in Montessori training from Dallas, Texas. Ms. Iyer moved to Maryland in 1996 where she has been a teacher at Manor Montessori School in Potomac, MD. Ms. Iyer is author of K-Reading Kickstart, a graduate level course in early screening and intervention.

Title: **How to Best Teach and Remediate Handwriting and Written Expression in the Classroom;** Todd Misura OTR/L

Description: Please come join Todd in discussing best practices for teaching handwriting in today's classroom. Teachers and parents across the country are dealing with students' underdeveloped fine motor skills as well as how to cope with handwriting inefficiencies learned during the "long pause" thrust upon us by the Covid pandemic. Many children struggle and others have learned to avoid and resist writing. Join in and learn practical and tried and true methods of teaching children writing and drawing skills in the classroom to help your early writers flourish.

1 hour Core Knowledge Areas: MSDE: Curriculum; OSSE District of Columbia: Curriculum

Presenter: Todd Misura, OTR/L has been an Occupational Therapist (OT) for almost 20 years. Prior to that he was a tenured elementary school teacher. He runs his own OT practice specializing in written expression and early motor skill development. He has been interviewed by the Washington Post, Readers Digest, the New York Times and appeared on local as well as nationally television broadcasts. He has been published in the Costco Connection. He provides OT services to many schools in DC and MD.

Title: Sensory Processing in a Post-COVID Era; Betsy Meyers, OTD, OTR/L

Description: This session highlights the importance of sensory processing and integration as it relates to optimal childhood learning. Every person, child and adult, has a different set of sensory preferences. Prior to COVID, we utilized sensory experiences to enhance and promote all areas of natural development. Since COVID, when infants and toddlers spent much of their time in isolation and amongst stressed caregivers, we are seeing a heightened impact on sensory processing needs and challenges. What tools and strategies might we need to adopt and utilize for these children born from 2019-2021? What should we be aware of as new students enter our classrooms to embark on their early academic careers?

1 hour Core Knowledge Areas: MSDE: Child Development; OSSE District of Columbia: Curriculum

Presenter: Betsy grew up in Alexandria, VA and received her bachelor's degree in nutritional sciences and genetics from Texas A&M University and her clinical doctorate from Mary Baldwin University. She completed her capstone project with Fairfax County Public Schools emphasizing the importance of positive mental health throughout the school day utilizing semi-structured recess activities. Betsy has received training in DIR Floortime, the LAMP AAC approach, Learning Without Tears, Astronaut Training, Interactive Metronome, and Therapeutic Listening. She is passionate about discovering children's motivations and strengths in order to promote growth and development. Betsy currently works as a lead occupational therapist at Skill Builders LLC in the northern Virginia area.

Title: Elevating How We Teach the Early Learner with Mind, Brain, and Education Research; Glenn Whitman, History teacher at St. Andrew's School and Executive Director for the [Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning](#) with Christine Lewis, MS in the Science of Instruction

Description: Early childhood educators know how important the early years are for the development of agile minds, strong bodies, and whole hearts. But, how do we know that our professional choices are leading to better outcomes for the children in our care? Emerging research from the field of MBE science can give us confidence to continue advocating for practices shown to positively impact young learners, tweak practices that might be built on widely held misinterpretations of historical research, and avoid actions shown to have a negative impact on the development of the whole child. In this session, we will share the story of a thriving ECE faculty who are raising their professional practice and presence through the exploration of MBE science. Our aim is to light a fire for MBE in ECE and send you out with practical tools and processes for you to adapt for your own environments.

1 hour Core Knowledge Areas: MSDE: Curriculum; OSSE District of Columbia: Curriculum

Presenter: Christine Lewis (@CLewis4kids), MS in the Science of Instruction, is currently the early childhood and elementary Teaching & Learning Strategist at St. Andrew's Episcopal School (SAES), Maryland and the Lower School Head of Research for the Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning. Over her fifteen years with SAES, she taught in almost every elementary grade, including five years in kindergarten, which led her to embrace the power of MBE research as a way to navigate the changing

cognitive, emotional, and developmental needs of each new age and stage. In her daily work, Christine facilitates the efforts of a lower school faculty (2 years to fifth grade) seeking to deepen their MBE knowledge and translate this into promising teaching practices for stronger academic, social, and emotional outcomes as part of a larger commitment to equity in education. When she's not working, you will find Christine hiking, kayaking, and traveling the world with her extended family.

Presenter: Glenn Whitman (@gwhitmancttl) is a History teacher at St. Andrew's where he also the Executive Director for the Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning. Glenn is the co-author of *Neuroteach: Brain Science and the Future of Education* and co-designer of *Neuroteach Global*. Glenn is a former Martin Institute for Teaching Excellence Fellow and author of *Dialogue with the Past: Engaging Students and Meeting Standards through Oral History* as well as co-editor of *Think Differently and Deeply*, the international publication of the CTTL. Glenn earned his MALS from Dartmouth College and a BA from Dickinson College. Glenn has presented at more than a dozen public, private, and international school conferences world-wide including: Learning Forward, New Teacher Center Symposium, ASUGSV, SXSWedu, researchEd, National Association of Independent Schools Annual Conference, National Network of Schools in Partnership, and Learning and the Brain Conference.

**Title: Curating a Culturally Relevant Curriculum for Early Childhood; Chéleah Googe
Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and teachers Jazmine Jackson and Chanelle
Peters; Beauvoir, the National Cathedral Elementary School**

Description:

All aspects of a student's identity comes with them to the classroom. Research suggests that by age eight, children have a well-established sense of self within their home and school communities. As early childhood experts in the lives of young children, it is critical that our classrooms provide brave spaces and developmentally-appropriate instruction for young children to better understand their own and others' identities. In this session, you'll have a chance to connect with three colleagues from Beauvoir, the National Cathedral Elementary School and hear about Beauvoir's journey towards developing a DEI curriculum that meets the needs of their school community. Participants will have the opportunity to view the curriculum scope and sequence, lesson-plan template, and experience lessons recently piloted in classrooms at Beauvoir.

1 hour Core Knowledge Areas: MSDE: Curriculum; OSSE District of Columbia, Diversity: Family, Language, Culture and Society

Presenter: Chéleah Googe (she/her) is a Black feminist educator, facilitator, and racial equity advocate. She currently serves as the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Beauvoir, the National Cathedral Elementary School. Chéleah is beginning her 10th year as an educator and her 8th year in independent school education. As a school administrator, Chéleah values thinking critically and creatively about the intersection of leadership and equity to create more equitable, and therefore sustainable, communities. As a doctoral candidate, Chéleah explores the lived experiences of Black women educators to get at the root of recruitment, retainment, and sustaining strategies for educators in the field. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Education Policy from the University of Richmond and a Masters of Education in Counselor Education from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Presenter: Jazmine Jackson (she/her) is beginning her 6th year as a teacher in the Washington, D.C. area and her 2nd year at Beauvoir, the National Cathedral Elementary School. Jazmine received her B.S. in Early Childhood, Elementary, and Special Education from Temple University and is a recent graduate of the University of Iowa with a Masters of Arts in Teaching, Leadership, and Cultural Competency. She is passionate about collaborating with teachers, administrators, board members, and families, to support the growth of young learners in embracing diversity and acknowledging the perspectives and experiences that contribute to the strength of our communities.

Presenter: Chanelle Peters (she/her) is excited to embark on her tenth year of teaching in early childhood classrooms. In addition to her role in the classroom, Chanelle also serves as Co-Chair of Beauvoir's DEI curriculum committee and the faculty representative on the Governing Board at Beauvoir, the National Cathedral Elementary School. Chanelle received her bachelor's degree in English and Communications from Simmons University (formerly Simmons College) and her master's in early childhood education, from the University of Hartford. She worked for several years in educational publishing before deciding to explore life as a classroom teacher.

Title: Re-imagining Engaging Curriculum That Inspires Teachers and Children; Jacky Howell [Azspire, LLC](#)

Description: It has been a challenging couple of years and much of our work with children was under restrictive circumstances. Yet now we have the opportunity to create truly engaging curriculum WITH children that will motivate and inspire teachers and excite children about their possibilities for learning. Come to this interactive and inspirational session for ideas that will inspire you and your children!

1 hour Core Knowledge Areas: MSDE: Curriculum; OSSE District of Columbia: Curriculum

Presenter: Jacky Howell, MA has almost 50 years of experience as an early childhood teacher, consultant, coach, and administrator. In addition, she has over 30 years' experience as a course instructor and presenter on topics related to early childhood development and curriculum. She is a published author with her book, *Rituals and Traditions: Fostering a Sense of Community in Preschool*. She has published many articles in early education journals and is at work on her second book. She received her Master's degree in Human Development from Pacific Oaks College. Currently she is a consultant, coach, mentor, and presenter with her own business, [Azspire, LLC](#), and works with a variety of programs in the DC Metro Area as well as across the country.

Title: Developing Hands-On, Individualized Strategies to Support a Variety of Learners in the Classroom; Amy Egan, M.A., Amy Freedman, M.A., CCC-SLP and Judi Greenberg, M.S., OTR/L

Description: This workshop will focus on supporting teachers' work with children who have many varied strengths and challenges come together in the classroom. Children have come to school with different levels of readiness since the pandemic began. How do teachers look at the total child and break goals into smaller pieces so the child will succeed and embrace learning? What tried and true strategies can you use to support communication, sensory-motor and play development?

1 hour Core Knowledge Areas: MSDE: Curriculum; OSSE District of Columbia: Curriculum

Presenters: This transdisciplinary team consists of special educator Amy Egan, M.A., occupational therapist Judi Greenberg, M.S., OTR/L, and speech-language pathologist Amy Freedman, MA-CCC-SLP. Together they created Child Development Consultants. The mission of Child Development Consultants is to assist teachers and families to identify children's individual strengths and needs. We partner with teachers and families to implement strategies that enable young children to be more successful at school and in their homes. For more information, please visit us at <https://childdc.com>

Title: Make Music with Me!; Leanne Belasco, Director of Music Therapy [Levine School of Music](#)

Description: This interactive workshop will focus on the importance and application of music experiences for inclusive early childhood environments. Participants will engage in a variety of songs, movement and music experiences, and instrument play to develop a toolbox of ideas for their classroom/setting. Adaptations and modifications for young children with learning differences as well as recommendations for supporting inclusive music experiences will be discussed. Tips for using music for classroom based needs will also be shared.

1 hour Core Knowledge Areas: MSDE Curriculum; OSSE District of Columbia: Social-Emotional Development and Mental Health

Presenter: Leanne Belasco, MS, LPMT, MT-BC is the Director of Music Therapy at Levine Music. Levine Music is the Washington, DC region's preeminent center for music education and is a welcoming community where children and adults find lifelong inspiration and joy through learning, performing, listening to and participating with others in music. Levine offers extensive music therapy services for individuals and groups of all ages at each Levine campus in DC, Maryland and Virginia, as well as at numerous partnership locations throughout the community.

Belasco earned her BS in Music Therapy from Duquesne University her MS in Special Education with an emphasis in Autism Spectrum Disorder and Severe to Profound Disabilities from Johns Hopkins University. She has worked extensively with children and adults with intellectual, cognitive and/or developmental disabilities in educational and clinical settings, as well as with older adults with neurologic diagnoses such as Parkinson's disease, stroke, Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

Title: "Why Yoga for Children?"; Brigitte O'Ryan Pollio

Description: Gain practical tools and knowledge on getting started with yoga and mindfulness in the Early Childhood classroom. Participants will learn how yoga impacts the brain and nervous system and walk away with basic exercises, breathing practices, and meditation that can be easily incorporated in the school day.

1 hour Core Knowledge Areas: MSDE: Child Development; OSSE District of Columbia: Social-Emotional Development and Mental Health

Presenter: Brigitte was introduced to yoga at an early age by her father who used to do headstands and sun salutations in the backyard. Her own yoga practice slowly emerged in her early twenties when she

experimented with different styles of yoga. From that time on, yoga took a more prominent role in her life as she discovered how it brought strength, balance, and an overall sense of well-being into her life. In 2006, Brigitte completed her 200 yoga teacher training and has been teaching and practicing yoga to both adults and children ever since. Brigitte's classes are vinyasa-based and encourage students to build both inner calm and physical strength through awareness of breath and body. In addition to teaching yoga, Brigitte also holds a master's degree in Museum Education and enjoys practicing yoga with her husband and 2 children.

(ALL ATTEND) Closing Plenary: Partners on the Path of Childhood: Our Role As The Children Grow; Jacky Howell [Azspire, LLC](#)

Description: We all recognize that the times we are living in are challenging for many reasons, including the ongoing struggles with the pandemic and the impact it has had on our field and also on us as professionals. This closing session will remind us of the importance of our role and consider it being one of *partnership* in a child's journey. Come participate in this session with Jacky Howell that will leave you re-energized for the vocation of teaching, that reminds us of the connection to our work, and leaves you with ideas that will inspire you not only as amazing teachers, but also as partners in their childhoods!

1.5 hours Core Knowledge Areas: MSDE: Professionalism; OSSE District of Columbia: Curriculum, Social-Emotional Development and Mental Health

Presenter: Jacky Howell, MA has almost 50 years of experience as an early childhood teacher, consultant, coach, and administrator. In addition, she has over 30 years' experience as a course instructor and presenter on topics related to early childhood development and curriculum. She is a published author with her book, *Rituals and Traditions: Fostering a Sense of Community in Preschool*. She has published many articles in early education journals and is at work on her second book. She received her Master's degree in Human Development from Pacific Oaks College. Currently she is a consultant, coach, mentor, and presenter with her own business, *azspire llc* and works with a variety of programs in the DC Metro Area as well as across the country. She has done webinars, and workshops and presentations locally and nationally. Jacky believes strongly that all children deserve the highest quality early childhood experience and strives to work with others in creating places worthy of young children, families, and staff.