



# Childhood and Family Ministry Summit

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**August 13–14, 2021**



**TEXAS BAPTISTS®**  
Center for Church Health

# Welcome

Welcome to the 2021 Childhood and Family Ministry Summit! What a joy it is to finally be able to gather in person! Know how much we missed the sweet fellowship and classroom experiences we have all enjoyed from the past! It is SO good to be back! If you are joining us for the first time this year, welcome. We are so glad you are here!

We have a host of breakout sessions that will encourage, inspire and challenge you. Collectively, we have a wealth of knowledge, and I hope you will walk away feeling equipped for the service that God has called you to do. We are here to support and provide resources and enjoy learning together.

We are so grateful for the wealth of knowledge that Dr. Shelly Melia brings. She knows ministry not only from a children's ministry perspective, but also as an educator. I know you will enjoy sitting under her teaching this year.

We are also grateful for Truett Seminary and their gracious invitation to host our Childhood and Family Ministry Summit this year! What a gift to be able to enjoy this beautiful campus.

I am honored to be a part of this journey with you! Know that you are in my prayers as you seek to serve children and their families. What you do makes a tremendous difference, for all of eternity!



## Jennifer Howington

Children's Ministry Specialist  
Center for Church Health

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# Keynote Speaker

Dr. Shelly Melia serves as the Associate Dean for the Graduate School of Ministry and the Program Director for both the Master of Arts in Children's Ministry and the Master of Arts in Family Ministry at Dallas Baptist University. Prior to coming to DBU she served for over 25 years in children's and family ministry in Oklahoma, Florida, and Texas. Dr. Melia is also a Licensed Professional Counselor with a special interest in grief and resilience. She holds an undergraduate degree from Oklahoma Baptist University, two master's degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a doctor of philosophy from B.H. Carroll Theological Institute.

Dr. Melia has spoken at national conferences such as ETCH Family Ministry Conference, D6 Family Ministry Conference, and the Children's Pastor's Conference. In addition, she is a frequent speaker for local churches and state conventions like Oklahoma, Texas, Georgia, Louisiana, and Missouri. Most recently, she contributed a chapter titled "The Role of Faith or Spirituality in a Child's Response to Loss" to the new book Bridging Theory and Practice in Children's Spirituality.

She is the proud parent of Nathan, Lexi, and Braden (ages 22, 20 and 18) and their family pet is a yellow lab named "Maggie".



## Dr. Shelly Melia

Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Ministry  
Dallas Baptist University

# Schedule

## FRIDAY

START	END	ACTIVITY
8:00 am		Registration Begins   Foyer
9:00 am	10:00 am	Session One
10:10 am	11:10 am	Session Two
11:20 am	12:20 pm	Session Three Blue Lunch   Great Hall
12:20 pm	1:20 pm	Session Four Red Lunch   Great Hall
1:30 pm	2:30 pm	Session Five
2:40 pm	3:40 pm	Session Six
3:50 pm	4:50 pm	Session Seven Keynote   Great Hall

## SATURDAY

START	END	ACTIVITY
8:00 am		Registration Begins   Foyer
9:00 am	10:00 am	Session Eight Keynote   Great Hall
10:10 am	11:10 am	Session Nine
11:20 am	12:20 pm	Session Ten Blue Lunch   Great Hall
12:20 pm	1:20 pm	Session Eleven Red Lunch   Great Hall
1:30 pm	2:30 pm	Session Twelve
2:40 pm	3:40 pm	Session Thirteen

# Breakout Session Descriptions by Focus Group & Leader

## KEYNOTE

**DR. SHELLY MELIA**

**GREAT HALL**

**Keynote 1: *Lions and Giants and Bears, Oh My! Equipping Children to Have a Resilient Faith***

The past twelve months have exposed a need for children's ministers to make sure they are equipping children in their ministries to have a resilient faith. What does a resilient faith look like? This session will explore 5 components of a resilient faith and give practical suggestions for incorporating the normalcy of struggle and the need for authenticity into your ministry to children and their families.

Core Competencies for Administrators: 5. Implementing a Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum and Environment: 5.1 Curriculum Design

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: 1. Child Growth and Development: 1.1 Child Development: Domains, Stages, and Milestones

**Keynote 2: *Generation Alpha: Who Are They and How Do We Teach Them?***

**GREAT HALL**

Have you stopped to consider how the children of Generation Alpha may be forever impacted and shaped by the world around them? Each generation has certain common life experiences that shape who they become and how they see the world. This session will focus on common themes and explore both strengths and weaknesses of Generation Alpha. Special attention will be given to thinking through how to best teach and reach them in our children's ministries.

Core Competencies for Administrators: 5. Implementing a Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum and Environment: 5.1 Curriculum Design

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: 1. Child Growth and Development: 1.1 Child Development: Domains, Stages, and Milestones

**Breakout 1: *Shepherding Children and Their Families through Grief***

**ROOM 107**

It is inevitable that children and their families in your ministries will experience grief and loss. Perhaps you will have an opportunity to walk closely alongside a child who is grieving or maybe you will need to equip and empower the child's parents to navigate loss with their child. Either way, you will want to have some tools in your toolbox to minister and shepherd effectively. This session will give you a glimpse of grief through the eyes of a child and give you specific ways to encourage and minister to the entire family.

Core Competencies for Administrators: 3. Human Resource Leadership and Development: 3.1 Personal and Professional Awareness

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: 1. Child Growth and Development: 1.2 Typical and Atypical Development

**Breakout 2: *AGILE Leadership***

**ROOM 107**

Ministry leaders have had to be AGILE in order to pivot during uncertain and ever-changing times. Dr. Shelly Melia—Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Ministry at Dallas Baptist University—will unpack 5 key components for AGILE leadership that will help you become more equipped in your approach to ministry leadership. This session will look back at lessons learned during COVID-19 and look ahead towards the future of ministry with special attention to local church ministry implications.

Core Competencies for Administrators: 3. Human Resource Leadership and Development: 3.1 Personal and Professional Awareness

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: Professionalism and Ethics (9.3)



**SARAH ARRAMBIDE**

**ROOM 215**

## ***Make and Take Bible Activities***

Participants will make games and activities they can use in Sunday School, Bible Drill, VBS, etc., and they will take them home.

Core Competencies for Administrators: 5. Implementing a Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum and Environment: 5.1 Curriculum Design

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: 3. Learning Environments, Planning Framework, Curriculum, and Standards: 3.2 Curriculum and Standards

**MARY ANN BRADBERRY**

**ROOM 114**

## ***Looking Beyond Behaviors: Are You Asking the Right Questions?***

When teachers (or parents) are asked about the difficulties of teaching children, the words “challenging behavior” are, more often than not, part of the conversation! Or how often is your response to a child’s behavior “What’s wrong with this child!” The fact is, we may not be asking the right questions to effectively determine the best response to a child’s behavior. This training offers insight into some of the reasons for children’s challenging behaviors and offers alternative questions to ask in order to better meet the spiritual and emotional needs of today’s children.

Core Competencies for Administrators: Implementing a Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum and Environment: (5.3)

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: Responsive Interactions and Guidance (2.2)

**RENEÉ BRADY**

**ROOM 236**

## ***Gospel Conversations with Kids***

Whether you are the senior leader or a volunteer in your ministry, gospel conversations with kids are our highest responsibility. In this session, we will talk about how to clearly present the Gospel to kids, key markers of understanding in making a salvation decision, walking with parents, and some red flags to look for in your conversations.

Core Competencies for Administrators: Implementing a Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum and Environment: 5.1 Curriculum Design

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: 3. Learning Environments, Planning Framework, Curriculum, and Standards: 3.2 Curriculum and Standards

**JONATHAN BROWN**

**ROOM 229**

## ***Mudpies, Fire, and Tug o’ War***

In this discussion we will discuss creative approaches to making Bible Story time memorable.

Core Competencies for Administrators: Implementing a Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum and Environment: 5.1 Curriculum Design

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: 3. Learning Environments, Planning Framework, Curriculum, and Standards: 3.2 Curriculum and Standards

**LYDIA BROWN**

**ROOM 229**

## ***Helping Children Manage Stress in Your Role as a Ministry Volunteer***

In the post-pandemic setting, as social activity resumes, stress from pandemic fears and a year of social changes is likely to present itself in children. Confirmation of this phenomenon is evidenced in current research. This session will review a selection of relevant studies and offer suggestions on helping children in the church setting who exhibit symptoms of stress or anxiety.

Core Competencies for Administrators: 3. Human Resource Leadership and Development: 3.1 Personal and Professional Awareness

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: 1. Child Growth and Development: 1.2 Typical and Atypical Development

**KIMBA CAMPBELL**

**ROOM 226**

## ***Levels of Biblical Learning***

As children grow, their understanding of foundational truths grow with them. We will discuss the Levels of Biblical Learning that cover 10 biblical concept areas that children and students can learn as they study God’s Word. The concept areas are presented through eight different age ranges, from infancy through high school, and reflect levels of understanding that follow how God designed children to learn.

Core Competencies for Administrators: 5. Implementing a Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum and Environment: 5.1 Curriculum Design

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: 3. Learning Environments, Planning Framework, Curriculum, and Standards: 3.2 Curriculum and Standards

**JOANNA JESPERSEN**

**ROOM 236**

## ***Gender Identity through the Lens of Scripture: A Biblical View of the Gender Identity Issue for Parents***

Parenting is hard enough without adding tough topics like gender identity and how to talk to our kids about it. We, as Christian parents, must be prepared when our kids begin asking questions about gender identity so we can provide them with God’s truth. In this session, we will unpack this current hot topic issue from the lens of God’s word.

Core Competencies for Administrators: 3. Human Resource Leadership and Development: 3.1 Personal and Professional Awareness

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: 1. Child Growth and Development: 1.2 Typical and Atypical Development

## CHILDREN CONT'D

**TEDYE SCHUEHLER**

**ROOM 221**

### ***KidsFaith***

This session will explore faith development in children and how to lead a child to Christ.

Core Competencies for Administrators: Implementing a Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum and Environment: (5.2)

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: Responsive Interactions and Guidance (2.2)

**BRONWYN STANLEY**

**ROOM 218**

### ***Winning with Bible Drill***

Bible Drill is completely adaptable and can work well in any ministry. Come be coached on how to win with Bible Drill in your church!

Core Competencies for Administrators: Implementing a Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum and Environment: (5.1)

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: Learning Environments, Planning Framework, Curriculum, and Standards (3.1)

**SHARON STRATMOEN**

**ROOM 113**

### ***How Kids Learn***

What makes a lesson great? Is it the teacher? The topic? The supplies? Or might it be the kids themselves? When you discover how kids learn best, every lesson becomes impactful and memorable. Explore Jesus' teaching, specifically the parable of the sower, to develop a more effective approach to leading kids. You'll discover how to help kids not just hear but truly understand God's Word. Plus, unlock secrets of the brain that lead to long-term memory.

Core Competencies for Administrators: Implementing a Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum and Environment (5.3); Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: 3.

Learning Environments, Planning Framework, Curriculum, and Standards: 3.1 Planning Framework: Environmental Design, Equipment, Materials, Routines, Schedules, and Learning Formats

## FAMILY MINISTRY

**JOANNA JESPERSEN**

**ROOM 236**

### ***Parent Toolbox: Effective Tools for Parenting God's Way***

What does God say about...our roles as parents/grandparents? Our children? Spiritual and practical matters? In this session, we will discuss some spiritual and practical tools for you to add to your "parent toolbox" as you strive to parent God's way!

Core Competencies for Administrators: 6. Instituting Family & Community-Centered Programming: 6.1 Positive Relationships with Families

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: 7. Families and Community Relationships: 7.2 Relationships with Children and Families

### ***Connecting Kids to Christ: A Training Module for Parents and Church Leaders***

In this session, we will talk about why connecting kids to Christ matters, how we as parents and church leaders can utilize various approaches to sharing the gospel with kids, and how the church can partner with parents and grandparents in helping to build a strong spiritual foundation for the kids in our lives.

Core Competencies for Administrators: 6. Instituting Family & Community-Centered Programming: 6.1 Positive Relationships with Families

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: 7. Families and Community Relationships: 7.2 Relationships with Children and Families

**CORY LIEBRUM**

**ROOM 107**

### ***Moving Them Out***

What happens when your kids move out of the children's ministry and into the student ministry? During this session we will explore why keeping the "End in Mind" is so important in thinking what's next beyond a child's involvement in preschool & children's ministry. This includes the church celebrating transitional periods in a child's life with the whole family as well as partnering with other ministries in the church like the youth and adult ministries.

Core Competencies for Administrators: 6. Instituting Family & Community-Centered Programming: 6.1 Positive Relationships with Families

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: 7. Families and Community Relationships: 7.2 Relationships with Children and Families

Core Competencies for Administrators: Implementing a Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum and Environment: (5.2) Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: Child Growth and Development (1.5)

**TEDYE SCHUEHLER**

**ROOM 221**

### ***Family Discipleship***

This session will discuss how to lead families by supporting time, moments, and milestones as children's leaders.

Core Competencies for Administrators: 6. Instituting Family & Community-Centered Programming: 6.1 Positive Relationships with Families

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: 7. Families and Community Relationships: 7.2 Relationships with Children and Families

# MINISTRY

**JONATHAN BROWN**

**ROOM 229**

## ***Creating a Safe and Secure Environment***

This session is a study of old practices and new security technologies that keep our children safe and the integrity of the ministry and workers intact.

Core Competencies for Administrators: 4. Maintaining a Healthy and Safe Environment: 4.3 Safety Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: 3.

Learning Environments, Planning Framework, Curriculum, and Standards: 3.1 Planning Framework: Environmental Design, Equipment, Materials, Routines, Schedules, and Learning Formats

**KIMBA CAMPBELL**

**ROOM 226**

## ***10 Attributes of an Unshakeable Kids Ministry***

We all know this has been a challenging year! It is so important for all ministries to evaluate their strategies in a changing world! We have identified 10 attributes to help you build your kids ministries on an unshakeable foundation! We will discuss these attributes and help you lead with confidence even in uncertain times.

Core Competencies for Administrators: Implementing a Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum and Environment (5.3); Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: 3.

Learning Environments, Planning Framework, Curriculum, and Standards: 3.1 Planning Framework: Environmental Design, Equipment, Materials, Routines, Schedules, and Learning Formats

**TEDYE SCHUEHLER**

**ROOM 221**

## ***Restoring Joy***

This session is a look at life experiences and a pathway to joy in children's ministry.

Core Competencies for Administrators: 3. Human Resource Leadership and Development: 3.1 Personal and Professional Awareness

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: Professionalism and Ethics (9.3)

**HEATHER SMITH**

**ROOM 232**

## ***Developing a Trauma-Informed Ministry***

People of all ages encounter trauma in life. Developing a Trauma-Informed Ministry means encountering children and their families in the hardest moments of life. Trauma affects more of us than we realize. This session explores practical ways to a mindset that considers and ministers to those affected by trauma.

Core Competencies for Administrators: Implementing a Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum and Environment: (5.5)

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: Learning Environments, Planning Framework, Curriculum, and Standards: (3.2)

## ***Maximize Your Efforts***

This session explores ways to organize your time and maximize your efforts. We will discuss prioritizing, scheduling, rhythms in ministry, enlisting others, and building mentoring relationships.

Core Competencies for Administrators: Establishing and Maintaining an Effective Organization: (2.1)

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: Professionalism and Ethics (9.3)

## ***Preventing Silos in Ministry***

This session will define the term "silo" in ministry. We will explore silos in the church, amongst staff, and in the family unit. This session also provides practical ways to prevent silos in ministry and to help families stay connected and avoid silos at home.

Core Competencies for Administrators: Establishing and Maintaining an Effective Organization: (2.1)

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: Professionalism and Ethics (9.3)

**BRONWYN STANLEY**

**ROOM 218**

## ***Bunk Beds, Bonfires, and Bibles!***

Camps and retreats are wonderful and memorable parts of Childhood Ministry, but they can be intimidating to plan and facilitate! Tips and ideas for doing camps and retreats will be shared and discussed.

Core Competencies for Administrators: Implementing a Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum and Environment: (5.5)

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: Learning Environments, Planning Framework, Curriculum, and Standards: (3.2)

## ***Making Your Presence Known!***

Does your church and community know about your Kids Ministry? How we present our ministries and message is vitally important - whether it is on social media and the internet, to the community, or even within your church building.

Come join the discussion and get practical ideas to refresh your publicity and promotion of your ministry!

Core Competencies for Administrators: Implementing a Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum and Environment: (5.5)

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: Learning Environments, Planning Framework, Curriculum, and Standards: (3.2)

## MISSIONS

SARAH ARRAMBIDE

ROOM 215

### ***Fun and Innovative Ways to Incorporate Missions in Your Children's Ministry***

Missions should be a vital part of every healthy Children's Ministry. Different mission opportunity ideas for reaching our communities will be shared.

Core Competencies for Administrators: Implementing a Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum and Environment: 5.1 Curriculum Design  
Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: 7. Families and Community Relationships: 7.5 Community Resources to Support Families

TERI USSERY

ROOM 233

### ***Creative Missions Discipleship for Kids***

Want to include missions discipleship in your existing children's ministry? Join us as we share creative ideas and practical resources to infuse missions discipleship into your current programs.

Core Competencies for Administrators: Implementing a Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum and Environment: 5.1 Curriculum Design  
Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: 7. Families and Community Relationships: 7.5 Community Resources to Support Families

### ***Equipping Families on Mission***

What better way to train the next generation of missions disciples than including the whole family in missions! Easy-to-use resources, creative ideas and engaging adventures provide great opportunities to encourage families to be on mission with the Great Commission!

Core Competencies for Administrators: 6.1. Instituting Family & Community-Centered Programming: 6.1 Positive Relationships with Families  
Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: 7. Families and Community Relationships: 7.5 Community Resources to Support Families

### ***Why Missions Discipleship?***

From preschoolers, to senior adults, the biblical mandate is clear. We are to make disciples who make disciples. Join us as we explore the challenge given in scripture alongside practical application for following the missions mandate to "go and make disciples."

Core Competencies for Administrators: 6.1. Instituting Family & Community-Centered Programming: 6.2 Community Collaborations  
Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: 7. Families and Community Relationships: 7.5 Community Resources to Support Families

## PRESCHOOL

MARY ANN BRADBERRY

ROOM 114

### ***Outside...A Whole New World***

Many children are no longer spending long, unstructured hours outdoors creating an appreciation and understanding of the creative hand of God. Come and join the discussion on why and how churches and weekday ministries can lead a movement to create opportunities for kids to get outside, explore nature, and nourish a sense of wonder and awe that can serve as a life-long source of joy and motivation for learning.

Core Competencies for Administrators: Implementing a Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum and Environment (5.3); Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: 3. Learning Environments, Planning Framework, Curriculum, and Standards: 3.1 Planning Framework: Environmental Design, Equipment, Materials, Routines, Schedules, and Learning Formats

### ***Simple...But Hard: Why Understanding Brain Development Is Important to the Health and Well-being of Young Children***

Every child is "fearfully and wonderfully" made with a one-of-a-kind brain that is shaped and wired by the experiences the child encounters. By understanding the basics of how God designed the brain to learn, we can respond and plan more effectively for meeting the needs of young children. Secure attachment to parents or a primary caregiver and its impact on the brain and mental, emotional, and spiritual development will be discussed.

Core Competencies for Administrators: Implementing a Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum and Environment (5.3);  
Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: Child Growth and Development (1.1)

MONICA HEALER

ROOM 115

### ***Please Forgive Me: Teaching the Practice of Forgiveness to Preschoolers***

Forgiveness is an important skill for all people to practice and learn. Even for adults, forgiveness is a very difficult concept to grasp. Let's talk about how we can begin to teach our young preschoolers about forgiveness in this session which will include some hands-on object lessons.

Core Competencies for Administrators: 5. Implementing a Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum and Environment: 5.2 Teaching Practices  
Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: 5. Observation and Assessment: 5.1 Observation, Assessment, and Documentation



## ***Sowing Seeds of Self-Control: Boys in the Classroom***

**ROOM 115**

Boys are loud, rough, and super active! In a preschool environment, they can be rambunctious and, sometimes, even destructive. In this session, we'll discuss some general characteristics of preschool boys and come away with practical ideas to nurture their hearts and provide what their bodies need so they can thrive and grow in the classroom.

Core Competencies for Administrators: Implementing a Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum and Environment: (5.3)

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: Responsive Interactions and Guidance (2.2)

## **VICKI REYNOLDS**

**ROOM 109**

## ***Creating and Maintaining the Learning Environment***

This presentation will include an explanation of the classroom environment and what that entails – the physical layout and design, equipment, materials and the general atmosphere of the room (paint, lighting, decorations, etc.). The options for equipping the various learning centers will be presented as well as tips on how to select furniture. The session will close with a detailed discussion on the proper manner to care for and maintain classroom furniture and equipment.

Core Competencies for Administrators: 4. Maintaining a Healthy and Safe Environment: 4.3 Safety

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: 3. Learning Environments, Planning Framework, Curriculum, and Standards: 3.1 Planning Framework: Environmental Design, Equipment, Materials, Routines, Schedules, and Learning Formats

## ***Let's Pretend: Dramatic Play in the Classroom***

The values of dramatic play will be presented in this workshop. The social, emotional, cognitive and physical benefits will be discussed. The teacher's role in encouraging and guiding dramatic play by setting the stage properly through the use of space, furniture, props and accessories will also be presented. Participants will be taught to observe and partner without taking over the play scenario. Additionally participants will be taught to encourage dramatic play in all areas of the children's environment. Dramatic play is wherever children use their imaginations to take on pretend roles – the block center, puppet center, sand & water table and even on the playground. The session will close with a discussion of ideas for setting the stage for dramatic play and a time of sharing of favorite dramatic play ideas.

Core Competencies for Administrators: Implementing a Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum and Environment (5.3);

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: 3. Learning Environments, Planning Framework, Curriculum, and Standards: 3.1 Planning Framework: Environmental Design, Equipment, Materials, Routines, Schedules, and Learning Formats

## ***Let's Play: The Values of Play***

Every aspect of a child's growth and development benefit from play. Children develop physically, cognitively, emotionally, and socially through play. Participants will view six 3 minute videos on art, block play, dramatic play, literacy, manipulative play and sensory play. The videos will show children learning through active play. A discussion will follow each video and participants will be encouraged to share their own unique, active play ideas.

Core Competencies for Administrators: Implementing a Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum and Environment (5.3);

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: 3. Learning Environments, Planning Framework, Curriculum, and Standards: 3.1 Planning Framework: Environmental Design, Equipment, Materials, Routines, Schedules, and Learning Formats

## **SHARON STRATMOEN**

**ROOM 113**

## ***Age-Level Insights for Spiritual Development in Early Childhood***

The first five years of a child's life are the most crucial when it comes to development. Researchers say that intellectual development is half over by age five. We'll explore how teaching the Bible to young children is a top priority for spiritual formation. You'll better understand the kids you serve and gain practical ideas for sharing Jesus in ways that connect perfectly with each child's physical, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual development.

Core Competencies for Administrators: Implementing a Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum and Environment (5.3);

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: 3. Learning Environments, Planning Framework, Curriculum, and Standards: 3.1 Planning Framework: Environmental Design, Equipment, Materials, Routines, Schedules, and Learning Formats

## SPECIAL NEEDS

PAULA DUNN

ROOM 313

### ***How to Start a Children's Special Needs Ministry***

In this session, the leader will share their experience of how God gave a vision and built a team to start a much needed ministry through their church to the community. She will share what an inclusive ministry looks like, resources and information on how to recruit a team.

Core Competencies for Administrators: Instituting Family & Community-Centered Programming: (6.1)

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: Observation and Assessment: (5.3)

### ***Let's Share About Special Needs Ministry***

This session will be a round table discussion where we can ask questions and glean from one another's experiences. If you don't currently have a Special Needs Ministry, you can come and dream BIG with others who want to start one, who have recently started one or who have years of experience in this ministry. This will be a great time for everyone to share how God is blessing and providing resources for these wonderful families in their community.

Core Competencies for Administrators: Instituting Family & Community-Centered Programming: (6.1)

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: Observation and Assessment: (5.3)

PEGGY LOCKHART

ROOM 313

### ***Special Needs Ministry for Teens and Adults***

In this session, the leader will share her experiences teaching special needs teens and adults in life group, VBS, and Special Friends Retreat. She will walk through a life group lesson along with her schedule and share her teaching materials from Lifeway.

Core Competencies for Administrators: Instituting Family & Community-Centered Programming: (6.1)

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: Observation and Assessment: (5.3)

## WEEKDAY

MONICA HEALER

ROOM 115

### ***Team Up! Building Church/Weekday Partnerships that Impact the Kingdom***

Many of today's young parents are choosing to forego weekend church attendance for various reasons. That doesn't mean they're not interested in faith for themselves and their children. When the faith-based early learning community and the local church partner together in ministry, the Kingdom benefits. This session includes research on current trends as well as practical tips for strengthening the relationship within ministry areas.

Core Competencies for Administrators: 6.1. Instituting Family & Community-Centered Programming: 6.2 Community Collaborations

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: 7. Families and Community Relationships: 7.5 Community Resources to Support Families

DEBBIE SMITH

ROOM 214

### ***Cheers for our Peers!***

Encouragement is a vital part of morale in every type of teaching environment, but it cannot be facilitated by ministry staff or weekday directors alone. In this session we will look at research-based, authentic appreciation, emphasizing practical and inexpensive ideas for weekday teachers and staff to empower and encourage their peers in order to help build a more positive work environment for everyone.

Core Competencies for Administrators: Human Resource Leadership and Development: (3.1)

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: Professionalism and Ethics: (9.3)

## WEEKDAY CONT'D

### Get It Done!

With the stress of budget restrictions, new regulations, and job responsibilities, it can seem overwhelming for the weekday director to try and get everything done while balancing life and work. In this session, we will look at a popular organizational system called GTD (Getting Things Done) and adapt it into a simple, easy to use method for getting all your tasks and ideas out of your head and into a manageable system, redefining how you approach your life and work to accomplish the many tasks you face each day, week, and year!

Core Competencies for Administrators: Human Resource Leadership and Development: (3.1)

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: Professionalism and Ethics: (9.3)

### Teacher Appreciation

The most effective leaders in any ministry or business are those who can encourage, empower, and build teams that work well together. With the different challenges and personalities in your workplace, a “one size fits all” approach is not always the best. In this session, geared specifically for Weekday Directors and Ministerial Leaders, we will look at how we can encourage the people in our programs through research-based, authentic teacher appreciation. Come and get practical, creative, fun, and inexpensive ideas that you can buy or make to encourage your teachers and staff throughout the year.

Core Competencies for Administrators: Human Resource Leadership and Development: (3.1)

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners: Professionalism and Ethics: (9.3)



## EARLY CHILDHOOD CHRISTIAN NETWORK

### CORE VALUES

- Excellence in Training
- Integrity in Actions
- Respect for Childhood
- Intentionality in Teaching Biblical Concepts
- Inspiration & Encouragement

- In-Person Conferences
- On-Demand Learning Library
- Leadership Academy
- Assessment Tools
- Networking Opportunities

### RESOURCES



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# breakout sessions by Schedule

# Friday

## 9:00-10:00 AM - SESSION 1

ROOM	LEADER	TOPIC
115	Monica Healer	Please Forgive Me: Teaching the Practice of Forgiveness to Preschoolers
214	Debbie Smith	Teacher Appreciation
215	Sarah Arrambide	Make and Take Bible Activities
218	Bronwyn Stanley	Winning with Bible Drill
226	Kimba Campbell	Levels of Biblical Learning
233	Teri Ussery	Creative Missions Discipleship for Kids

## 10:10-11:10 AM - SESSION 2

ROOM	LEADER	TITLE
Teaching Chapel	Vicki Reynolds	Creating and Maintaining the Learning Environment
113	Sharon Stratmoen	How Kids Learn
114	Mary Ann Bradberry	Outside...A Whole New World
115	Monica Healer	Team Up! Building Church/ Weekday Partnerships that Impact the Kingdom
218	Bronwyn Stanley	Bunk Beds, Bonfires, and Bibles!
221	Tedye Schuehler	KidsFaith
233	Teri Ussery	Equipping Families on Mission

## 11:20 AM-12:20 PM - SESSION 3 | BLUE LUNCH

ROOM	LEADER	TITLE
Teaching Chapel	Vicki Reynolds	Let's Pretend: Dramatic Play in the Classroom
107	Cory Liebrum	Moving Them Out
114	Mary Ann Bradberry	Looking Beyond Behaviors: Are You Asking the Right Questions?
229	Jonathan Brown	Creating a Safe and Secure Environment
313	Paula Dunn	How to Start a Children's Special Needs Ministry

## 12:20 PM-1:20 PM - SESSION 4 | RED LUNCH

ROOM	LEADER	TITLE
214	Debbie Smith	Cheers for Our Peers!
218	Bronwyn Stanley	Making Your Presence Known!
221	Tedye Schuehler	Family Discipleship
232	Heather Smith	Developing a Trauma-Informed Ministry
233	Teri Ussery	Why Missions Discipleship?

## 1:30 PM-2:30 PM - SESSION 5

ROOM	LEADER	TITLE
Teaching Chapel	Vicki Reynolds	Let's Play: The Values of Play
107	Dr. Shelly Melia	Shepherding Children and Their Families through Grief
113	Sharon Stratmoen	Age Level Insights for Spiritual Development in Early Childhood
115	Monica Healer	Sowing Seeds of Self-Control: Boys in the Classroom
215	Sarah Arrambide	Fun and Innovative Ways to Incorporate Missions in Your Children's Ministry
226	Kimba Campbell	10 Attributes of an Unshakable Kids Ministry
229	Jonathan Brown	Mudpies, Fire, and Tug o' War
232	Heather Smith	Preventing Silos in Ministry
236	Reneé Brady	Gospel Conversations with Kids
313	Peggy Lockhart	Special Needs Ministry for Teens and Adults

## 2:40 PM-3:40 PM - SESSION 6

ROOM	LEADER	TITLE
114	Mary Ann Bradberry	Simple...But Hard: Why Understanding Brain Development Is Important to the Health and Well-being of Young Children
214	Debbie Smith	Get It Done!
221	Tedye Schuehler	Restoring Joy
229	Lydia Brown	Helping Children Manage Stress in Your Role as a Ministry Volunteer
232	Heather Smith	Maximize Your Efforts
313	Peggy Lockhart/Paula Dunn	Let's Share about Special Needs Ministry

## 3:50 PM-4:50 PM - SESSION 7 | KEYNOTE

ROOM	LEADER	TITLE
Great Hall	Dr. Shelly Melia	Lions and Giants and Bears, Oh My! Equipping Children to Have a Resilient Faith



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# breakout sessions by Schedule

# Saturday

## 9:00 10:00 AM - SESSION 8 | KEYNOTE

ROOM	LEADER	TITLE
Great Hall	Dr. Shelly Melia	Generation Alpha: Who Are They and How Do We Teach Them?

## 10:10-11:10 AM - SESSION 9

ROOM	LEADER	TITLE
Teaching Chapel	Vicki Reynolds	Creating and Maintaining the Learning Environment
107	Cory Liebrum	Moving Them Out
113	Sharon Stratmoen	Age-Level Insights for Spiritual Development in Early Childhood
114	Mary Ann Bradberry	Simple...But Hard: Why Understanding Brain Development Is Important to the Health and Well-being of Young Children
115	Monica Healer	Sowing Seeds of Self-Control: Boys in the Classroom
214	Debbie Smith	Get It Done!
215	Sarah Arrambide	Fun and Innovative Ways to Incorporate Missions in Your Children's Ministry
218	Bronwyn Stanley	Making Your Presence Known!
226	Kimba Campbell	10 Attributes of an Unshakeable Kids Ministry
236	Joanna Jespersen	Parent Toolbox: Effective Tools for Parenting God's Way
313	Peggy Lockhart	Special Needs Ministry for Teens and Adults

## 11:20 AM-12:20 PM - SESSION 10 | BLUE LUNCH

ROOM	LEADER	TITLE
Teaching Chapel	Vicki Reynolds	Let's Play: The Values of Play
113	Sharon Stratmoen	How Kids Learn
114	Mary Ann Bradberry	Outside...A Whole New World
215	Sarah Arrambide	Make and Take Bible Activities
221	Tedye Schuehler	KidsFaith
226	Kimba Campbell	Levels of Biblical Learning
229	Lydia Brown	Helping Children Manage Stress in Your Role as a Ministry Volunteer

## 12:20-1:20 PM - SESSION II | RED LUNCH

ROOM	LEADER	TITLE
214	Debbie Smith	Teacher Appreciation
218	Bronwyn Stanley	Bunk Beds, Bonfires, and Bibles!
233	Teri Ussery	Why Missions Discipleship?
232	Heather Smith	Maximize Your Efforts
236	Joanna Jespersen	Connecting Kids to Christ: A Training Module for Parents and Church Leaders

## 1:30-2:30 PM - SESSION I2

ROOM	LEADER	TITLE
107	Dr. Shelly Melia	AGILE Leadership
109	Vicki Reynolds	Let's Pretend: Dramatic Play in the Classroom
114	Mary Ann Bradberry	Looking Beyond Behaviors: Are You Asking the Right Questions?
115	Monica Healer	Please Forgive Me: Teaching the Practice of Forgiveness to Preschoolers
214	Debbie Smith	Cheers for Our Peers!
218	Bronwyn Stanley	Winning with Bible Drill!
221	Tedye Schuehler	Restoring Joy
229	Jonathan Brown	Mudpies, Fire, and Tug o' War
232	Heather Smith	Preventing Silos in Ministry
233	Teri Ussery	Equipping Families on Mission
313	Paula Dunn	How to Start a Children's Special Needs Ministry

## 2:40-3:40 PM - SESSION I3

ROOM	LEADER	TITLE
115	Monica Healer	Team Up! Building Church/Weekday Partnerships that Impact the Kingdom
221	Tedye Schuehler	Family Discipleship
229	Jonathan Brown	Creating a Safe and Secure Environment
232	Heather Smith	Developing a Trauma-Informed Ministry
233	Teri Ussery	Creative Missions Discipleship for Kids
236	Joanna Jespersen	Gender Identity through the Lens of Scripture: A Biblical View of the Gender Identity Issue for Parents
313	Peggy Lockhart/Paula Dunn	Let's Share about Special Needs Ministry



# Speaker's Documented Criteria

## SARAH ARRAMBIDE

**Title** ► Children's Minister, First Baptist Church, Midland

**Education** ► B.S., Education, University of Texas of the Permian Basin

**Experience** ► 15 years in preschool & children's ministry

(Trainer Criteria (a.2) of Minimum Standard 746.1317)

## MARY ANN BRADBERRY

**Title** ► Speaker, Consultant, Trainer

**Education** ► Bachelor of Elementary Education, University of North Texas; Master of Early Childhood Education, University of North Texas

**Experience** ► 40+ years in the field of early education as a children's minister, author, speaker, curriculum writer and developer, and executive director of a non-profit organization

(Trainer Criteria (a.2) of Minimum Standard 746.1317)

## RENEÉ BRADY

**Title** ► Children's and Women's Pastor, First Baptist Church, Bryan

**Education** ► B.S., Texas A&M University, Early Child Education; M.A., Dallas Baptist University, Christian Education

**Experience** ► 13 years in preschool and children's ministry

(Trainer Criteria (a.2) of Minimum Standard 746.1317)

## JONATHAN BROWN

**Title** ► Minister of Children, FBC Temple

**Education** ► B.S., Wildlife Science, Utah State University; Master of Theology, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; Master of Christian Education, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

**Experience** ► 31 years' experience in Childhood Ministry

(Trainer Criteria (a.2) of Minimum Standard 746.1317)

## LYDIA BROWN

**Title** ► Licensed Professional Counselor

**Education** ► M.A., Counseling, Covenant Seminary; M.Div., Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

**Experience** ► 24 years counseling in a private practice setting

(Trainer Criteria (a.5) of Minimum Standard 746.1317)

## KIMBA CAMPBELL

**Title** ► Publishing Team Leader for Bible Studies for Life, LifeWay Christian Resources

**Education** ► M.A., Christian Ministry, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

**Experience** ► 18 years in preschool & children's ministry in Texas, Georgia, California, and Tennessee

(Trainer Criteria (a.2) of Minimum Standard 746.1317)

## PAULA DUNN

**Title** ► Children's Pastor, FBC Kaufman

**Experience** ► 35 years experience in Childhood Ministry

(Trainer Criteria (a.2) of Minimum Standard 746.1317)

## MONICA HEALER

**Title** ► Executive Director, Early Childhood Christian Network

**Education** ► B.B.A., Management Information Systems, Texas Tech University

**Experience** ► Broad range of experience in almost every level of early childhood education, from classroom teacher to administrator

(Trainer Criteria (a.5) of Minimum Standard 746.1317)

## JOANNA JESPERSEN

**Title** ► Minister to Children & Families, Shiloh Terrace Baptist Church, Dallas

**Education** ► B.S., Counseling, Howard Payne University; M.Div., Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; M.A., Family Ministry, Dallas Baptist University

**Experience** ► 20+ years of vocational ministry in collegiate ministry, women's ministry, children's ministry, and family ministry

(Trainer Criteria (a.2) of Minimum Standard 746.1317)

## CORY LIEBRUM

**Title** ► Youth & Family Ministry Specialist, Texas Baptists

**Education** ► B.A., Christian Studies, Howard Payne University; M.A., Professional Development, Dallas Baptist University

**Experience** ► 21+ years serving in youth and family ministry

(Trainer Criteria (a.2) of Minimum Standard 746.1317)

## PEGGY LOCKHART

**Title** ► Open Arms Life Group Director, Kingwood First Baptist Church

**Education** ► B.S., Special Education, University of Southern Mississippi; M. Ed., Special Education, University of Southern Mississippi

**Experience** ► Taught public school special education for 36 years; taught special needs Sunday School 19 years

(Trainer Criteria (a.2) of Minimum Standard 746.1317)

## SHELLY MELIA

**Title** ► Associate Dean, Graduate School of Ministry, Dallas Baptist University

**Education** ► B.A., Oklahoma Baptist University; M.A.R.E., Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; M.A. Counseling, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; Ph.D., BH Carroll Theological Institute

**Experience** ► Children's Ministry since 1990; Professor at DBU since 2014

(Trainer Criteria (a.2) of Minimum Standard 746.1317)

## VICKI REYNOLDS

**Title ►** President, Reynolds Manufacturing Corporation, Abilene

**Education ►** Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, McMurry University, 1978; Master of Science, Family Studies, Abilene Christian University, 1985

**Experience ►** Department director and Sunday School Teacher for kindergarten at Pioneer Drive Baptist church since 1985; Workshop presentations during the past 24 years include the following topics: parenting, woodworking with children, dramatic play in the classroom, creating and maintaining the work environment and maintaining the classroom environment

(Trainer Criteria (a.2) of Minimum Standard 746.1317)

## TEDYE SCHUEHLER

**Title ►** Children's Minister, First Baptist Church, Burleson

**Education ►** B.S. Texas Tech University

**Experience ►** Children's Minister since 1981; Author and Conference Leader of KidsFaith

(Trainer Criteria (a.5) of Minimum Standard 746.1317)

## DEBBIE SMITH

**Title ►** Former Weekday Director

**Education ►** B.S., Elementary Education, Ouachita Baptist University; M.A., Religious Education, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

**Experience ►** 30+ years serving in ministry as Minister of Youth & Activities and as a weekday director

(Trainer Criteria (a.2) of Minimum Standard 746.1317)

## HEATHER SMITH

**Title ►** Children's Minister, Taylor's Valley Baptist Church, Temple

**Education ►** B.S., Interdisciplinary Studies, West Texas A&M; Advanced Certificate of Ministry, Truett Seminary; Childhood Ministry Certification, Texas Baptists

**Experience ►** 14 years in children's ministry

(Trainer Criteria (a.2) of Minimum Standard 746.1317)

## BRONWYN STANLEY

**Title ►** Minister to Children, FBC College Station

**Education ►** B.A., Psychology and Religion, Baylor University; M.A., Religious Education, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

**Experience ►** 27 years experience in Childhood Ministry

(Trainer Criteria (a.2) of Minimum Standard 746.1317)

## SHARON STRATMOEN

**Title ►** Preschool Pastor, Rockpoint Church, Lake Elmo, MN; Events Developer, Group Publishing

**Education ►** B.A., Religion & Fine Arts, St. Olaf College

**Experience ►** 30 years as a writer/trainer for Group VBS; Preschool Pastor

(Trainer Criteria (a.2) of Minimum Standard 746.1317)

## TERI USSERY

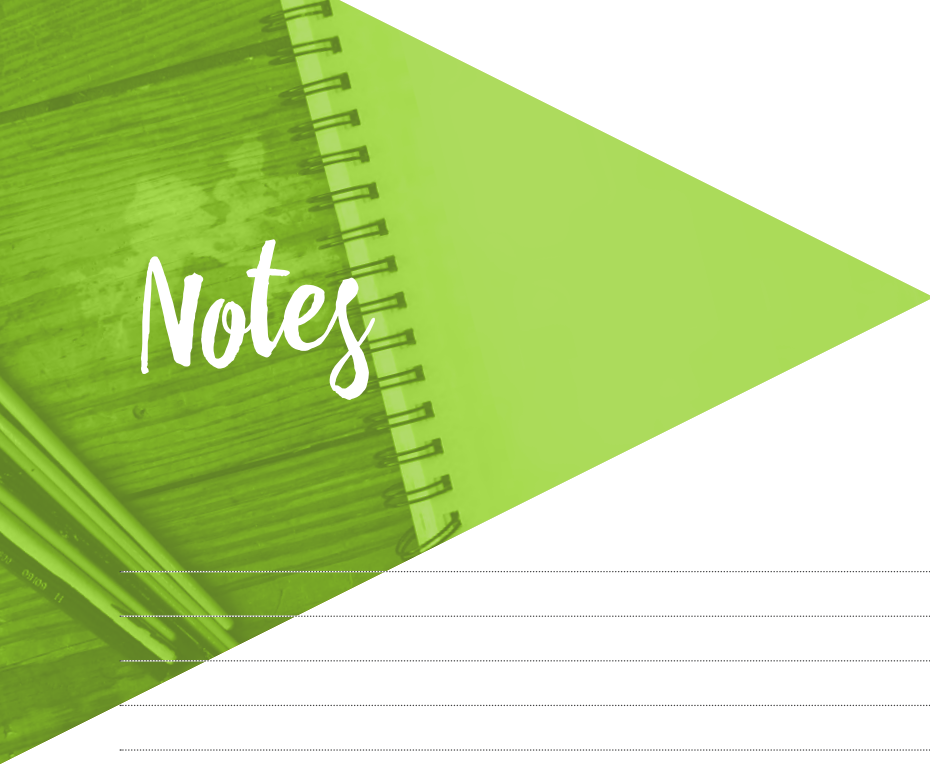
**Title ►** Age-level Strategist, WMU of Texas

**Education ►** B.A., Music Education, Texas Tech University; M.A., Theology, Dallas Baptist University

**Experience ►** Public and Private School Educator (Elementary music, Bible classes for middle school, middle school choir); Bible study teacher; conference leader; leadership training/team building facilitator; pastoral counseling for blended families through personally-founded non-profit; professional with WMU of Texas; minister's wife; women's ministry leader; worship leader; Certified Life Coach (International Coaching Federation); Ministry Insights Level I Certified Trainer

(Trainer Criteria (a.2) of Minimum Standard 746.1317)





# Notes

