ABOUT TFC’S FALL SYMPOSIUM

The Family Conservancy’s Early Childhood Fall Symposium is the Kansas City area’s premier early education professional development conference. The event provides practical tools and valuable information from exceptional speakers and specialists in the early childhood field.

Not everyone can make the leadership decisions at your program or school, but we can all learn to be leaders for children. This year’s conference will offer 14 trainings and a keynote presentation, with an emphasis on supporting leadership at all levels and creating environments where children thrive.

What You Need to Know
- Location: University of Kansas Edwards Campus, BEST Conference Center – 12600 S Osuivra Rd, Overland Park, KS 66213.
- Registration Fee: $75
- Pre-registration is required. Register at www.tfcck.org/fall-symposium or with the attached form.
- Attendees will receive 5 clock hours (approved in Kansas and Missouri).
- Confirmation will not be mailed. Include your email to receive a confirmation.
- The conference will not be able to accommodate children under the age of 17.
- Breakfast and lunch is included with your registration fee.
- Questions? Contact Leanne Hilligas at 913.742.4113 or lhilligas@tfckc.org.

KEYNOTE

Servant leaders focus on the growth and well-being of people, and the communities to which they belong. They share power, put the needs of others first, and help people develop and perform at a high level. The keynote presentation will focus on embracing servant leadership practices in early education by growing leaders, sharing power and serving others.

About Keynote Speaker Vicki Clark
Vicki Floyd Clark has devoted the past 30 years of her life to building capacity in organizations and inspiring community and business leaders. A noted speaker, facilitator, consultant and trainer, she has extensive experience in the nonprofit, government and private sectors. Her work includes numerous specialty areas; board development, inclusion and diversity, leadership development, strategic planning, project management, membership engagement, volunteer resource development, and effective communication.

MORNING SESSIONS

A.M. 1 The 12 Principles of Servant Leadership – Vicki Clark
Servant Leadership is a philosophy and set of practices that enriches the lives of individuals, builds better organizations, and ultimately creates a more just and caring world! This session will delve deeper to focus on Robert Greenleaf’s 12 Principles of Servant Leadership and provides information to help attendees more effectively engage families and other partners.

A.M. 2 STEAM in the Infant and Toddler Environment – Susan Owens
This session explores ways to incorporate science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) with infants and toddlers. The context of STEAM is about our interactive language used with the child and the environment we set up to encourage the child to broaden their knowledge of STEAM elements in their classroom environment.

A.M. 3 Identifying and Serving Homeless Children and Youth – Melissa Douglas
What is homelessness? What are the subtle cues that suggest a student/family is experiencing homelessness? Find out the definition of homelessness and the rights and needs of children and families experiencing homelessness, according to the McKinney-Vento Act. Throughout this session, participants will understand, identify, and implement best practices when working with homeless children and families.

A.M. 4 Brain Development: There’s not an app for that! – Heather Waterfield
Pads, Computers, TVs, Smartphones - 21st century ways of occupying children through the ever-evolving technology. Explore the appropriate use of technology, the effects of screen time on the brain, and the resources and alternatives to reduce screen time usage.

A.M. 5 The Pedagogy of Play - Using Inquiry as a Learning Tool – Nancy Heathman
Engaging in play/imaginative, provocations and inquiry to promote creative thinking allows adults and children to test new ideas. This session will explore how leaders can create an adult learning environment that supports playful learning for children.

A.M. 6 Sharing the Power with Families - Diana Martinez and Gail McClure
Family engagement has cumulative benefits, not just for the child in the classroom but for the family, parents, and grandparents involved in the child’s life. This session will explore family engagement as an ongoing and intentional process, based on positive relationships with parents that support children’s health development, school readiness, and better outcomes for the whole family.

A.M. 7 Supporting Initiative and Leadership with Preschoolers – Shari Williams
It is important for all leaders to help students develop initiative, leadership and autonomy. Because young children who develop a positive disposition toward learning and an openness to new challenges, will carry these attitudes into their school years and throughout their lives. Participants will become familiar with teaching strategies that support initiative and leadership in the classroom.

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

P.M. 1 Optimistic Leadership in Early Education – Nancy Heathman
To nurture the genius in children we must nurture the genius in adults. Imagine if everyone in an early learning setting embraced their roles as leaders committed to working together to enhance children’s opportunities to be successful learners? This session will take a look at how educators, regardless of title or role, assume a leadership stance for children.

P.M. 2 Getting Loopy-Gooey with Infants and Toddlers – Marsha Ward
Loose parts, small parts, open ended materials, they are all materials that promote and support different areas of child development. When you leave this session, you will have the tools and knowledge to implement open-ended materials in your infant or toddler classroom.

P.M. 3 Building Resilience with Sesame Street in Communities – Mary Williams and SSIC
Providing love and support through everyday challenges is the first and most important step in helping kids develop the confidence to overcome anything they face. Participants will explore and use tools and resources offered through Sesame Street in Communities to help families and children cope with life’s challenges.

P.M. 4 Map it Out: Spatial Awareness in Early Care and Education – Kelly Carroll
Spatial awareness is an organized knowledge of objects in relation to oneself in that given space. What a better way to teach this than to use maps? In this session, we will look at spatial awareness as a developmental domain and explore concepts and relationships taught within early education.

P.M. 5 Male Influence in Early Childhood Education – Langston Jones and Heather Waterfield
Grandfathers, fathers, step-fathers, uncles and other positive male role-models play important roles in early childhood education. In this session, we will explore how to build strategies to engage men in the early childhood education programs.

P.M. 6 Working with Children of All Disabilities – Jenna Bodensteiner
Working with children who have differing abilities can be a challenge in the classroom without the right tools. In this session, we will expand and challenge your thinking to create an inclusive learning environment and experience for everyone.

P.M. 7 Empowering Children in a Stressful World – Pam Rafferty
The world in which we live is stressful, and children need the skills to help cope with a stressful world. Throughout this presentation we will discuss strategies to empower children who face difficulties in their early years that teacher’s can use to help children handle challenging situations, from everyday stressors to traumatic events in their lives.