

ECC Communities of Practice #4 Agenda

Date: Thursday, May 15, 2025

Time: 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM CDT

Location: Hybrid (Zoom & P&J Tender Care Moline)

Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88108268122?pwd=jEz29HENa418SE9ea57xY4MlscZmob.1>

Topic/objective: Children's Play, Learning Schemas, and Relationships. We're getting together to dig into how kids learn through play, the patterns they develop (schemas), and how all of that ties into their relationships.

[Reflective questions for discussion & breakout rooms](#)

[Slides](#)

Agenda:

- **(6:00 – 6:10 PM) Welcome:** Quick intro and warmup activity (breakout 1)
- **(6:10 – 6:15 PM) Key Ideas:** Brief overview of learning through play, schemas, and relationships (referencing provided material).
- **(6:15 – 6:18 PM) Breakout Groups intro:** Instructions for small group discussions using provided prompts.
- **(6:18 – 6:43 PM) Small Group Chat (25 min):** Discuss selected prompts in breakout rooms. Choose a sharer.
- **(6:43 – 6:55 PM) Share Out (12 min):** Each group shares 1–2 key takeaways.
- **(6:55 – 7:00 PM) Wrap Up (5 min):** Final thoughts, next steps, and thank you. [Survey](#)

RESOURCES:

Children's Play

- [**The Power of Play \(NAEYC – National Association for the Education of Young Children\):**](#) The NAEYC offers numerous articles, position statements, and resources on the importance of play for the development of young children. While some resources may be exclusive to members, many are freely accessible.
- [**Play Scotland:**](#) This organization advocates for children's right to play and offers resources, research, and policy information.
- [**The LEGO Foundation:**](#) While primarily focused on LEGO products, the organization conducts extensive research and promotes learning through play. Their website offers a wealth of reports, articles, and insights into the role of play in development.
- [**The Playwork Foundation:**](#) This UK-based organization focuses on playwork principles and provides information on creating effective play environments.
 - *Website:* Check their "Resources" or "About Playwork" sections.
- [**Zero to Three:**](#) This organization focuses on the development of infants and toddlers, providing numerous resources on early play experiences and their impact.

Learning Schemas

- [**Aistear Siolta \(National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, Ireland\):**](#) They have an excellent, free PDF resource specifically on "Children's Schemas" that explains them clearly and provides activity ideas.

- **[Family Blog](#)**: Their blog often has insightful articles on early childhood education, including discussions of play schemas with practical examples.
- **[The Empowered Educator Online](#)**: This website offers guides and articles for educators, including a beginner's guide to children's schemas.
- **[The Curiosity Approach](#)**: This approach to early years education heavily incorporates schematic play. Their blog features articles that explain their philosophy and how they support schematic learning.
- **[Tinkergarten](#)**: While they offer paid programs, their blog and resources often provide free information about developmental behaviors and schemas.

Relationships

- **[Zero to Three](#)**: As mentioned above, Zero to Three has a strong focus on relationships as the foundation of early development. They offer numerous resources on attachment, responsive caregiving, and building secure relationships.
- **[Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework \(ELOF\) – Building Partnerships](#)**: This framework, developed by Head Start (US Department of Health and Human Services), emphasizes the importance of relationships among educators, families, and children. They offer guides and tools to help build strong partnerships.
- **[The Kids Mental Health Foundation](#)**: They offer resources on the importance of relationships for children's mental health and well-being.
- **[National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations \(NCPMI\)](#)**: NCPMI focuses on promoting social-emotional development and preventing challenging behavior in young children. Their resources often highlight the crucial role of positive relationships.

- [UConn UCEDD – Early Childhood Toolbox](#): This toolbox provides monthly e-newsletters featuring resources for early childhood professionals, often focusing on social-emotional development and relationships.
- [Lillio Blog](#): Their blog, geared towards early childhood professionals, often features articles on strategies for fostering positive relationships with children.

Tips for sharing resources and information:

- **Start with definitions:** Ensure everyone has a shared understanding of what "play," "schemas," and "relationships" mean in the context of early childhood.
- **Watch and observe:** Encourage your group to observe children playing and try to identify examples of schemas in action, as well as how relationships are being built.
- **Discuss practical applications:** After exploring the resources, brainstorm how this knowledge can be applied in real-life settings, whether at home, in a classroom, or in a community program.
- **Share personal experiences:** Create a safe space for group members to share their own experiences and observations related to these topics.