

# South Carolina Association of Early Care and Education

## 37th Annual Conference

Saturday, February 28, 2026

The Medallion Center, 7309 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, SC 29209

### Conference Schedule

Block I	8:00 am – 8:30 am	Registration
Block II	8:30 am – 9:45 am	Keynote
Block III	10:00 am – 11:30 am	4 Workshops offered
	11:45 am – 12:45 pm	Bloodborne Pathogens
		Group One Lunch
		Group Two 3 Workshops offered
Block IV	12:55 pm – 1:55 pm	Group Two Lunch
		Group One 3 Workshops offered
Block V	2:05 pm – 3:35 pm	4 Workshops offered
Block V I	3:45 pm – 4:00 pm	Turn in conference attendance forms & door prizes

### Training Hours Saturday, February 28, 2026

#### Block I Keynote 8:30 – 9:45

##### **1. Best Day Ever-The Art & Science of Creating Unforgettable Learning Experiences (1.25 Curriculum Activities)**

Salon A

**Steve Spangler**

Using the "art and science" of creating engaging and memorable learning experiences to spark student curiosity and critical thinking. He shares practical strategies and entertaining demonstrations to help educators transform classrooms into environments where students are eager to learn, focusing on the principles behind creating moments of high engagement that go beyond the curriculum

#### Block II 10:00 – 11:30 Breakout Sessions

##### **2. Neuroscience Behind Using Music to Enhance Language Acquisition in Infants (1.5 Child Growth & Development) (Infant, Early Childhood)**

Salon A

**Consuello Cater**

Participants will learn how music can promote spoken language, dual language learning, receptive language, and phonemic awareness and how planned lessons supports these efforts in intentionally teaching to enhance language acquisition for the infants and toddlers in their care.

##### **3. Empowering Families: A Parent's Guide to Understanding and Navigating IEPs (1.5 Special Needs) (Early Childhood, School Age, Youth Development)**

Salon B

This interactive session equips early childhood educators with tools to better support families in navigating the IEP process. Participants will learn practical strategies to simplify special education language, strengthen parent partnerships, and empower families to advocate for their child's success.

##### **4. Creative Foundations: Engaging Art Activities for Young Learners (1.5 Curriculum Activities) (Early Childhood, School Age)**

Salon C

**Stephanie Nix**

This hands-on session will explore the developmental benefits of art for young learners, with a focus on both early childhood and school-age children. Participants will engage in practical, age-appropriate art activities and leave with strategies for designing inclusive, creative lessons that promote cognitive, motor, and emotional growth in diverse classrooms.

##### **5. Raising the Bar: Professional Standards for Early Educators (1.5 Professional Development) (Infant, Early Childhood, School Age, Youth Development, Business)**

Broad

**Kathryn Barrett**  
As director of your child care program it presents you with many responsibilities with one being providing quality child care services to families and children. During this session we will explore how to use your ABC Quality Assessment, resources and supports to improve your program's quality. We will discuss techniques, tools, and resources to support program's for continuous quality improvement.

## Block III 11:45 – 12:45

### Group One Breaks for Lunch / Group Two Attends Choice of 3 Breakout Sessions:

#### 6. Bloodborne Pathogens (1.0 Health & Safety) (Infant, Early Childhood, School Age, Youth Development)

**Vivian Agurs**

**Salon A**

This course teaches employees how to protect themselves and others from being exposed to blood or blood-containing material. The course is designed to meet OSHA requirements for Blood Borne pathogens training.

#### 7. South Carolina Farm to School Program (1.0 Nutrition) (School Age, Youth Development)

**Benjamin Sease**

**Salon B**

Learn how to incorporate agriculture and nutrition education at your center. The SC Farm to School program will share resources to help you start a garden and/or provide hands on educational opportunities for your children.

#### 8. Move & Groove: Strategies for Promoting MOVEMENT in the Classroom (1.0 Curriculum Activities) (ABC Physical Activity) (Early Childhood)

**Dr. Tim & Rebecca Bott**

**Salon C**

In this engaging session, early childhood educators will discover why physical activity is critical in the early years. Participants will leave with simple strategies, fresh activity ideas and the confidence to create an active learning environment where children can thrive!

#### 9. Legislative Update (1.0 Professional Development) (Business)

**Jeff Thordahl**

**Broad**

Update on new legislative activities and regulations for licensed child care. (1.0 Program Administration) (Business)

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## Block IV 12:55 – 1:55

### Group Two Breaks for Lunch / Group One Attends Choice of 3 Breakout Sessions:

#### 10. Bloodborne Pathogens (1.0 Health & Safety) (Infant, Early Childhood, School Age, Youth Development)

**Vivian Agurs**

**Salon A**

This course teaches employees how to protect themselves and others from being exposed to blood or blood-containing material. The course is designed to meet OSHA requirements for Blood Borne pathogens training.

#### 11. How to Approach Biting Behaviors in Toddler Classrooms (1.0 Child Guidance) (Infant, Early Childhood)

**Jennifer Schildmeier**

**Salon B**

This session will help toddler teachers examine why biting behaviors may occur, develop age-appropriate response if a bite occurs, and then plan for ways to prevent biting from happening in the future.

#### 12. Move & Groove: Strategies for Promoting MOVEMENT in the Classroom (1.0 Curriculum Activities) (ABC Physical Activity) (Early Childhood)

**Dr. Tim & Rebecca Bott**

**Salon C**

In this engaging session, early childhood educators will discover why physical activity is critical in the early years. Participants will leave with simple strategies, fresh activity ideas and the confidence to create an active learning environment where children can thrive!

#### 13. TBD) (Business)

**Kathe Petchel**

**Broad**

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## Block V 2:05 – 3:35 Breakout Sessions

### 14. Unlocking the Human Potential: A Roadmap for Developing Maturity (1.5 Child Guidance) (Infant, Early Childhood, School Age, Youth Development)

**Carol Vinzant**

**Salon A**

Maturity is attractive to everyone, yet few know how to articulate it or how it is achieved. In this session, we will overview the five stages of maturity throughout the life span. The emphasis will be on the first four years of life and how these years are foundational for life-long maturity.

### 15. Becoming the Beast: Encouraging Dramatic Play to Foster Empathy (1.5 Curriculum Activities) (Early Childhood)

**Amanda Segura**

**Salon B**

Discover techniques for kids to explore their natural surroundings through pretend play, by immersing themselves into the lives of plants and animals. This workshop will demonstrate interactive ways to foster empathy while learning through play.

### 16. What to do When You Don't Understand What a Child Says: Tips from a speech therapist (1.5 Special Needs) (Early Childhood)

**Kelly Goldberg**

**Salon C**

It can be frustrating for both you and a child when you don't understand what they said. This training provides information on speech sound development from 1-6 years old so you know what sounds a child should be saying and when. You will leave the training with easy to use strategies that support speech development and respond in ways that reduces frustrations and encourages communication.

### 17. Trauma-Informed Care & Disaster Preparedness for ECE Providers (1.5 Professional Development) (Business)

**Ashley Nelson**

**Broad**

This session highlights the Hurricane Preparedness Project, an initiative designed to support early care professionals and caregivers impacted by natural disasters through trauma-informed practices and collaborative supports. Participants will explore how trauma-informed care can be applied before, during, and after hurricanes to promote emotional safety, stability, and resilience for young children and the adults who care for them. The session will emphasize practical strategies for preparedness, response, and recovery, and how connected systems of support can strengthen early childhood environments during times of crisis.

## Block VI 3:45 – 4:00 Closing and Door Prizes

