

FOURTEENTH  ANNUAL
READINESS SUMMIT

The power of
**JOY &
BELONGING**

Friday, March 3, 2023

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Sinclair College

preschool  PROMISE

Dayton & Montgomery County, Ohio

Welcome to the 14TH ANNUAL READINESS SUMMIT!

We're so happy to be meeting in person once again, to continue our community's efforts to give all of our youngest children the opportunity to succeed. Our theme this year, *The Power of Joy and Belonging*, is fitting in the wake of the disruptions of the past three years. But it also reminds us of what connects all of us – our children, educators, families, administrators, community, political and business leaders. When we know we are part of something larger – a family, a school, a community – we have a foundation on which to build successful lives. We hope that today you feel as welcome as you are!



Robyn Lightcap, Executive Director
Preschool Promise



Cradle-to-Career: Two Key Partners



Dayton & Montgomery County, Ohio

Preschool Promise, Inc., is a nonprofit with the vision that every child in Montgomery County, Ohio, is ready for Kindergarten. With core support from the City of Dayton and Montgomery County, Preschool Promise focuses on the early years, from birth to age 5. We want all children to have at least one year of high quality, affordable Preschool, and we offer sliding-scale tuition assistance at our more than 100

partner Preschools. We are working to improve the quality of Preschools by offering evidence-based professional development with a special focus on promoting equity and elevating Black boys. We are also committed to supporting teachers in earning degrees and credentials, debt-free, and to advocating for increased wages for those in the early childhood field. And we are increasing our efforts to support pregnant women and new moms by elevating home visiting.



Learn to Earn Dayton

Preschool Promise works closely with our partner, **Learn to Earn Dayton**, to create a strong pathway for children to succeed from birth to college and career. Learn to Earn Dayton is part of the Strive Together network of communities using a cross-sector, collective impact approach to transform systems and eliminate disparities to ensure that every child succeeds. Learn to Earn Dayton was recently awarded the "Systems Transformation" designation from Strive Together, indicating the highest level of progress in shifting policies, practices and resources to improve outcomes for all students.

7:00 a.m. Registration & Breakfast Buffet

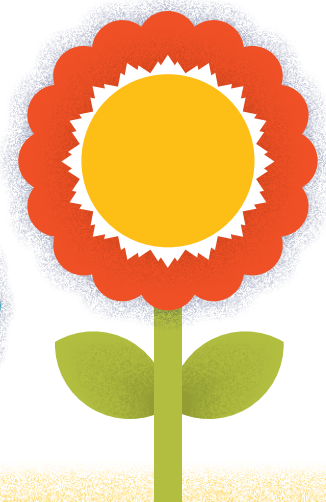
8:00 a.m.	“Joyful”	Treonte King, Vocalist Deron Bell, Music Director
	Welcome	Robyn Lightcap, Executive Director Preschool Promise
	From Cradle to Career	Stacy Wall Schweikhart, CEO Learn to Earn Dayton
	Video: The Power of Joy & Belonging	B2 Studios and Ellen Belcher
	It Takes All of Us	Dr. Laura Blessing, Superintendent Miamisburg City Schools
	Our Long-Standing Commitment to Early Learning	Debbie Lieberman, President Montgomery County Commission
	Video: Belonging Matters – To All of Us	B2 Studios and Ellen Belcher
	Introduction of our Keynote Speaker	Jeffrey J. Mims Jr., Mayor, City of Dayton
	Toward Joyful Liberation: How to Lead for Equity in Early Childhood	Takiema Bunche Smith, Founder Anahsa Consulting
	Coming Next	Robyn Lightcap

9:45 a.m. Break

10:00 a.m. Breakouts, Round 1

10:50 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m. Breakouts, Round 2



Keynote Speaker: Takiema Bunche Smith



Takiema Bunche Smith has worked as an executive leader, adviser, coach, writer and educator for more than 20 years. Her mission is to support individuals to understand their capacity to create change in organizations and systems at the intersections of research, policy and practice. She guides leaders and educators to understand and commit to a life of anti-oppression and racial equity work, with a focus on joy and connection. Takiema has written and implemented transformative curricula and learning experiences about culturally and racially responsive practices and leadership, child and adult identity development, centering joy and agency, arts as a vehicle for healing and social change, and eradicating anti-Blackness in education.

The mother of a 17-year-old, Takiema is the founder of Anahsa Consulting and has been an educator of young children and teacher-education students, director of content for Sesame Street and executive director at the Center on Culture, Race and Equity at Bank Street College. She holds master's degrees in early childhood and elementary education; urban education policy; and leadership and management. To learn more, visit <https://www.anahsa.com/>.

Little Libraries: Thank You for your Contribution

We have asked Summit participants this year to contribute books for our new "little libraries," to be placed at Play on Purpose (POP) spots in Montgomery County. POP spots, scattered around the county, are places and spaces that encourage learning for young children through imaginative play.



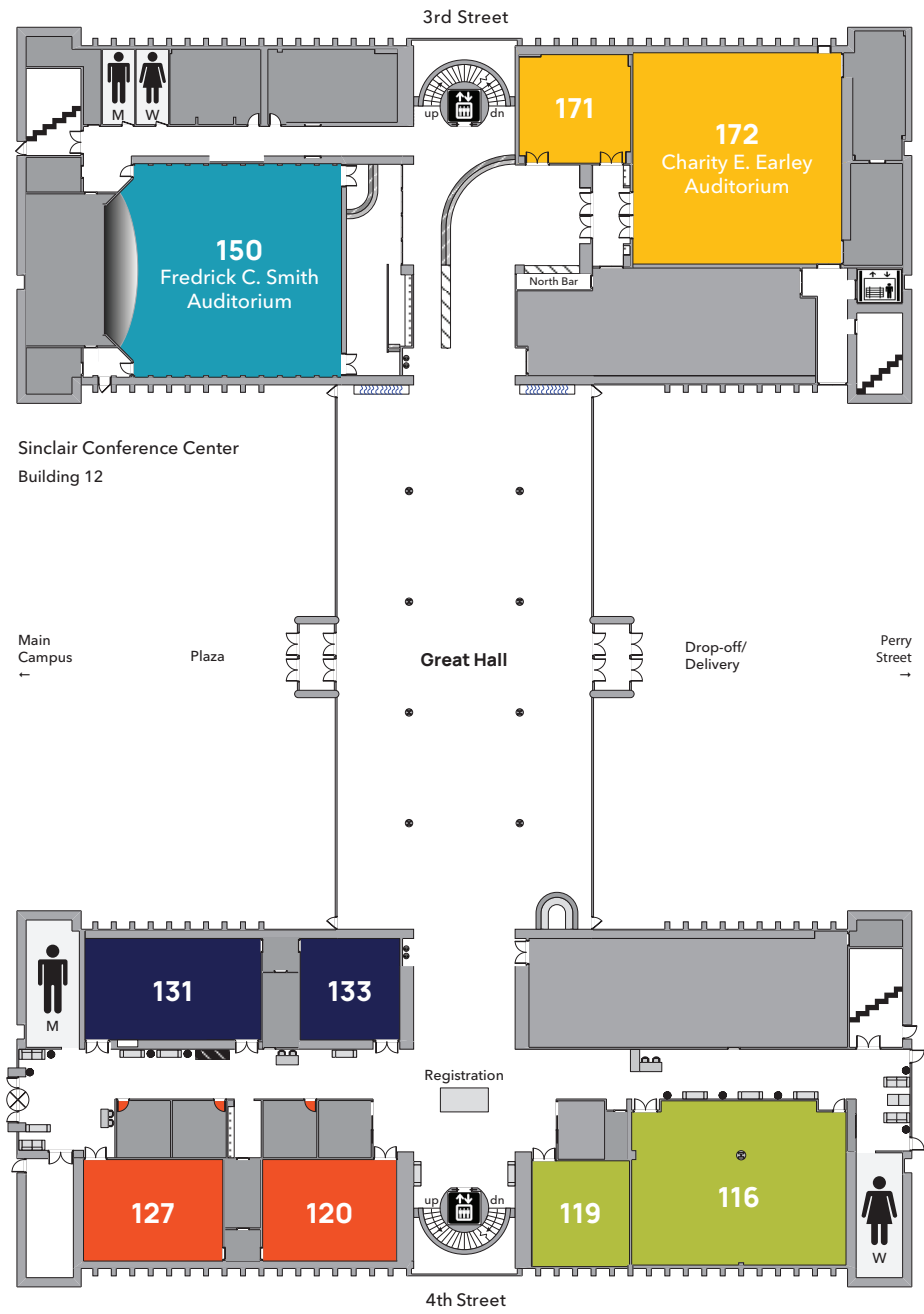
The little libraries will be housed in upcycled newspaper boxes donated by the *Dayton Daily News* and will hold books for young children. The books are free to take or exchange. Our goal is to partner with local businesses to maintain the boxes, while Preschool Promise will continue to contribute books and learning materials. If you can help with additional contributions or partnerships, please contact jen.brauer@preschoolpromise.org. A map of POP spots can be found at <https://www.preschoolpromise.org/popspotmap>

Lakeshore[®]

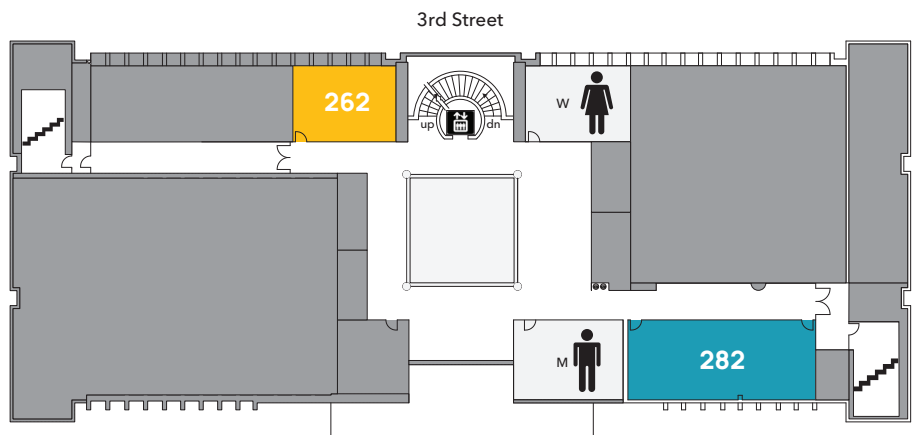
Thank you to Lakeshore Learning for their generous support in the form of a \$500 shopping spree for one lucky book donor!

FACILITY MAP

First Floor



Second Floor



BREAKOUT QUICK GUIDE

Below is a quick-reference to the breakouts and their locations.

1 Breakout offered ROUND 1

2 Breakout offered ROUND 2

Breakout	Facilitator(s)	Round/Room
A Q&A: Joy and Belonging	Takiema Bunche Smith	1 150
B Joyful Connections: Using Conscious Discipline to Release Your “Joy Juice” and Connect with Others	Anita Craighead and Hertia Mims, Preschool Promise	1 2 120
C Bringing the Joy Back to the Classroom	Mindy Cline and Amy Allen, Centerville City Schools	1 2 133
D Connect Before You Correct: Creating A Sense of Belonging	Josie Muterspaw, Jessica Davies, Jeremy Joseph and Jackie Renegado, Montgomery County Educational Service Center	1 2 127
E Building HOPE from Positive Experiences	Grace Schoessow and Kayla Hairston, Greene County Educational Service Center	1 2 116
F When Will Children Of Color Be Well? Interrupting Violence and Centering Revolutionary Love in Early Childhood Classrooms	Nathaniel Bryan, Miami University	1 2 172
G Creating a Village of Joyful and Proficient Readers	Maya Dorsey, Erika Pimentel, Jane McGee-Rafal and Sandra K. Collie, Learn to Earn Dayton	1 282

1 Breakout offered **ROUND 1**
2 Breakout offered **ROUND 2**

Breakout	Facilitator(s)	Round/Room
H Making Education a Place of Joy and Belonging for Black Boys	Christopher James, Preschool Promise, and Trey Clements, Sinclair College	1 2 171
I Discover YOUR Joy	Lindsey DiBlasi, Preschool Promise and Erica Bohannon, 4C for Children / Preschool Promise	2 282
J Using Nature's Teaching and Care Resources	Douglas Horvath, Five Rivers MetroParks	1 119
K Reimagining Music with Technology	Deron Bell and Daniel A. Cook, My Music Education	2 150
L Using Books to Create a Sense of Joy and Belonging	Amber Cristofaro, Dayton Metro Library	2 119
M Yoga and Mindfulness	Carrie Taylor, Libby Wagner, Mindy Nickles and Kelly Schumann, Greene County Educational Service Center	2 131
N Generating JOY Through Fun and Connection	Lindsay Green, Linda Richmond, and Lillian McCree, Greene County Educational Service Center	1 131
O Meaningful Moments: Finding Joy and Playing on Purpose with Infants and Toddlers	Amy Kronberg, Preschool Promise/ University of Dayton	1 2 262

A Q&A: Joy and Belonging

1 ROOM 150

Takiema Bunche Smith, Founder, Anahsa Consulting



Engage in a question and answer session with keynote speaker Takiema Bunche Smith to go deeper into how leaders can create early childhood environments and systems that are inclusive, equitable and welcoming for students and adults of all identities. Discuss the inevitable challenges of doing this work, and brainstorm some solutions while in community with other leaders.

B Joyful Connections: Using Conscious Discipline to Release your “Joy Juice” and Connect with Others

1 **2** ROOM 120

Anita Craighead and Hertia Mims, Coaching Specialists, Preschool Promise

Become more aware of the body’s feel-good chemicals (aka Joy Juice) while exploring how to release more of your own Joy Juice and the Joy Juice of others. Discover how Conscious Discipline increases Joy Juice through connection and noticing, which builds intrinsic motivation to learn, grow and build healthy relationships with others.



Hertia A. Mims is a Dayton native, wife to Theodis Mims and mother of three leading daughters. Hertia has worked in early childhood education for 25 years. After teaching in private, public and Head Start programs, she began providing mentoring, support, professional development and coaching to early childhood educators for Preschool Promise. She specializes in social emotional learning. She is a Conscious Discipline Certified Instructor, Maxwell Leadership Certified Team Member and Sinclair College graduate and entrepreneur. Hertia is passionate about leading individuals to find their purpose, creating a vision for their life and developing strategies to achieve their goals and dreams.



Anita Craighead holds a master’s in early childhood education and is a Coaching Specialist for Preschool Promise, a Conscious Discipline Certified Instructor and a Neurosequential Model in Education trainer. She has 19 years of experience providing professional development to educators and over 25 years of experience in working with Preschool-aged children in both public and private settings.

RESOURCES

- [The NEW Conscious Discipline Book – Expanded and Updated](#), by Dr. Becky Bailey
- [I Love You Rituals](#), by Becky A. Bailey
- Podcast: [Real Talk for Real Teachers with Latoria Marcellus and Amy Speidel, episode 74](#)

C Bringing the Joy Back to the Classroom

1 2 ROOM 133

Mindy Cline, Principal, Primary Village North, Centerville City Schools; and Amy Allen, Principal, Primary Village South, Centerville City Schools

As an educator, it's normal to have good days and bad days in the classroom. The challenges of the last few years have created stress and threatened to negate the joy that brought of us to this work. As leaders of primary buildings, we will share ideas on how to help others (and even ourselves!) remember and cultivate the joy that first brought us to work with young children.



Mindy Cline holds a K-8 Teaching Certificate from The Ohio State University, a master's in literacy and an educational leadership license from the University of Dayton. She taught special needs Preschool through 2nd grade in Centerville City Schools and served as director of Preschool for four years before becoming principal when Primary Village North opened in 2007. Mindy served on past Summit planning committees and developed the Centerville Early Childhood coalition, which met regularly before COVID. She participated in the 2015-16 Future Ready Columbus Leadership Academy and in 2000 was named Centerville Education Foundation Excellence in Education Award Winner.



Amy Allen has been an elementary school principal for 20 years. She is currently principal of Primary Village South in Centerville City Schools, which is recognized as a School of Character, a Purple Heart School and a Wild Site for the State of Ohio. Primary Village South provides a supportive and creative learning environment based on philosophy and pedagogy focused on early childhood education. The campus provides safe and ample space for creative play and for exploring the natural sciences, while specially designed spaces encourage a sense of wonder. A strong and vibrant community of parents and teachers supports the work of the school, including an active Parent/Teacher Organization.

**D Connect Before You Correct:
Creating Healthy Connections and Relationships**

1 2 ROOM 127

Josie Muterspaw, Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Specialist; Jessica Davies, Director of SEL Services; Jackie Renegado, Supervisor, SEL Consultants; and Jeremy Joseph, Supervisor, Special Programs, Montgomery County Educational Service Center

Build connections and relationships by creating a community of trust and safety in order to prevent challenging behaviors. Healthy relationships build positive school climate, improve classroom management and create environments where all students feel a sense of belonging. This session will focus on how we use our relationships to co-regulate with dysregulated individuals, support healthy neural development and create environments that engage all learners. We'll explore methods to build connections and community within the classroom setting.

BREAKOUT DESCRIPTIONS



Josie Muterspaw is a Social Emotional Learning Specialist at the Montgomery County Educational Service Center. Since 2004, she has dedicated her career to working with children and adults who have experienced complex and developmental trauma. She uses her knowledge gained as a professional clinical counselor, certified trauma and resilience practitioner, mental health consultant and trainer for Restorative Practices to provide professional development on a range of topics related to creating Trauma Informed/SEL Integrated learning environments. Josie brings a variety of experiences to the table as a presenter and is passionate about empowering educators with evidence-based practices that transform learning environments.



Jessica Davies is Director of Social Emotional Learning Services for the Montgomery County Educational Service Center. The SEL Division of the MCECSC supports school districts with implementing whole-child focused initiatives, including creating trauma informed SEL schools, integrating systematic social emotional learning practices, comprehensive prevention programming, staff wellness initiatives and consultation regarding students with intensive needs. She is passionate about sharing evidence-based strategies, based on the latest neuroscience, in order to help educators and students have the best chance of reaching their full potential. Jessica holds a B.A. in Communications from American University, an MS in Educational Psychology and a Certification of Advanced Graduate Study in School Psychology from Northeastern University.



Jackie Renegado is the supervisor of the social emotional learning consultants for the Montgomery County Educational Service Center. She uses her knowledge as a licensed and registered occupational therapist to support school districts and community organizations in addressing the development of the whole child, including creating trauma-informed and social-emotional integrated systems. Jackie holds a master's degree in trauma informed education. She is a trainer of the Neurosequential Model in Education through the Neurosequential Network and also a trainer in restorative practices through the International Institute for Restorative Practices. Jackie has had the honor of presenting at several national and state conferences.



Jeremy Joseph is a supervisor of special programs in the Social Emotional Learning Division (SEL) for the Montgomery County Educational Service Center. Jeremy is a licensed K-12 intervention specialist and K-12 administrator who has career experience as a middle school classroom assistant, high school teacher, elementary principal and supervisor within the MCECSC since 1998. Jeremy has taught and directed the K-12 education for students lacking the skills to regulate significant emotional and behavioral needs. He also supervised education as an elementary principal and for four intensive therapeutic day treatment programs. The MCECSC SEL Division is focused on creating trauma-sensitive learning environments that support the whole child and setting up all students and adults for success.

RESOURCES:

- [*What Happened to You?: Conversations on Trauma, Resilience, and Healing*](#), by Bruce D. Perry and Oprah Winfrey
- [*Born for Love: Why Empathy is Essential – and Endangered*](#), by Bruce D. Perry
- [*Help for Billy: A Beyond Consequences Approach to Helping Challenging Children in the Classroom*](#), by Heather T. Forbes

E Building HOPE From Positive Experiences

1 2 ROOM 116

Grace Schoessow, Director of Infant Early Childhood Mental Health, Greene County Educational Service Center, and Kayla Hairston, Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant

Join us to explore how to intentionally overcome adversity and build resilience. Positive experiences are critical for healthy emotional development. HOPE (Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences) builds upon the science of strengths-based approaches, using this growing body of knowledge to better understand and support child health and development. Positive childhood experiences (PCEs) drive healthy development and mitigate the long-term effects of adverse ones (ACEs). Our vision is a world that recognizes, honors and fosters positive experiences as foundational to mental health and well-being.



Grace Schoessow, M.S., OIMHP-III, ECMH-C, leads the Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Team at the Greene County Educational Service Center (GCESC). She has more than 20 years of experience working with families of young children with complex needs and their multidisciplinary teams in home, school and community settings. She is an Infant Early Childhood Mental Health subject matter expert and works to strengthen cross-systems efforts to put policies, programs and practices in place to promote childhood mental health by ensuring schools are safe, teachers are well, families are connected and students are healthy and engaged.



Kayla Hairston, OIFP-II, MPH, CHES, brings to the team a public health and mental health background and the skills and lens of a Prevention Specialist, a Certified Health Education Specialist as well as a Certified Coach recognized by the International Coaching Federation. Kayla is passionate about empowering others to be advocates of their life journeys and is dedicated to addressing the social determinants of health that stand in the way of future success.

RESOURCES:

- <https://positiveexperience.org/resources/>
- <https://positiveexperience.org/resources-category/fact-sheets/>

F **When Will Children of Color be Well?
Interrupting Violence and Centering Revolutionary
Love in Early Childhood Classrooms**

1 2 ROOM 172

Nathaniel Bryan, Assistant Professor, Miami University

The session will highlight several ways that children of Color are not faring well in early childhood settings and illuminate ways educators can work toward ensuring that they thrive and flourish in schools. Five types of daily violence/traumas that children of Color experience in and beyond Preschools are described against the ethical backdrop, First Do No Harm (Boutte, 2008). Evoking the Maasai legend that asks, How are the children? the presenter will share case studies of the experiences of preschoolers of Color, will provide an overview of five types of school violence (physical, symbolic, linguistic, curricular/pedagogical, and systemic), and will offer ways to interrupt violence by infusing revolutionary love in early childhood classrooms.



Nathaniel Bryan is an assistant professor of primary education and the author of [Toward a Blackboycrit Pedagogy: Black Boys, Male Teachers, and Early Childhood Classroom Practices](#). His research focuses on the identities and teaching styles of Black male teachers and the lived schooling realities and play experiences of Black boys in early childhood education.

G **Creating a Village of Joyful and Proficient Readers**

1 ROOM 282

Maya Dorsey, Director of K-12 Initiatives, Learn to Earn Dayton; Erika Pimentel, Family & Community Engagement Coordinator, Learn to Earn Dayton; Jane McGee-Rafal, Dayton Foundation Del Mar Encore Fellow, Learn to Earn Dayton; Saundra K. Collie, Dayton Foundation Del Mar Encore Fellow, Learn to Earn Dayton

This session will engage preschool and early grade teachers and paraprofessionals in a conversation on the intersection of community and early literacy proficiency. We will gather input from participants and demonstrate why it is critical for students to read proficiently before third grade. Developing early readers requires more than schools and teachers; it takes a village of stakeholders. We will provide methods for families to be part of their child’s literacy journey, and participants will learn of our partnership with Trotwood-Madison City Schools and their exciting Mighty Rams classroom. We will share information about the new Miami Valley Early Grade Literacy Collaborative. The Collaborative is developing a toolkit that can be used by families to promote literacy at home.



Maya Dorsey is the convener of the Summer and Afterschool Collaborative. She has been an elementary school dean, assistant middle school principal, reading specialist and classroom teacher. Maya holds a bachelor’s degree from Wright State University in organizational leadership, minor in women’s studies; a master’s from Grand Canyon University in elementary education; and a master’s from Antioch Midwest University in educational leadership. She has completed a reading endorsement program from

Wright State University and holds teaching and principal licensures and certification from eCornell in Diversity and Inclusion. Maya has been honored by Dayton Business Journal as a Champion for Diversity and Inclusion 2022. Maya has a strong commitment to children and views herself as a champion for equitable education.



Saundra K. Collie is working with Learn to Earn Dayton and school district leaders on an innovative early literacy model that can be scaled across Montgomery County. She is a native Daytonian who matriculated through the Dayton Public Schools. She graduated from Central State University with a B.S. in elementary education and holds an M.S. in education administration from the University of Dayton and an M.S. in Montessori education from Xavier University. Mrs. Collie is a former adjunct instructor at Sinclair College, Wright State University and Central State University. She is a retired school principal with 39 years of service with the Dayton Public Schools.



Erika Pimentel supports Learn to Earn's K-12 initiatives, assists in coordinating events for the Summer and Afterschool Collaborative and engages key stakeholders and community residents for the Northwest Dayton Partnership. Previously, she served as the receptionist for the Montgomery County Educational Service Center and as an outreach specialist for Preschool Promise. She is passionate about serving the Dayton community by assisting families in accessing resources and leading innovative family engagement work. Erika serves on several community advisory boards, providing feedback and input as a Dayton Public Schools' parent and community resident.



Jane McGee-Rafal is a career educator, who began her work in rural Ohio and since has served five districts in Ohio and Arizona. She was superintendent of Warren City (Ohio) Schools and assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction in Mesa, Arizona. Ms. McGee-Rafal spent 27 years with Dayton Public Schools. She was also a vice president of special projects and a senior recruiter in Fort Myers, Florida. She is helping Learn to Earn Dayton launch the Miami Valley Early Grade Literacy Collaborative to promote evidence-based literacy practices and strategies.

RESOURCES

- [*Reading for Our Lives: A Literacy Action Plan from Birth to Six*](#), by Maya Payne Smart.



Do you like the music you're hearing throughout our program today? Check out the playlist on page 21 or on [Spotify](#).



H Making Education a Place of Joy and Belonging for Black Boys

1 2 ROOM 171

Christopher James, Senior Program Manager, Preschool Promise, and Trey Clements, Tenured Associate Professor, Sinclair College

This session will introduce action steps being taken by Preschool Promise to make learning environments Black-boy inclusive. These strategies include a Black male volunteer initiative, equity training and a high school pathway for potential early childhood educators.



Christopher M. James is an education administrative professional who has spent close to 20 years working in community advocacy and education. He holds a bachelor's in English from Wright State University and a master's in public administration from Franklin University. He has worked with Dayton Urban Ministry Center, Cleveland Metropolitan School District, Union Miles Community Development Corporation in Cleveland and Sinclair College. He is Senior Program Manager with Preschool Promise, where he works to advance the Cultivating Black Boy Brilliance initiatives and enhance the learning environment for Black boys. This program aims to bring awareness and positive representation to our Preschool child care centers to address deficits shown in data. Christopher is married and has three children.



Trey Clements is a former 3rd grade teacher in the West Carrollton City School District, currently serving as a tenured Assistant Professor in the education department at Sinclair College. He is also an avid early-career teacher advocate, educational researcher, education consultant and expert in Trauma-Informed Care. Trey is a Dayton area native who received his bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Miami University, and a master's in education, focusing on higher education administration, from the University of Dayton.

RESOURCES:

- [*Toward a Blackboycrit Pedagogy: Black Boys, Male Teachers, and Early Childhood Classroom Practices*, by Nathaniel Bryan](#)

I Discover Your Joy

2 ROOM 282

Lindsey DiBlasi, Coaching Specialist, Preschool Promise, and Erica Bohannon, Quality Specialist, 4C for Children / Preschool Promise

Do you believe you deserve ultimate happiness and want to be in awe of life? Join this session and obtain the tools to embark on a personal journey where you will gain clarity, learn to set free your authentic self and allow joy to become your default. The resources gained will support you in shining the light you were given, the light that this world so desperately needs. Join us in becoming a constant seeker of joy.



Lindsey DiBlasi holds a bachelor's in early childhood education and is in the process of obtaining a master's in clinical mental health counseling. She works as a coaching specialist for Preschool Promise and is passionate about the field of early childhood education, and understanding trauma, joy, connectedness and healing.



Erica Bohannon received her M.S.Ed in early childhood leadership and advocacy from the University of Dayton and is a former infant-toddler teacher, early intervention service coordinator, education specialist and Kindergarten teacher. She is a certified CLASS observer and licensed pre-K through 3rd grade teacher. Erica co-facilitates professional learning communities at Preschool Promise where she supports educators in learning about developmentally appropriate practices that best support our youngest learners.

J Using Nature's Teaching and Care Resources

1 ROOM 119

Douglas Horvath, Education Coordinator/Naturalist, Five Rivers MetroParks

Nature provides a powerful learning environment for children and adults alike. We will discuss how to use the great outdoors to be present with one another and create connected learning communities. We will review ways to work on observation and inquiry with young children in outdoor spaces. An overview of Five Rivers MetroParks resources will be shared. Please bring your coat to the session; part of it will occur outside the building.



Doug Horvath has been sharing nature with children and adults for over 40 years as a naturalist with the YMCA, National Audubon Society and Five Rivers MetroParks. He has a B.A./B.S. in zoology from the University of New Hampshire and a master's in zoology from Miami University and has worked for the MetroParks since 1999. He is passionate about encouraging children to spend more time outdoors, with the Miami Valley Leave No Child Inside Collaborative. His other interests include adventuring with his wife, Ann, and three children, playing music, keeping bees, growing gardens and goofing off with friends.

RESOURCES:

- Five Rivers MetroParks Mindfulness Walks, <https://www.metroparks.org/mindful/>
- Miami Valley Leave No Child Inside Collaborative, <https://ohiolnci.org/ohio-regions/miami-valleydayton/>



K Reimagining Music with Technology**2** ROOM 150

Deron Bell, Creative App Developer, My Music Education; and Daniel A. Cook, Site Training Director, My Music Education

Participants will get the opportunity to learn about the My Music Education App program, with and without technology. This interactive session will provide a chance for attendees to explore a restorative, creative music experience that includes circle conversations, movement and chants. We will then experience the app technology designed for non-musicians to connect with children who love music.



Deron Bell exhibited his My Music Ed App at the 2023 International Institute of Restorative Practices (IIRP) World Conference. He is driven by a passion to help educators, parents, youth and older adults reimagine creating positive communities for generations to come. As a licensed practitioner of restorative practices, he is humbled by his accomplishments that include serving as Music Director for the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company (DCDC) for 14 years; as a mentee and drummer with the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra at the age of 14 under former Director Isaiah Jackson; and in 2021, performing under the direction of Conductor Neal Gittleman.



Daniel A. Cook is a native of Dayton and a national recording artist and musician. In 2015, he started working with Deron Bell as he launched Restorative Justice ARTS and My Music Ed. Presently, Daniel services many sites in Ohio using My Music Ed, in schools, churches and the community.

RESOURCES:

- My Music Ed: Learning Through Music, www.mymusiced.com

L Using Books to Create a Sense of Joy and Belonging**2** ROOM 119

Amber Cristofaro, Early Literacy Coordinator, Dayton Metro Library

Learn more about using books to create a sense of belonging and joy in your learning environment. We will take a look at a number of books that are inclusive, feature diverse characters (diversity in race, religion, abilities, gender, etc.), and are appropriate for children birth through 3rd grade. We will discuss ways to use those books to cultivate community through shared reading experiences, and how to make real world connections using stories. The session will end with a brief overview of resources and services Dayton Metro Library can provide to help you.



Amber Cristofaro coordinates the development of early literacy programming and services for young children, caregivers and educators; and provides services and resources to support schools, child care centers, educators and families in their roles as early literacy educators. She participates in community initiatives that address improving school readiness, reading proficiency and parent education, including Passport to Kindergarten, Love Them Out Loud, Preschool Power and Kindergarten Club. Amber has worked at Dayton Metro Library for more than 25 years. She has a B.S. in education, early childhood education and teaching from the University of Cincinnati and is completing a master's in library and information science at Kent State University.

M Yoga and Mindfulness

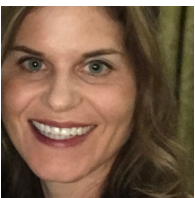
2 ROOM 131

Carrie Taylor, Social Emotional Learning and Development Coordinator, Greene County Educational Service Center (GCESC); Libby Wagner, Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant, GCESC; Mindy Nickles, Early Childhood Mental Health consultant; and Kelly Schumann, Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant for GCESC

This session will help participants recognize stress in children and learn how to promote resiliency and healthy coping skills for ourselves and children, in safe, nurturing and stable classrooms and relationships. We will work to improve the knowledge and skills of teachers and staff and build support for caregivers, children and families. Attendees will gain skills to ground and connect the whole body, with strategies to instill calm, relaxing skills in young children.



Carrie Taylor holds Ohio Early Childhood Mental Health and Infant Mental Health credentials and an Ohio Teaching and Intervention Specialist license. She has a B.S. in social work and a master's in education and has been working with children and families for 16 years in a variety of settings. Carrie is a consultant on the early childhood mental health team working with public schools and private childcare centers. She has expertise in a variety of social emotional and behavioral evidence-based programs and provides at-home Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy for children with autism. Carrie has worked as a child advocate, Preschool teacher and pediatric/medical social worker and volunteers as a Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA).



Libby Wagner has been working with children and families for more than 15 years. She has a B.S. in social work and a master's in education, specializing in school counseling. Her experience includes work in child protective services, pediatric/medical social work and as an elementary school counselor. Libby is a consultant on the GCESC mental health team working with public schools, providing virtual and onsite services. She is trained in a variety of evidence-based programs, including the Zones of Regulation, Responsive Classroom and the Open Circle Curriculum. Libby is passionate about building classroom teachers' capacity to support the social and emotional development of their students.

BREAKOUT DESCRIPTIONS



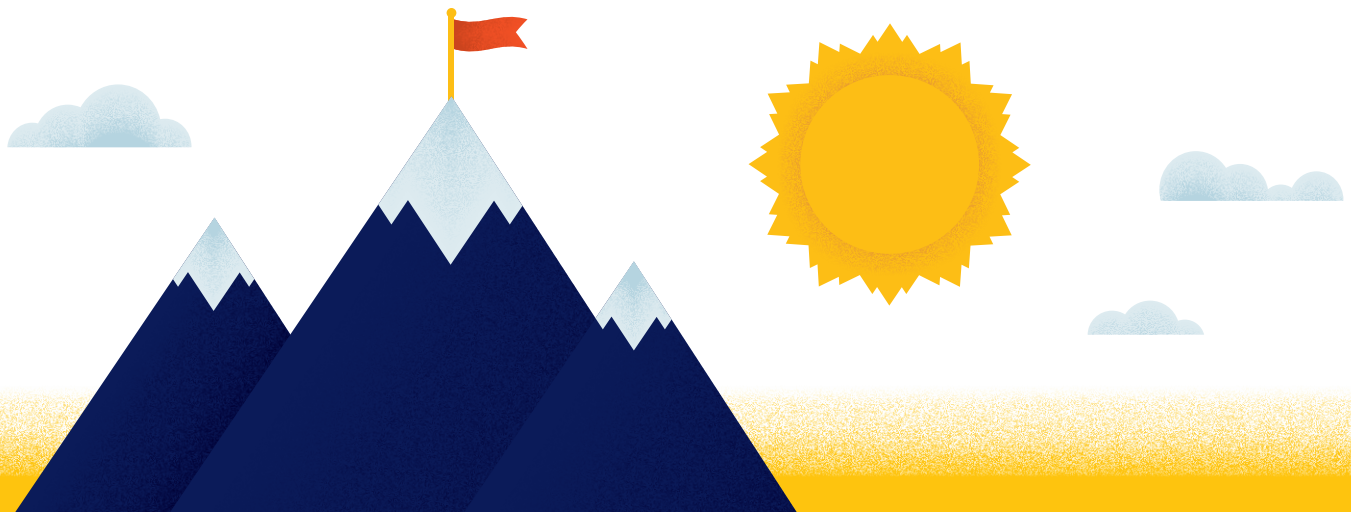
Mindy Nickles is an Ohio licensed independent social worker and holds Ohio Early Childhood Mental Health and Ohio Infant Mental Health Professional credentials. She has been working with children and families for almost 20 years. She previously worked as a treatment coordinator in therapeutic foster care as well as a case manager for Head Start. She is also a certified Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral therapist for an outpatient mental health agency. Mindy is dedicated to working with children, families, educators and staff to help support and promote the overall social and emotional development of children.



Kelly Schumann is a licensed independent social worker with supervision designation who has over 18 years of experience working with children, families and caregivers. She has provided behavioral health treatment in community mental health and private practice settings. In her current position working with young children and their grown-ups, Kelly believes in the importance of relationships, promoting positive childhood experiences, and supporting adults as they take on the essential role of nurturing the children in their lives.

RESOURCES:

- [*Calm: Mindfulness for Kids*](#), by Wynne Kinder, M.Ed.
- [*I Can Do Hard Things: Mindful Affirmations For Kids*](#), by Gabi Garcia
- [*Meditation is an Open Sky: Mindfulness for Kids*](#), by Whitney Stewart
- [*Mindfulness Moments for Kids: Hot Cocoa Calm*](#), by Kira Willey
- [*Breathe Like a Bear: 30 Mindful Moments for Kids to Feel Calm and Focused Anytime, Anywhere*](#), by Kira Willey
- [*Rocket Ship Yoga*](#), by Bari Koral
- [*Mindful Me: Mindfulness for Kids*](#), by Whitney Stewart
- [*The Little Frog Awakes: Mindfulness Exercises for Toddlers \(and Their Parents\)*](#), by Eline Snel
- [*Mindfulness in the Classroom: An Evidence-Based Program to Reduce Disruptive Behavior and Increase Academic Engagement*](#), by Joshua C. Felver, Ph.D., and Nirbhay N. Singh, Ph.D.



N Generating Joy Through Fun and Connection**1 ROOM 131**

Lindsay Green, SEL Training Coordinator, Greene County Educational Service Center (GCESC); Linda Richmond, Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant, GCESC; Lillian McCree, MEd, IS, ECMH-C, Trauma Informed Care-III, GCESC, Family & Community Partnership Liaison

In this fun-filled session, participants will learn about the importance of connection through positive relationship-building activities. Screen time is helping us connect, yet is also undermining our ability to generate JOY, a sense of belonging in the moment and leaves us longing for more. We are all longing for belonging and crave activities that give us the dopamine-fueled sense of excitement and enthusiasm that comes through true positive connections. We will learn how to create these experiences using the three elements that produce real, true fun. This session, led by a team of early childhood mental health professionals, will highlight the ways you can be the catalyst to generate authentic JOY, because there is Just One You and you have the power to bring the fun into all your relationships!



Lindsay Green is a licensed Early Childhood Intervention Specialist, with an Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Credential, Ohio Infant Mental Health Credential OIFP-II (Ohio Infant Family Practitioner Level II), and is an Ohio Approved Professional Registry Trainer. Lindsay is a Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) Master Trainer and specializes in social emotional development. She has 17 years of experience working with children and families, as a Kindergarten teacher, an intervention specialist (2nd grade) and home care provider. Lindsay is a life-long learner who embraces the joy of education and the need for wellness. As an Infant Early Childhood Mental Health trainer and consultant, she is dedicated to helping others see relationship-building as the foundation of education; and to ensuring children, caregivers and educators have access to the best possible services to support student success.



Linda Richmond is a licensed psychologist and certified experiential therapist on the Infant Early Childhood Mental Health team. Before returning to Ohio, she spent many years on the East Coast studying and working as a mental health services researcher and practitioner. She received her doctorate from The Graduate Center of the City University of New York and taught courses in health psychology and development across the lifespan. In her role as an IECMH consultant, Dr. Richmond seeks to support the promotion of healthy social and emotional development of children and their families.



Lillian McCree, as Family and Community Partnership Liaison with GCESC, shares her wealth of experience by supporting families as they navigate the education and behavioral health systems, while helping the systems better respond to the needs of families. She is a US Air Force veteran and has served as a mental health specialist; an intervention specialist; a child protective caseworker; and college advisor and adjunct instructor. She now works to build capacity for effective family engagement among area school districts, helping them foster transformative partnerships with families and their communities to improve student wellness, increase family engagement and serve the whole child.

RESOURCES:

- [Brain-Building Through Play: Activities for Infants, Toddlers and Children, https://bit.ly/3X5VjVQ](https://bit.ly/3X5VjVQ)

O Meaningful Moments: Finding Joy and Playing on Purpose with Infants and Toddlers**1 2 ROOM 262****Amy Kronberg, Early Learning Specialist, Preschool Promise/University of Dayton**

Learning begins at birth, but what does play look like for our youngest learners? This session will focus on creating invitations for play for infants and toddlers, rethinking how we create meaningful moments throughout our days. We will focus on serve-and-return interactions through play, routines and relationships.



Amy S. Kronberg is an early learning consultant and adjunct professor at the University of Dayton. She has studied the Reggio Emilia philosophy, child-centered curriculum and playful learning environments. She moved to Dayton in 2013 to study early childhood leadership and advocacy, so she could learn to support children and families as they learn to value and celebrate play. She is currently "all but dissertation" for a doctorate in educational leadership at the University of Dayton and specializes in infant and toddler learning, teacher advocacy and social emotional development.

RESOURCES:

- [*Children's Lively Minds: Schema Theory Made Visible*](#), by Deb Curtis and Nadia Jaboneta

THANK YOU!

We couldn't bring this Summit together every year without the work of many people - volunteers, staff, community members, presenters and, of course, our sponsors! Thank you for your commitment to our children, families, educators and our future.



Pam Albers, Help Me Grow Brighter Futures • Ashley Anderson, Trotwood-Madison Early Learning Center • Lisa Babb, 4C for Children*Ellen Belcher, Preschool Promise • Markia Benjamin, The Glen at St. Joseph • Jen Brauer, Preschool Promise • Emily Broughton, Preschool Promise • Mindy Cline, Centerville Primary Village North • Amber Cristofaro, Dayton Metro Library • Maya Dorsey, Learn to Earn Dayton • Barbara Elrod, Preschool Promise • Gayle Fowler, Parent, Family & Couple Education Services, LLC • Doug Horvath, Five Rivers MetroParks • Palmer Jason, Good Shepherd Academy • Allison Knight, Dayton Metro Library • Robyn Lightcap, Preschool Promise • Tonya Mathis, Wright State University • Jane McGee-Rafal, Learn to Earn Dayton • Dr. Jacita Pooler, Trotwood-Madison Early Learning Center • Grace Schoessow, Greene County Educational Service Center • Noreen Willhelm, Preschool Promise



The Power of Joy and Belonging: 2023 Readiness Summit Playlist

SONG

Joy
 Joy of My Life
 Joyful
 Keep Your Head Up
 Living My Best Life
 We Belong Together
 We Belong
 Blame it on the Boogie
 You Belong with Me
 Joy
 Lovely Day
 It's a Beautiful Day
 Better Together
 Here Comes the Sun – Remastered 2009
 (What A) Wonderful World – Mono
 One Fine Day
 Somebody Like You
 What A Wonderful World
 Joy to the World
 Soak Up the Sun
 I Can See Clearly Now
 Celebration
 Don't Worry Be Happy
 Walking on Sunshine
 Good Vibrations – Remastered 2021
 Over the Rainbow
 Pocketful of Sunshine
 Can't Stop the Feeling (From DreamWorks Animation "TROLLS")
 Sir Duke

ARTIST

Andy Grammer
 Chris Stapleton
 Dante Bowe
 Andy Grammer
 Ben Rector
 Mariah Carey
 Pat Benatar
 The Jacksons
 Taylor Swift
 Bastille
 Bill Withers
 Michael Bublé
 Jack Johnson
 The Beatles

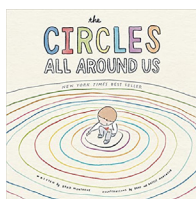
 Sam Cooke
 The Chiffons
 Keith Urban
 Louis Armstrong
 Three Dog Night
 Sheryl Crow
 Johnny Nash
 Kool & The Gang
 Bobby McFerrin
 Katrina & The Waves
 The Beach Boys
 Israel Kamakawiwo'ole
 Natasha Bedingfield
 Justin Timberlake

 Stevie Wonder

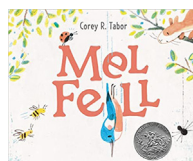


The following book lists have been recommended by our partners at [Dayton Metro Library](#).

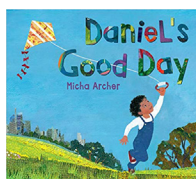
JOY AND BELONGING



Circles All Around Us
by Brad Montague
2021
Ages 4 to 8



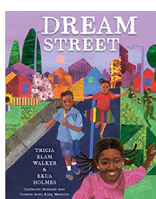
Mel Fell
by Corey R. Tabor
2021
Ages 2 to 5



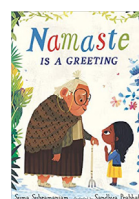
Daniel's Good Day
by Micha Archer
2019, Ages 3 to 6
(Also available in Korean)



My Heart Fills With Happiness
by Monique Gray Smith
2016, Ages 0 to 5
Also available in Anishinaabemowin (the Ojibwe language)



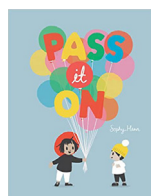
Dream Street
by Tricia Elam Walker
2021
Ages 4 to 8



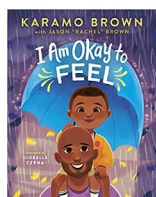
Namaste is a Greeting
by Suma Subramaniam
2022
Ages 4 to 8



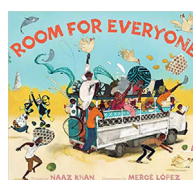
Happy Right Now
by Julie Berry
2019
Ages 4 to 9



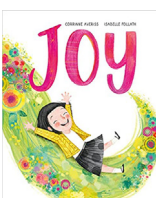
Pass It On
by Sophy Henn
2017
Ages 2 to 7



I Am Okay to Feel
by Karamo Brown
2022
Ages 4 to 8



Room for Everyone
by Naaz Khan
2021
Ages 3 to 5



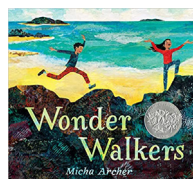
Joy
by Corrinne Averiss
2018
Ages 3 to 9



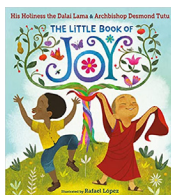
We're Better Together: A Book about Community
by Eileen Spinelli
2021
Ages 2 to 4



Layla's Happiness
by Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie
2020, Ages 4 to 8



Wonder Walkers
by Micha Archer
2021
Ages 3 to 7



The Little Book of Joy
by Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, et al.
2022
Ages 3 to 7



The Year We Learned to Fly
by Jacqueline Woodson
2022, Ages 5 to 8
(Also available in Spanish)

DIVERSE NEW BOOKS FROM 2022/2023



All the Beating Hearts
by Julie Fogliano
2023
Ages 4 to 8



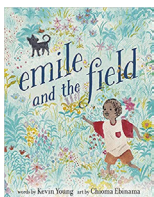
Nell Plants a Tree
by Anne Wynter
2023
Ages 4 to 8



A Crown for Corina
by Laekan Zea Kemp
2023
Ages 4 to 8



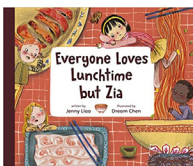
Our Favorite Day of the Year
by A.E. Ali
2022
Ages 3 to 8



Emile and the Field
by Kevin Young
2022
Ages 3 to 8



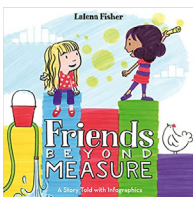
Patchwork
by Matt de la Peña
2022
Ages 4 to 8



Everyone Loves Lunchtime but Zia
2023
Ages 3 to 7



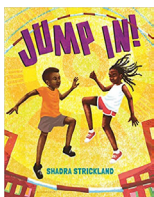
Remember
by Joy Harjo
2023
Ages 4 to 8



Friends Beyond Measure
by Lalena Fischer
2023
Ages 4 to 8



Song in the City
by Daniel Bernstrom
2022
Ages 4 to 8



Jump In!
by Shadra Strickland
2023
Ages 4 to 8



Very Good Hats
by Emma Straub
2023
Ages 2 to 5



The Kindest Red: A Story of Hijab and Friendship
by Ibtihaj Muhammad
2023, Ages 4 to 8



We Are Here
by Tami Charles
2023
Ages 4 to 8



Maybe You Might
by Imogen Foxell
2022
Ages 4 to 6



You Are a Story
by Bob Raczka
2023
Ages 4 to 8

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