

NMAEYC 2023

Pre-Conference Sessions

10am-5pm

Session Leader: Caitlin Basler - AFAA, DMA

Title: Zumbini Instructor Training

Summary: Created by Zumba and BabyFirst, Zumbini is a fun, unique, and effective ECE program designed to promote cognitive, social, emotional, and motor skill development for children ages 0 - 5 through music and movement. Appropriate with and without caregivers present for each child, the Zumbini program is made up of singing, dancing, and instrument play for non-stop learning, bonding, and fun.

New Mexico AEYC has partnered with Zumbini to bring this live instructor training event so that you can bring this program to your community or early learning program.

Session Leader Bio: Bio:

Caitlin Basler, AFAA, DMA, is a dance and fitness instructor and Zumbini Master Trainer with over 10 years of classroom experience. Her passion for music and movement brought her to the world of Zumbini, an early childhood music and movement program created by Zumba. She has served as a Master Trainer for the Zumbini program since 2013, and now serves as the Director of Education for the program. She travels extensively, training others how to teach the program. Zumbini career highlights include presenting at Zumba Instructor Convention, appearing on TLC's Sweet Home Sextuplets and traveling to China to launch the program in Asia. She resides in Akron with her husband Brandon and her two rescue dogs Mac and Gem!

10am-3pm

Session Leader(s): Andrew Martinez, Jason Foreman

Title: Movement in Medicine

Summary: Jason and Andrew are two positive male role models in early childhood education, with Jason in California and Andrew in New Mexico. Together, they have created a day filled with research

and fun activities to support a child's natural need to move to successfully explore the world around them. We'll be discussing the inner-workings of behaviors, including the central nervous system and executive functioning, and ways to support continuing development for all children. In addition to learning supportive strategies and their intentions, participants will also have to put their learning into practice through hands on experience!

Session Leader Bios: Jason Foreman has worked with youth aged infancy through 8th grade for 15+ years now, serving in a variety of programs and capacities across the field of early childhood. Frontline, leadership, for-profit and not, presenter, trainer, consultant, and most importantly parent. An interest in the power of movement as medicine in correcting neurodivergences led him to seek certification as a Personal Fitness Trainer. Jason is currently employed with the Menlo Park City School District in their Early Learning Center, in his home state of California. This is in addition to various current projects and board memberships centered around establishing partnerships and greater access to recreational programs for ALL children.

Andrew Martinez has been working in early childhood for over 11 years and has worked with a variety of ages from infancy to school-age to adult learners. As an early childhood education support, Andrew has taken on various roles to support various programs and educators including the role as a Master Teacher at the UNM Children's Campus, and joining the board for the New Mexico Association for the Education of Young Children, and the Early Childhood Mentor Network as a Lead Mentor. In addition, Andrew has also facilitated trainings throughout New Mexico, helping teachers become prepared for success, in turn, allowing children to achieve the same success.

10am - 3pm

Session Leader: Michelle Pruitt

Title:

Early Intervention: It Takes a Village

Summary:

In this session, we will dive into the ins and outs of early intervention overall and what impact early intervention can have on a child's life. We will also look at how early intervention works best whenever collaboration occurs between early intervention providers and all other supports in a child's life such as childcare centers, doctors, home visitors, and other family members. We will brainstorm together on how to provide the best services for children and their families here in New Mexico.

Session Leader Bio:

Michelle grew up in Roswell, NM, attended UNM, and received a bachelor's degree in Psychology in 2011. In 2016 she began working for an early intervention agency in Roswell. She became one of the lead evaluators in her first year and also was the agency trainer at one point. In 2018 she transitioned over to her agency's childcare center as the Director there for two and a half years. She has now been the Director of their early intervention department for two years. Michelle is finishing her master's degree in special education with an emphasis in early childhood education. She has a passion to work with young children and their families here in New Mexico and tries to find ways to always improve her practice and to help enhance others in this field as well.

10am-3pm **Session Leader:** Layne Kalbfleisch, M.Ed., Ph.D.

Title: Liberating Learning Potential - Scripts, Templates and Tools

Summary: *Teaching to Every Kid's Potential: Simple Neuroscience Lessons to Liberate Learners*, by Dr. Layne Kalbfleisch, invites teachers to improve the learning in their classrooms, one student at a time, using practical, evidence-based strategies.

Focusing on four big concepts from neuroscience – flexibility, readiness, connection, and masking – Dr. K shows how to apply them to build on the strengths of students. Each chapter unpacks the science; shows how talents can compensate for neural processing issues; includes the story of a real-life individual who embodies such talents; and suggests small but powerful adjustments to classroom practice that will allow kids' gifts to emerge. In this pre-conference workshop, Dr. K will extend offerings from each chapter providing scripts (what do you say?), templates (these teachings fit into curriculum requirements), and tools (timeless and new strategies to animate learning potential).

10am-3pm: **Session Leaders:** Annabelle Black Delfin, PhD and Marci Laurel, MA, CCC on behalf of UNM CDD

Title: Learning Together: Supporting the Development of Play Skills in Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder”

Summary: The effects of autism vary greatly from person to person. A quote by Stephen Shore, an autism advocate who is on the spectrum, says “If you have met one person with autism, you’ve met one person with autism.” In this presentation “Learning Together: Supporting the Development of Play Skills in Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder” we will share some indicators that may be seen in children on the autism spectrum, discuss best practice care for young children and explain some strategies that support the development of play skills.

The first part of this workshop explores autism from a developmental perspective, providing information about early developmental indicators, definitions, common characteristics and learning differences in young children. The second section of the workshop focuses on key developmental and social elements that support play and a child’s ability to engage in different types of play. After lunch, the third portion of the workshop introduces some foundations of social communication and provides strategies for teaching language and play skills to young children with autism. Woven throughout the day will be cooperative learning breaks to explore case studies and to strategize possible intervention and instructional strategies.

Bios: Starlett Baldwin is an Education Consultant at the University of New Mexico’s Center for Development and Disability. Starlett has worked in the education profession for 25 years. She has taught in the early childhood setting, as a 4-year-old and kindergarten teacher in both private and public-school settings, while living in Texas and New Mexico. Her work at the CDD began as an Early Childhood Instructional Coach for NM Pre-K. Currently, she provides support and training to school districts through the Autism Program. Starlett received her B.S. in Human Development and Family Studies: Teachers of Young Children from Texas Tech University. With a passion for early learning, Starlett continues to support and guide teachers for the best interest of New Mexico’s littlest learners.

Annabelle Black Delfin is an Education Consultant with the University of New yyyyyyyMexico, Center for Development and Disability. She has a PhD in early childhood education and development. Dr. Black Delfin has worked in New Mexico for many years with public, charter and private schools, higher education and educational non-profits. Her research interests include cognitive development, symbolic representation, gender & identity, and autism.

10am-3pm: **Session Leaders:** Explora, Tara Henderson, Lauren Butcher

Title: Wind and Water

Summary: Session Have you ever marveled at the natural world around you? In this session, you'll experiment with the power of air as you discover how airplanes fly and birds soar. You'll also get your hands wet as we make discoveries about water and explore absorption, adhesion, and surface tension. What discoveries can you make about the wind and water around us?

This session will also provide opportunities for educators to connect STEAM concepts to literature and stories, make science connections in the everyday lives of their students and families, and strengthen students' ability to see themselves as capable STEAM learners. You'll also have time to tap into the collective wisdom of the group to develop a lesson plan/activity while receiving feedback for developmental/cultural appropriateness.

Session Leader Bios: Tara Zollinger Henderson was born and raised in New Mexico and has been an active participant in informal education in her community for much of her life. She has always enjoyed the process of learning and visiting museums and other informal learning institutions. Her initial interest was fostered by her mother, who made every effort to search out museums around the United States to visit during family vacations. This early exposure led to museum volunteer work as a teen and eventually a career. In her current role as the Director of Visitor Experience and Explora at Explora, she leads a dynamic team overseeing every aspect of the visitor experience including the development and execution of inquiry-based science education programs and experiences and teacher professional development. She is passionate about developing and maintaining community partnerships with organizations throughout the state. When time allows, Tara still enjoys developing and facilitating

inquiry-based programs for children in the early childhood years and their family members and cultivating a lifetime love of learning. Tara has a B.S. in Child Development and Family Relations and an M.A. in Family Studies, both from the University of New Mexico, and a graduate certificate in Nonprofit Management from Texas A&M.

Lauren Butcher, School and Community Programs Manager

Lauren is an educator who supports STEAM learning for preK-12 students and those who work with them. Her background includes classroom teaching with English Learners and students with diverse needs.