



KCCTO- KITS
Infant-Toddler Specialist Network (ITSN)
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Available ITSN Course Offerings Through Zoom

All Courses Award 2.0 KDHE Clock Hours

Academic AND Play-Based: Building Cognitive Skills Through Play

Research tells us that young children learn best from activities that are embedded into play and routines. However, in a time of increased emphasis on "school readiness", play in early childhood settings is more and more pushed to the side and replaced with "academic" activities such as worksheets that focus on the ABC's and 123's. But did you know that Cognitive Development--the development of our thinking skills--involves so much more than these pre-academic skills? And that ALL cognitive skills, including these pre-academic skills, are best learned through play? This session will introduce participants to the varied thinking skills that are necessary for infant, toddler, and preschool development, as well as ways that these skills can be facilitated through PLAY! Come for an interactive, hands-on learning opportunity that will get you thinking!

Building Relationships Using Responsive Communication Strategies

Research has pointed to responsive relationships as the most important factor for positive child development outcomes. Communication skills are essential to building those positive relationships with young children and their families. This training examines research related to responsive relationships and communication, and presents practical strategies to use to improve your communication with children, families, and colleagues.

Building Skills in Two Languages

In the United States, dual language learners are currently the fastest growing population of young children. Early child care providers and teachers play an important role in helping children learn English, while supporting their families in maintaining their home language. This course will explore information and strategies to support dual language learners with vocabulary expansion and meaningful conversations, while supporting and celebrating the child's home languages.

Emotional Literacy

Research continues to identify emotional intelligence as a strong predictor of academic and career success, making its foundations in early childhood increasingly important. This course focuses on child care practices that teach children emotional vocabulary and help children identify emotions in themselves and others. Additional strategies on talking with parents about emotional literacy are included.

Engaging Fathers

This training focuses on ways that early childhood educators can work alongside and engage fathers in early learning programs.



Expanding Your Early Childhood Toolkit: Making Connections

Whether you are new to the profession or an experienced teacher or child care provider, this training is designed for you! Making connections is the way to expand your professional early childhood toolkit: first connecting with other early care and education providers in your area and then connecting with local, state, and national resources available to you at NO-COST. Join us in this interactive session to share issues, challenges, celebrations and questions related to your work with infants, toddlers and preschoolers. One of the resources to be shared will support you in understanding and embracing everyday stress through self-care practices. You will have the opportunity to meet your regional KCCTO-KITS ITSN specialists as well as representatives from local and state organizations and agencies that support children, their families, and early care and education providers in your area.

Inclusion Basics: An Introduction to Welcoming Children with Special Needs into Your Child Care Program

Child care providers must be well prepared to welcome ALL children into their programs, including those with developmental delays, disabilities and special health needs. This introductory training gives information about the definition of inclusion and terminology related to the special education field, laws and ethics concerning inclusion, benefits of inclusion for children, families and communities, and basic observation and interaction strategies to utilize when working with ALL children.

Kansas Early Learning Standards (KELS): Communication and Literacy Standards in Practice

The Kansas Early Learning Standards (KELS) provide a continuum that links early development to school readiness and later learning. This training explores the Communication and Literacy Standards, what they mean, and how to implement them in a play-based learning environment.

Mindfulness: A Resilience Practice

Mindfulness is a state of being consciously aware of the present moment, feelings, thoughts and bodily responses. Mindfulness practices have been linked to increased calmness, empathy, and decreased stress. As we know, children and adults experience daily stressors that can become too intense over time without the proper techniques to manage that stress. This course looks at mindfulness practices that foster resilience, and can be used by adults and taught to children.

Not All Pigs Are Pink: Incorporating Process Art Into Your Early Childhood Program

“Can I be done now?” “Is this right?” “I can’t do it!” “Mine doesn’t look like yours!” These might be some of the things you hear children saying when you get to work on the daily art project. What if you could turn those statements into ones of, “Look what I made!” “I’m going to make another!” “Can I have more time?” This course will lead participants to define and discuss both product and process art, along with exploring methods and resources to implement and facilitate process art into their programs.



Responding With Families to Developmental Concerns

This training explores engaging families when they or educators have concerns that a child is at risk for a disability or developmental delay.

STEM for Babies and Toddlers

What is STEM? This presentation provides an overview of developmentally appropriate Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) learning for babies and toddlers. A review of brain basics, cognitive development and the importance of play is included.

Supporting Infant and Toddler Temperaments

Participants will learn more about their temperament and the temperaments of the infants and toddlers enrolled in their program through the utilization of the Infant Toddler Temperament Tool (IT3). Participants will leave being able to complete the tool and use the results to obtain "Goodness of Fit" and activity suggestions.

Understanding Children's Behavior as Communication

This training focuses on ways that early childhood educators can partner with families to understand and respond to children's behavior as communication.

Understanding Social-Emotional Development

Providers will be introduced to the Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning Pyramid Model. They will be able to define social emotional development. Child care providers will describe how social emotional development unfolds in the context of caregiving relationships.

Using Interactive Media in Early Learning

As technology use continues to grow, knowledge of how to use electronic media and devices, referred to as Digital Literacy, has become as important as book awareness and handling. Teachers and care providers are in the position to take the lead in creating positive digital literacy activities by limiting screen time, interacting with children during screen use, and being intentional in choosing how children are going to access media and what learning goals can be enhanced through technology. This training will address practices to select appropriate media for early childhood programs, as well as strategies to increase interactions to help meet child goals.