



2025 Annual Conference Agenda April 28-29, 2025

DAY ONE – April 28, 2025

8-9 AM – Breakfast

9 AM – Welcome

9:10 AM – Keynote

The Power of Picture Books to Advance Equity: Bridging Research and Practice

Presenter: Shana Rochester, PhD; Research Scientist, Child Trends

Description: This keynote will provide a research overview on how picture books support child development, with a particular emphasis on multicultural picture books. In this one-hour session, the speaker will (a) discuss seminal and current research on multicultural picture books for infants and toddlers, (b) highlight examples of equitable practices using these texts in home-based settings, and (c) highlight how shared reading with multicultural picture books can affirm children (and families) from different racial and ethnic backgrounds. The keynote will be followed by a Q&A session.

10:15 – 11:45 – Workshops

1. ParentChild+ Reimagined: Equity, Quality Assurance, and Innovations in Early Childhood Parenting Support

Presenters: Cesar Zuniga, Jessica Faith, Vidya Ragoo

Description: Join us for an engaging and interactive session as we explore the transformative steps and innovations that are shaping ParentChild+'s approach to equity and quality assurance. This workshop will provide an in-depth look at the development of an Equity-Centered Quality Assurance Framework, the integration of culturally responsive practices, and how

innovative tools like video coding for evaluation and professional development can support this work.

Designed for practitioners across our network, this session will offer a chance to engage with the National Center's fidelity, quality, and equity goals and discuss the "one program, two models" framework. We will address the challenges and opportunities this work brings and discuss the critical role that practitioners play in its success.

Attendees will leave with:

- A clear understanding of the goals for an updated framework, including their purpose and impact on families, home visitors, and early childhood education.
- Insights into the lessons learned from implementing the HBCC model, how it aligns with the Family model, and how this work supports "the one program, two models" vision.
- Practical strategies for work within their local sites.

This session is an opportunity to engage in a candid conversation about equity, innovation, and how we manage change together, ensuring we move forward as a unified network dedicated to serving families and communities.

2. Exploring the Impact of Diverse Books on Parent-Child Relationships

Presenters: Maggie Gunther Osborn, VP of Network Engagement & Partnerships at First Book, will lead the discussion with participation from the Diverse Books for All Coalition, and possible additional experts in early literacy and childhood development.

Description: First Book is dedicated to ensuring that all children, regardless of their background or zip code, can succeed, by removing barriers to equitable education. We reach 6.5 million kids each year in low-income communities across North America, providing books and resources through a network of educators, professionals and volunteers. We are a founding member of the Diverse Books for All Coalition (as is ParentChild+), a national consortium of nonprofit organizations and networks working together to increase access to affordable, high quality children's books by and about diverse races, cultures, identities, and abilities.

First Book Research & Insights recently conducted a nationwide study to understand the impacts of increasing access to diverse and representative reading materials for children. First Book and our Diverse Books for All Coalition will host a dialogue to discuss the study findings and the importance of diverse books in early literacy and building relationships between parents,

caregivers, and children. Join us to learn about how to utilize these resources and develop connections with young children through diverse books.

3. Introduction to Creative Problem Solving

Presenter: Joy Harper, Developmental Specialist & Early Childhood Director, Cambridge Public Schools

Description: Behavior charts, rewards, and punishments don't work, and we know why. Traditional discipline is broken. It doesn't result in improved behavior or improved relationships between adults and children. The Collaborative Problem Solving® approach is an effective form of relational discipline that reduces concerning behavior and parent stress while building thinking skills, empathy, and relationships between adults and children. The goal of Joy's work is to interrupt the Preschool to Prison Pipeline and enrich public systems that serve young children.

4. Panel discussion – Former Program Parents now Implementing ParentChild+ (Presenters TBD)

11:45 – 12:15 PM – Exhibits & Networking

12:15 PM – 1:15 PM – Lunch (language-specific tables available)

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM – Workshops

1. Strengthening Families, HOPE and ParentChild+ Principles: The Crosswalk and Implementation into Practice

Presenters: Jane Cohen (and team)

Description: The presenters, the ParentChild+ Framingham team, will provide an overview of Strengthening Families, HOPE Healthy Outcome for Positive Experiences, and ParentChild+ Principles. They will share a crosswalk of these frameworks and how they complement and build off each other. They will conclude by connecting these frameworks into the everyday work of ParentChild+: training Early Learning Specialists; embedding in home visits; and using the PIEL and Home Visit Reflection. The session will highlight the impact of a strength-based vs a deficit-based medical model in our work, and will include a presentation, video, breakout groups, and group discussion.

2. Using a Parallel Process of Coaching to Support Home Visitors and Families

Presenters: Christa Haring, PhD; University of VA and Angela Rau, founder of ACTT Consulting

Description: A growing body of research substantiates what early care and education professionals have always known: Nothing is as important as relationships between caregivers, children, and families. Our experiences during the most challenging days of the COVID-19 pandemic only underscored the necessity of supportive connections. During this challenging period, representatives from various home visiting models collaborated to determine the most effective ways to support families from diverse backgrounds with unique needs. A significant issue from these discussions was the need for effective training for home visitors, coaches, and supervisors across different models. The result of these discussions coalesced in a new book, [“Coaching in Home Visiting: Supporting Better Outcomes for Professionals and Families.”](#)

In this session, Christa and Angela will discuss the parallel process of coaching in home visiting and how working collaboratively improves outcomes for families.

3. Engaging Young Children and Parents in Environmental Awareness Through Storytelling: Using Books to Foster a Love for the Planet

Presenter: Monica Allison, PHMC, Philadelphia

Description: This presentation will offer an engaging and practical approach to introducing children ages 2-4 years old and their families to concepts of environmental stewardship, climate change, and caring for the planet. Focusing on three popular children’s books—“The Earth Book” by Todd Parr, “Lola Plants a Garden” by Anna McQuinn, and “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” series by Eric Carle—this session will provide home visitors with the tools they need to help parents spark meaningful environmental conversations with their young children. Through storytelling, hands-on activities, and practical tips, this presentation will help bridge the gap between abstract environmental concepts and the everyday lives of children and their families, particularly those living in urban settings.

3:00 – 3:30 – Exhibits & Networking

3:30 – 5:00 PM – Workshops

1. HBCC and Family Model Coordinators Present Best Practices for Today's Challenges During Home Visits

Presenter: Vidya Ragoo, Moderator; Christina Josling, Staff Networking

Description: In this conference session, coordinators who lead both the Family and Home-Based Child Care models will highlight practical solutions to common challenges in home visiting. Coordinators gathered and asked each other what they want to know and what they want to share with the larger group of ParentChild+ practitioners. Together, they came up with three questions that we will address in this interactive session.

- The reluctant adult: How do we encourage parents/providers to lead activities?
- The shoestring budget: How do we plan VISM materials for low or no-cost activities that meet the requirements for VISM distribution?
- The last good-bye song: How do we encourage parents/providers to continue school-readiness activities with their children after we complete our last visit?

Using video, audience members will be prompted to share approaches with each other and coordinators will describe creative practices they have used to mediate barriers. Join us for a chance to share ideas with colleagues and walk away with some ideas that you can bring through the doors of your next home visit.

2. Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Coaching Practices

Presenters: Christa Haring, PhD; University of VA and Angela Rau, founder of ACTT Consulting

Description: As supervisors and home visitors, we all try to be sensitive and supportive of the cultural perspectives of the families we serve. Some of us have facilitated or participated in exercises that are designed to help us be more culturally responsive. But, learning to truly see another individual or family through the lens of their own experience is a lifelong process and best occurs through a reciprocal relationship. This workshop will discuss the coaching mindset and practices, talking points and reflective processes that can help a home visitor or supervisor better support diverse families. Presenters will discuss processes and practices that occur before, during, and after a visit that helps us highlight the strengths found in diversity.

3. Empowering Diversity: Innovative Approaches to Professional Growth

Presenters: Pamela Williams, WA State Director, ParentChild+ and Marcella Taylor WA State Program Manager, ParentChild_ –

This workshop aims to showcase innovative professional development strategies developed over several years. Emphasizing cultural contexts and intersectionality, the strategies integrate creativity while supporting infant and early childhood mental health.

The workshop will highlight key sessions and initiatives from recent years, emphasizing adaptability, resourcefulness, and advocacy. It will share innovative and inclusive virtual and face-to-face professional development strategies, enhancing support for diverse workforce teams and services to families. Participants will engage in interactive activities and brainstorming sessions to practically apply these skills.

4. Roots: Multi-Generational Healing as A Basis for Early Learning

Presenters: Debra Monroe, Cenetra Pickens, and Chassity Brown, Seeds of Success

Description: This session will explore how racism and oppression - and the impacts of systemic trauma - intersect with early development and lived experiences of BIPOC children and families. This training expands our perspectives on and practices for culturally specific, trauma-informed, and healing-centered engagement of children and families positioned furthest from access and opportunity.

DAY TWO, April 29, 2025

8:00 – 9:00 AM – Breakfast

9 AM – 10 AM – Keynote

Identifying and Investing in the Strengths of Latino Families

Presenter: Natasha J Cabrera, PhD; University of Maryland

Description: Understanding the cultural context of Latinx families and focusing on their strengths is essential so we can best serve them. What are those strengths and how do they support child development? And what does research tell us about the unique role of fathers? This talk will take a close look specifically at Latinx families, but also at the importance of identifying strengths of all families within a cultural context. The talk will close with a summary and then recommendations that can apply to all our work.

10:15 AM – 11:45 AM – Workshops

1. Demystifying Difficult Behaviors in Young Children

Presenter: Nnenna Franciamore, PhD; HBCC Specialist, ParentChild+ National Center

Description: In this session participants will consider ways to address challenging behaviors in young children by being responsive to their needs and skill levels rather than being reactive when difficult behaviors arise. Young children are learning and growing rapidly. Being attuned to their behaviors provides many opportunities for their caregivers to support them in reaching healthy social and emotional milestones. Participants will learn to identify children's needs when their behavior is difficult, as well as consider ways to model the social-emotional skills needed for self-regulation and co-regulation.

2. How Programs can Capitalize on the Strengths of Latino Families

Presenter: Natasha J Cabrera, PhD; University of Maryland

Description: To effectively tailor programs' approaches and strategies to the specific characteristics and dynamics of Latino families, programs should know more about Latino participants' relationships as couples and co-parents, their relationships with their children, and their financial self-sufficiency. In this workshop, We will focus on: couple and co-parenting relationships; parenting; and self-sufficiency (i.e., education, household income, and employment) to

highlight the strengths of these families, and provide specific examples of how programs can provide services to promote and support families' strengths. The focus is on the early childhood years (infancy to kindergarten) because this period is critical for development and poses heightened demands on parents' time and resources.

3. Comprehensive Coaching for Home Visitors in Child Development Practices

Presenters: Patti Manz, PhD, Professor of School Psychology and Associate Chair, Department of Education Lehigh University; Katherine Lopez, M. Ed; Jessica Hyland, B.A; & Lauren Wright, B.A.

Description: Home visitors have the distinct professional responsibility to facilitate parents' interactions with their children to optimize child development. With minimal preservice training opportunities available, practice-focused coaching can enhance home visitor competencies for promoting child development via parent-child interactions. This workshop will inform attendees about the evidence-based Little Talks program, a parent-mediated intervention to promote children's communication and language growth. Experimental evaluation has demonstrated Little Talks effectiveness in enhancing home visiting quality, parents' engagement of children, and their wellbeing, as well as in fostering communication and language growth in young children. Additionally, Little Talks professional development has been shown to effectively prepare home visitors to deliver the intervention in collaboration with parents. Attendees will learn about coaching strategies for supporting home visitors as well as home visitors' practices for facilitating parents' use of Little Talks with children.

4. Promoting Black Children's Positive Identity Development 70 Years After Brown v. Board

Presenters: Mavis Sanders, PhD-Senior Research Scholar of Black Children and Families; Dominique N. Martinez; Research Analyst in Population Focused Research

Description: In this interactive session, participants will explore the landmark "dolls study" that influenced the Supreme Court's historic 1954 decision to end de jure segregation in the United States. The session will examine how these studies revealed the profound impact of racial bias on children's self-perception and identity, as well as the protective factors that shielded some children from its harmful effects. Participants will also learn how more recent dolls studies continue to shape our understanding of identity development in Black children today.

Through reflective discussion, participants will have the opportunity to connect this research to their own work with children and families. The session will provide practical, age-appropriate strategies and tools that can be shared with families and child care providers to help counteract the effects of racial bias and support the development of positive self-concepts in Black children and other children of color. Whether working as home visitors, caregivers, or advocates, participants will leave with new insights and actionable resources to help foster healthier, more resilient identities in children of all backgrounds.

11:45 – 12:15 PM Exhibits & Networking

12:15 PM – 1:30 PM – Lunch (60th anniversary celebration, certificates, door prizes)

1:30 – 2:30 – Keynote

Expanding Our Understanding of the Strengthening Families Protective Factors

Presenter: Charlyn Harper Browne, PhD; Senior Fellow, Center for the Study of Social Policy

Description: An expanded understanding of the Strengthening Families protective factors emphasizes the need to integrate a set of core values into practice designed to build the five protective factors. These core values are essential because they emphasize the need to address community and societal conditions—in addition to individual and family circumstances—that impact the lives of children, parents, and families and help to build or undermine optimal development and well-being.

2:30 – 2:45 PM – Exhibits & networking

3:00 – 4:30 PM – Workshops

1. Strengthening Families and the HOPE Framework

Presenter: Charlyn Harper Browne, PhD; Senior Fellow, Center for the Study of Social Policy

Description: Strengthening Families and HOPE — Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences — are two frameworks that have significantly contributed

to a shift in both perspectives and practice within child- and family-serving fields. This workshop will address the value of Strengthening Families and HOPE as complementary approaches that promote the healthy development and well-being of young children and their families and reduce the impact of adversity they may face.

2. National Black Child Institute

Description: Pending

- 3.** Approaches Early Learning Specialists can take with families who have a child on a waiting list for early intervention services for neurodivergence and/or speech delays.