

naeyc®

# Week of the Young Child®

**CAMBRIDGE**  
Office of Early Childhood

**REGISTRATION  
NOW OPEN!**



Caring Together for Young Children & Families

**6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CAMBRIDGE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD  
WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD, APRIL 11-16TH**

**EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE | SATURDAY, APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup>**

We look forward to welcoming you to the Cambridge Office of Early Childhood's yearly celebration of young children and early childhood professionals! Aligned with NAEYC's Week of the Young Child, we are pleased to invite you to join us for both in-person and virtual professional development opportunities.



**PLEASE REVIEW OUR CATALOG OF  
EVENTS AND REGISTER TODAY!**





## Many Hands, One Community: Caring Together for Young Children & Families Mini-Conference

SATURDAY, APRIL 11th, 2026 | 8:30-12:45pm

Breakfast 8:30-9:00 | Keynote 9:15

Networking 10:15 | Workshops 11:15-12:45

LOCATION: Harvard School of Graduate Education  
Cambridge, MA

**REGISTER HERE**

### Keynote Speaker | Ant Toombs

Founding Member and Growth & Expansion Strategist at Life is Good<sup>®</sup> Playmaker Project



When the going gets tough, the tough get playing. As we face a growing mental health crisis among children & educators alike, there is one part of the solution that hasn't been tapped: PLAY. Play isn't about what you do- it's the spirit & energy you bring to everything you do. With the right approach, it can create a sense of joy, connection & engagement that serve as the antidote to rising rates of depression, anxiety & trauma. In this inspiring talk, Ant will use storytelling & research to share why play is the most powerful tool we have to tackle one of the most pressing issues educators face. And why play isn't a break from the work- it is the work.

### Workshop Presenter | Two Pushy Dames

Childhood What's the Rush



### Workshop Presenter | Emie Michaud Weinstock

Building Our Village: Transforming Family Engagement Together



### Workshop Presenter | Lauren Stauble

*Healing Centered Practices for Preventing and Tending to Ruptures in the Preschool Classroom*



## **Intentional Drama for Connection, Regulation and Belonging**

Monday, APRIL 13TH | 6:00-8:00 PM | In-person

OEC Office | 1972 Mass Ave., Cambridge MA \*dinner provided

**Presenters: Kathryn Martin and Donya Pooli-Yeganeh**

[REGISTER](#)



This interactive professional development workshop is designed for early childhood educators who want to use drama intentionally to strengthen relationships, support emotional regulation, and foster a strong sense of belonging. Grounded in child development and play-based learning, it moves beyond “putting on a show” to focus on everyday, relationship-based practice. Participants explore how drama strategies woven throughout the day can promote connection, co-regulation, and communication.

## **Mitigating Workplace Stress and Promoting Wellbeing**

Monday, APRIL 13TH | 6:30-8:00 PM | Virtual

**Presenters: Charlotte Petty & Isabel Schmidt**

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During this workshop, participants will have the chance to refresh their understanding of the science of stress and resilience and explore strategies for adult emotion regulation and relationship-building in early learning settings. They will reflect on their own experiences alongside others in the group and leave with key insights and practical strategies for mitigating stress and supporting the well-being of adults in early learning environments—and, in turn, the well-being of the children in their care.

## **Examinando nuestras actitudes, perspectivas culturales y desencadenantes emocionales en la educación temprana**

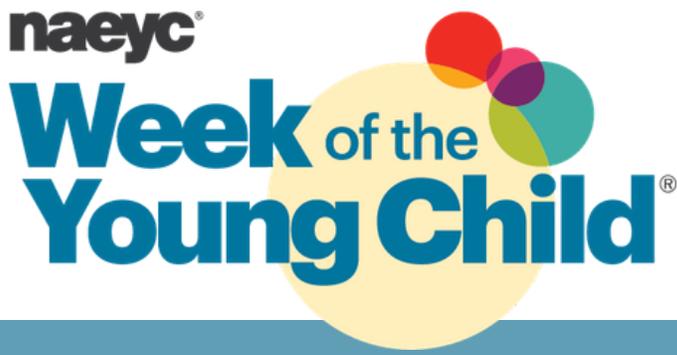
Tuesday, APRIL 14TH | 6:30-8:00 PM | Virtual

**Presenter: Marcela Simpson, MSW, M.Ed., IMH-E®**

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Nuestras creencias inconscientes, experiencias culturales y desencadenantes emocionales pueden influir en cómo interpretamos y respondemos al comportamiento de los niños en entornos educativos de la primera infancia. Fundamentada en el Nivel 1 del Modelo Pirámide y en prácticas informadas por el trauma, esta capacitación interactiva fortalece las alianzas con las familias, el profesionalismo y las relaciones entre educadores, así como el bienestar de educadores y cuidadores. Los participantes completarán las actividades de Elementos culturales y Desencadenantes emocionales, y desarrollarán estrategias prácticas para pausar, reflexionar y responder de manera que promuevan la equidad y entornos de aprendizaje acogedores y enriquecedores.



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## Sweet Dreams or Nightmare: Making Naptime Work for Children and Educators

Wednesday, APRIL 15TH | 6:30-8:00 PM | Virtual

Presenter: Linda Schumacher, M.Ed.



[REGISTER](#)

Sleep is an important aspect of a child's physical and mental health. Naptime is an important part of any child care routine. . . when it works! This workshop will explore why rest and sleep are important to any child and how to plan your routine and environment to meet the needs of both sleepers and non-sleepers. Educators will share their own tried-and-true strategies for successful naptime and gain new ideas and resources to make naptime a dream.

## Playing with Math!



Thursday, APRIL 16TH | 6:00-8:00 PM | In-person

Community Room | Main Library Cambridge, MA \*dinner provided

Presenters: Quéla Jules & Barb MacEachern

[REGISTER](#)



The Early Childhood Math Play Group has been focusing on how we can collectively create pathways that develop positive math mindsets through joyful math play. As part of this work, this group has been testing math games that will be available through the Cambridge Public Library. Have a say in how Cambridge plays! We invite you to play, discover and engage with these games. As you play, you will work together and use your experience and knowledge to suggest activities that other Cambridge educators can bring back to their early learners. \*This is session 1 of a 2-part series, see registration for more details

## Reflective Leadership (Audience: Directors)

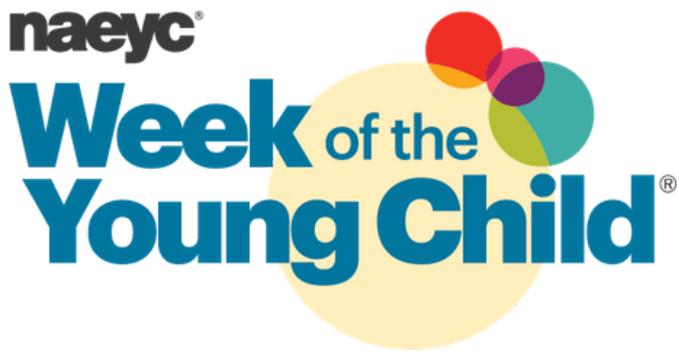
Thursday, APRIL 16TH | 6:30-8:00 PM | Virtual

Presenter: Dr. Amy Scott

[REGISTER](#)



This workshop will explore the role of reflective practices in fostering a healthy and effective organizational climate. Participants will examine key elements such as interpersonal communication, the parallel process, and learning from conflict as essential components of professional growth. The session will engage attendees in meaningful dialogue around conflict resolution, establishing and maintaining healthy boundaries, and understanding the distinction between dialogue and debate. Additionally, the workshop will address critical topics including microaggressions, implicit biases, and their impact on workplace dynamics.



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## Professional Communication with Colleagues (Audience: classroom or non-supervisory roles)

Thursday, APRIL 10TH | 6:30-8:00 PM | Virtual

Presenter: Janna Aldrich, M.Ed.



[REGISTER](#)

The stresses of the past several years have had a definite impact on teachers and caregivers. We all need ways to feel supported and rejuvenated, and strategies for using professional, kind, respectful communication in our interactions with both colleagues and children. We'll look at the benefits of team teaching and a strength-based approach to building positive relationships and finding resiliency and joy in our work.

Thank you for registering! We are thrilled to host these events  
and look forward to connecting with you in April!

Questions? Please email Erin Sarpard, [esarpard@cpsd.us](mailto:esarpard@cpsd.us)

