

**28<sup>th</sup> Annual**  
**Coming Together for Children**  
**Conference 2023**

**“Back Together, Preparing Children for a  
Successful Future”**



**Saturday, February 25, 2023**

**7:30 am to 1:00 pm**

**Crossroads United Methodist Church**

**220 George W. Liles Parkway, Northwest  
Concord, North Carolina 28027**



# Coming Together for Children Conference 2023

The 28th annual *Coming Together for Children* Conference is for early education professionals from Cabarrus, Stanly and surrounding Counties. Parents are also welcome. The conference will feature exciting workshops, outstanding presenters, agencies, vendors, and light refreshments.

## Who is invited?

Early childhood educators in Cabarrus, Stanly, and surrounding counties are invited to attend. This includes programs serving children birth through age 8, all day or part day, licensed or unregulated. The invitation is extended to all parents and foster parents of children ages 0 to 5 years of age.

## Breakfast

All participants are invited to enjoy a **light breakfast (coffee, juice, pastries, fruit)** as part of their conference registration fee. Lunch is not provided.

## Exhibits

Exhibits will open at 7:30 AM and close at 11:15 AM. Exhibits are located **in the Gymnasium**. Look for signs. Please take time to visit each vendor and agency. There will be a lot of information and resources for you to take home.



## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration Fee is \$20.00      Registration Deadline: *February 3, 2023*

Late Registration Fee: \$25.00 (February 6 - 17, 2023)

**On-site Registration Fee: \$35.00 with limited workshop selection.**

**No refunds after February 17, 2023. Requests for refunds must be received in writing to CTFC Coalition and postmarked by February 16, 2023. Please allow approximately three to five weeks for processing. "No Shows" will NOT be given any kind of refund.**

Payment in the form of a check or money order must accompany the registration. Registrations will not be processed without payment. Make checks payable to CTFC Coalition.

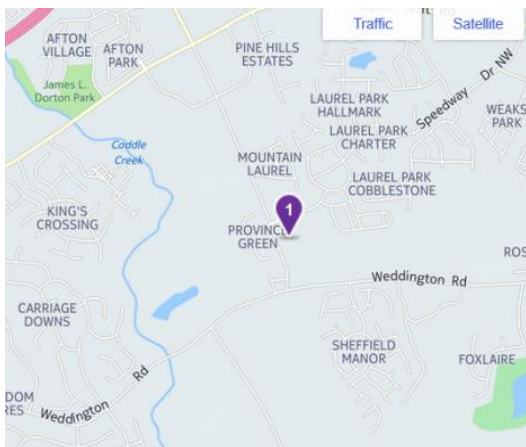
## CREDITS

NC Division of Child Development: Contact Credit Hours of three (3) hours for conference participants.



## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

- 7:30 to 8:30 Check-in/Breakfast  
Vendor and Agency Fair
- 8:30 to 9:15 Keynote – Paula Yost
- 9:15 to 9:30 Break/Vendor & Agency Fair
- 9:30 to 10:45 Breakout Sessions 1
- 10:45 to 11:00 Break/Vendor & Agency Fair
- 11:00 to 12:15 Breakout Sessions 2
- 12:15 to 1:00 Hearts & Hands Awards/  
Door Prizes
- Conference Wrap-up



Please use the NexGen Entrance at Crossroads. The entrance is on the back side of the building and will be clearly marked the day of the conference.

**Crossroads United Methodist Church**  
220 George W. Liles Parkway, Northwest  
Concord, NC 28027

Please wear comfortable clothes and walking shoes! Workshops will be in classrooms throughout the church, so you will have a little walking to do. Bring a light jacket as we cannot control thermostats!!

**ACCESSIBILITY ASSISTANCE:** If you would like assistance due to a mobility, hearing, or sight impairment, or limited English proficiency, you are warmly encouraged to contact CTFC Coalition Member Christy Hopkins at [chopkins5545@stanly.edu](mailto:chopkins5545@stanly.edu)



**PARTICIPANTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED INTO THE  
CONFERENCE AFTER 8:30 AM!!  
THE ENTIRE CROSSROADS CAMPUS IS SMOKE-FREE.**

## Keynote Speaker – 8:30 AM TO 9:15 AM\*

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**SPEAKER:** Paula Yost

**Keynote Address:** THE IMPORTANCE OF AN EDUCATOR: How you as a preschool teacher can truly make a difference in the lives of a child and in the lives of a family.

**DESCRIPTION:** A motivational chat about how you as a teacher can protect, inspire, and lead children to be the very best that they can be while also being the very best that YOU can be.

**BIOGRAPHY:** Paula Yost is a native of Cabarrus County. She has a BS in Microbiology with a minor in Chemistry and a BA in English from Virginia Tech, a law degree from the Delaware Law School, and a Masters in Clinical Mental Health from Lenoir-Rhyne University. Paula is licensed to practice law in North Carolina, Georgia, and before the United States Patent and Trademark Office. She is a licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor in North Carolina. Paula has been the Chair of Cabarrus County's Child Protection and Fatality Team for the last 10 years. She is also the founder of Cabarrus Apple Cart, a political action committee solely focused on getting good people appointed to the school board. Additionally, she is a certified yoga instructor, an avid reader of books, and is currently working on a historical fiction novel which she hopes to be able to release in the next year. Paula has been married to her husband Peter for 13 years and is the mother of three boys, Pratley, age 8, Pierson, age 6, and Paul age 4. She also has an adult daughter who was adopted from foster care and a granddaughter who is 4.

\*All participants will attend the Keynote Presentation.

# Breakout Sessions 1 – 9:30 am - 10:45 am

\*\*\*The number at the beginning of each workshop description should be used when completing your registration form.\*\*\*

## 101 – Early Childhood Language Development: Typical or Not?

Anna Chan, Speech-Language Pathologist

Focus Group: Teachers (Toddlers/Preschoolers)

This workshop will review developmental language milestones, strategies and ways to support language development in childcare settings; as well as, characteristics of language delays and other disorders.

## 102 – Creative Arts: Bring Us All Together!

Nicole Sessoms, Early Education Liaison, Rowan Cabarrus Community College

Focus Group: All

In this workshop we will discuss how art from around the world can inspire the classroom. This is from music, art, dance, and more. We will also discuss how to support children in art and allow student art.

## 103 – Teachers for Teachers!

Brandy Storey, Megan Ridenhour, Mandee LaCroix – EC Teachers & Support Staff  
(Preschool)

Focus Group: Teachers (All ages)

Teaching can feel like a deserted island. We will give you advice, tips, and ways teachers and assistants can help and support one another while in the classroom. Together we can build a strong teacher community.

## 104 – How to Teach to Support Emotional Intelligence and the Social Emotional Needs of the Children.

Jessie Napoli, Emerge Child and Family Therapy

Focus Group: All

Participants will learn how to recognize social emotional needs of children and how to teach emotional intelligence to young children.

## 105 – Music & Lyrics: Enriching Language Development Through Song

Jake Hemminger, Speech-Language Pathologist

Focus Group: Preschoolers

Greek philosopher Plato remarked: “Music gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, [and] flight to the imagination.” We experience this idea daily in our interactions with the soundscape that surrounds us. This presentation explores how music can be implemented in education activities to target language skills by examining how to utilize songs, visuals, and other adaptive materials to foster vocabulary and concept development in children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other language disorders.

# Breakout Sessions 1 (continued)

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## 106 – Supporting Students with FASD: Strategies for Educators

Kim Mork, Supervisor of Behavioral Health

Focus Group: All

In this presentation, participants will learn about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and how it affects a fetus in utero, how it impacts brain development and common behavior issues. Personal stories of working with families will be shared and specific strategies for the classroom that can help with children's behavior.

## 107– Circle Time: Where Learning Takes Shape

Ashely Becker and Rachel Harkey, EC Preschool teachers

Focus Group: All

An effectively run, developmentally appropriate circle time is a wonderful time to learn new things, gain self- and emotional-regulation skills, and to allow children to share their learning/knowledge. Join us to explore intentional practices to include visuals in circle, increase children's engagement, and teach developmentally appropriate content during circle time.

## 108 – Tinkering for Tomorrow: Connecting with Nature by Investigating Invertebrates

Kathy Osborne and Linda Kinney, Kidzone Coordinator and Nature Play and School Programs Manager

Focus Group: All

During this session participants will explore approaches to expanding pathways for informal STEAM learning and literacy development through child-directed play and nature-based learning experiences. Drawing on evidence-informed programs that support the benefits of playing and learning outside, participants will explore new ideas and hands-on activities for play and learning outdoors and recognize how nature play can nurture the potential of all students so that no one is left out, and everyone-of all ages and abilities-can play and learn to the greatest extent possible. Take the ug out of bugs by meeting some of the Zoo's invertebrates and learn how to collect and observe the invertebrates living at your center or school. Stretch your STEAM skills by making a bug out of loose parts and leverage literacy learning through sharing observations and ponderings.

## 109 – Those Who Lead Love to Read: Language and Literacy in the Classroom

Jessica Baker, Stanly Community College Success Coach Coordinator

Focus Group: Teacher (All)

While we know that reading to children is a good thing, how much are the children getting from it? How can we lead children to establish a life-long love of learning? In this session, we will explore ways to ensure children get the most out of reading, as well as discuss developmental milestones, strategies, and best practices when promoting language and literacy skills in the classroom.

**110 – Vicarious Trauma: How to deal with trauma you’ve experienced while helping others**  
Natalie Atwell, Ed.D - Owner of Concord Counseling/Consulting; Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor; Professor Liberty University

**Focus Group: All**

In this presentation, participants will learn about vicarious trauma (trauma experienced by caregivers of those with trauma. Participants will learn strategies for how to manage their own stress as a result of caring for others.

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## **Breakout Sessions 2 – 11:00 am - 12:15 pm**

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**201 – Playing with Words – Why Phonological Awareness Matters!**

**Melissa McCall, Owner, Moving Little Minds – Preschool Literacy Teacher**

**Focus Group: Teachers (Preschoolers)**

This workshop will focus on digging deeper into phonological awareness in preschool. We will discuss ways to incorporate skills beyond rhymes and alliteration. We will look at syllables, onset-rime, sentence segmentation and phonemic awareness.

**202 – “Music Manages Emotions” – Using music to enhance SEL.**

**Susan Steele, Music Teacher, Early Childhood Foundation of Cabarrus County**

**Focus Group: Teachers (Toddler, Preschoolers, School-Age)**

In this workshop, participants will learn how to use puppets, current SEL age-appropriate books and music to help students become more aware of their emotions and how to navigate them. There will be several demonstrations of musical pieces that can be used to help young children become more aware of how music mirrors their emotions.

**203 – Rev Up Your Read Alouds**

**Amanda Wilkerson & Jenny Ripley, Children’s Librarian (Amanda) & Community Services Coordinator (Jenny)**

**Focus Group: All**

In this presentation, we’ll share library-tested tips and tricks for story times. You’ll learn how to seamlessly integrate pre-literacy skills into read aloud time, how to pick the best books for your audience, and how to make the experience engaging and interactive for kids. We’ll also share information about the services our local libraries can provide you.

# Breakout Sessions 2 (continued)

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**204 – Activities for Exploring Nature with Young Children: An Introduction to Project Learning Tree's Trees & Me Curriculum**  
**Tammi Remsburg, Cabarrus Soil & Water Resource Conservation Coordinator & Shannon Unger, Cabarrus County Park Program Supervisor**  
**Focus Group: All**

**Join us for fun activities to do with your 1 – to 6-year-old students. We will sample activities from Project Learning Tree's award-winning curriculum via their free family activity sheets.**

**205 – Fostering a School Family**  
**Teryn Nails, NC Pre-K Teacher**  
**Focus Group: Preschoolers**

**Participants will learn about the following activities and strategies to use in the classroom: Brain Smart Start- Morning Meeting, Safekeeper Box- using pictures to make a promise to keep it safe, Acts of Kindness- using visuals, How I Feel Today- Sign-In, Feeling Buddies, Classroom Jobs/Job Chart**

**206 – The Special Education Process 101**  
**Trina Wenzel, Cabarrus County Schools Preschool Director**  
**Focus Group: All**

**Participants will gain useful knowledge about how to understand the special education referral and evaluation process for young children.**

**207 – Triple P – How to Promote Positive Behavior in Your Classroom and in Your Home**  
**Kristine Holt, Family Partner Mental Health America**  
**Focus Group: All**

Triple P is a positive parenting program that doesn't quite tell you how to parent but gives you the tools and support to help correct behavior and catch them being good. Triple P is a toolbox of ideas that cannot only help you as a parent but as an educator.

**208 – Tell Your Story - Advocacy**  
**Cyndie Osborne, Stanly Community College EDU Department Program Head**  
**Focus Group: Teachers All Ages**

**We have been told repeatedly that Early Childhood Education is a bipartisan issue, yet in recent years we have not seen legislation to support the early childhood field. Come learn ways to tell your story to legislators about your work and what you need from them regarding the essential work that you do every day.**



# Breakout Sessions 2 (continued)

209 – (Repeat) **Tinkering for Tomorrow: Connecting with Nature by Investigating Invertebrates**  
**Kathy Osborne and Linda Kinney, Kidzone Coordinator and Nature Play and School Programs Manager**

**Focus Group: All**

During this session participants will explore approaches to expanding pathways for informal STEAM learning and literacy development through child-directed play and nature-based learning experiences. Drawing on evidence-informed programs that support the benefits of playing and learning outside, participants will explore new ideas and hands-on activities for play and learning outdoors and recognize how nature play can nurture the potential of all students so that no one is left out, and everyone-of all ages and abilities-can play and learn to the greatest extent possible. Take the ug out of bugs by meeting some of the Zoo's invertebrates and learn how to collect and observe the invertebrates living at your center or school. Stretch your STEAM skills by making a bug out of loose parts and leverage literacy learning through sharing observations and ponderings.

## Coming Together for Children Conference 2023

### REGISTRATION FORM

**Each person registering must have a separate form.** (Please make copies of this form as needed.)

**Early Registration deadline is February 3. Late Registration deadline is February 17, 2023.**

**MAKE CHECK/MO PAYABLE TO: CTFC Coalition (Coming Together for Children Coalition)**

*No refunds after February 17, 2023.*

For questions, please contact Christy Hopkins at [chopkins5545@stanly.edu](mailto:chopkins5545@stanly.edu) or (704) 991-0316.

Sponsored by



Coming Together for Children Coalition



Please enclose a check or money order for:  
 \$20.00 postmarked by **February 3, 2023**  
 \$25.00 postmarked **Feb. 13 - 17, 2023**

Mail your **COMPLETE** registration form  
 and payment to:  
**Stanly Community College**  
**c/o Christy Hopkins (EDU Dept.)**  
**141 College Drive**  
**Albemarle, NC 28001**

**PLEASE COMPLETE ENTIRELY & PRINT**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone or Cell Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ County in which you work \_\_\_\_\_

Center/FCCH/School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Center/FCCH/School Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Descriptions for the breakout sessions are included. Please look over these 1-hour and 15 minute workshop presentations and select 3 choices for BOTH of the Breakout Sessions 1 & 2. **Please write the session preceding the description in each blank below. For example: 203, 201, 204.**

Preferred Session	Breakout Session #1 9:30 am – 10:45 am (Nos. 101-107)	Breakout Session #2 11:00 am – 12:15 pm (Nos. 201-206)
1 <sup>st</sup> Choice		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice		
3 <sup>rd</sup> Choice		

Workshop selections will be given on a first come, first-served basis.

If you do not indicate 3 choices with workshop numbers, you may be given a workshop you do not want.

Most workshops are limited to 20 participants.

