

Virginia Head Start Association Infant Toddler Institute
Right From the Start: Providing Quality Services for Infants and Toddlers
August 12-13, 2015

Tuesday, August 11

4:00 – 6:00 pm

Early Registration

Day One: Wednesday, August 12

6:30 – 8:30 am

Breakfast (24 Market Breakfast Buffet opens at 6:30 am, buffet at your leisure)

8:30 – 9:00

Welcome! Recognition of Conference Scholarship winners

9:00 – 10:30

Laying the Foundation: Building Trust and Self-Esteem through Music, Movement, Affirmation and Open-Ended Art

Join Debbie Clement, a nationally award winning author/illustrator of picture books, in an upbeat romp through her work as it applies to our youngest children. Appreciate the possibilities of extending her illustrations with wee fingers and feet! Sing, dance, paint, sign and giggle as we take a close look at how the ARTS lay the foundation for all learning and literacy to follow. Explore possibilities that translate to motivating parents for quality interaction.

10:30 – 10:45

Break

10:45 – 12:15 pm

MORE Songs and Fun for Everyone!

We're going to take a close look at original, simple and repetitive songs and the movement activities and "choreography" that bring language to life.

Discover the difference of adding 'novelty' to your music interaction through puppets, props, costumes, instruments and more. Sculpt brain research into designing your interactions through the Arts with tiny tots and their parents.

12:15 - 1:30

Lunch

1:30-3:00

MAKE-IT & TAKE-IT!

We'll finish our day with a hands-on block of time to create some new crafty novelty items of your own. Everyone will be making their own happy surprise pieces to add to your collection and enrich your repertoire. Please bring your own pair of adult/crafty scissors. Please also bring one dozen 'regular sized' plastic bags from Walmart/Target/grocery store (the type you bring your groceries home in). If you have more than a dozen, bring more and we can share with those who forget.

If you have a stash of crafty odds and ends, feel free to bring them along too. {A bottle of glue or glue gun and markers would be helpful.} We will supply the major pieces and parts, but if you have doo-dahs of your own handy, feel free to bring them. Random stickers, buttons, pompoms, pipe cleaners and the like will only add to the fun!

Day Two: Thursday, August 13

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Participants will choose a workshop session during each time block on the 2nd day

6:30 – 8:30 am **Breakfast (24 Market Breakfast Buffet – at your leisure)**

8:30 – 10:00

Track A - Led by Child Care Aware

Exploring Math and Literacy with Infants and Toddlers

Imagine learning new skills to prepare our very young learners for the introduction of math and literacy. This training will change your view on infants and toddler’s ability to comprehend new information in the areas of math and literacy.

Track B - Led by Infant Toddler Specialist Network

Help! Smoothing Out the Wrinkles of Transitions and Routines

One of the most difficult aspects of being an infant or toddler teacher is figuring out creative and useful ways to transition from one activity or area to another without losing half your class! In this workshop, participants will learn ways to help create smoother transitions and incorporate meaningful routines into your day. All research indicates that young children thrive in an environment that is predictable and familiar. Join us to learn more about how to make these smooth transitions & meaningful routines part of your day.

10:00 - 10:15 **Break**

10:15 – 11:45 pm

Track A - Led by Child Care Aware

Exploring the Outside

Have fun learning about how to create lesson plans and activities that will lead you and your children on an exploration of the out of doors. Content will look at activities for the playground, how to safely explore nature and other creative ideas.

Track B - Led by Infant Toddler Specialist Network

Understanding the Importance of Being Culturally Aware

The Program for Infant and Toddler Care (PITC), one of the foremost experts on early learning, suggests that it is vitally important to a young child’s social-emotional development and identity to be exposed to a diverse and culturally aware environment. Join us in this workshop to learn what you can do in your classroom to increase your own cultural awareness and bring diversity into your environment. We will explore this topic through the lens of PITC’s evidence based research.

11:45 – 12:00 **Lunch**

1:00 – 2:30 pm

Track A - Led by Child Care Aware

Parents, Developmental Assessments, Oh My

This workshop will explore the importance of involving parents in the developmental assessment process. Participants will learning how create positive relationships with parents, what assessments such as Ages and Stages 3 can help reveal, and how to deliver information in a way that parents can process and hear.
 Led by Child Care Aware

Track B - Led by Infant Toddler Specialist Network

Creating Adaptations to Meet the Needs of All Learners

As more children with exceptional needs are entering our classrooms, it is important that teachers are prepared to meet all their needs. Head Start’s focus on educating and accepting all children, regardless of their abilities, is the driving force behind this workshop. Come learn the importance of making adaptations and modifications to your routines and activities so that every child can thrive and learn. Participants might be surprised to discover how much you already do to modify and adapt your environments! CARA’s Kit, a tool developed specifically for toddler teachers, will be the focus of this training.