

## Virtual Conference Detailed Agenda

DAY 1  
Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>

12:00 - 1:30 pm EST: Welcome + Keynote Address:

### **Immigration and COVID 19: Unmasking Inequities for Migrant Families**

- + Carmen Rosa Noroña, LCSW, MS. Ed, CEIS IECMH-E (IV-C) - Child Trauma Clinical Services & Training Lead, Child Witness to Violence Project, Boston Medical Center
- + Joaniko Kohchi, MPhil, LCSW, IMH-E (IV-C), Director, Adelphi University Institute for Parenting
- + Moderator: Sarah Walzer – CEO, ParentChild+

Carmen Rosa Noroña and Joaniko Kohchi will discuss migration as a psychosocial event and will describe the different stages of the immigration process and how young immigrant families can be placed at high risk for traumatic stress at each of the stages in this process. Their focus will be on the challenges faced by mixed status families, those often served in home visiting programs. The presenters will discuss the long- and short-term effects of family separation and other immigration enforcement policy acts on young children, their caregivers, and on the providers serving this population. Particular attention will be given to the public health inequities and risks that Covid-19 has exacerbated for this population in the United States and their connection with immigration policy. The presenters will introduce trauma-forward, developmentally attuned, and diversity-informed approaches targeted at increasing safety, empowerment and hope. The presenters will briefly discuss two tools to support families in thinking and planning for the possibility of a separation and identification of a temporary substitute caregiver, particularly when a sole parent/caregiver is very ill.

1:45 - 2:45 pm EST: Workshop

### **Emotional Intelligence During Early Childhood**

- + Karen Rogel - Associate Director, Literacy INC
- + Moderator: Andre Eaton - New York State Program Director, ParentChild+

Understanding and managing your own emotions is a difficult task, but trying to understand and manage the emotions of children can be even more difficult. Learning the tools to raise your emotional intelligence and helping children raise theirs can be the key to a successful life. During the current public health crisis, emotions can be even more out of control. Learning to identify and manage your emotions, especially during difficult times, could be life-altering. We will talk about emotional intelligence and its link to the parent-child relationship.

3:00 - 4:00 pm EST: Workshop

**Making the Shift to Virtual ParentChild+ Visits During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Palm Beach County's Response**

- + Cobi Dunn - ParentChild+ Lead Director Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County
- + Jennifer Abaid - ParentChild+ Coordinator, Boys Town
- + Blanca Cartagena - ParentChild+ Coordinator, Lake Worth West
- + Amanda Escalante - ParentChild+ Coordinator, Guatemalan-Maya Center
- + Moderator: Michele Morrison - Training and Program Support Director, ParentChild+

Due to the need for social distancing, the delivery of ParentChild+ services has changed drastically. Virtual visits have become our current reality and may be necessary for a significant time to come. Palm Beach County's (PBC) ParentChild+, now in its 11th year, is a rolling enrollment program serving more than 500 families annually. Hear from PBC's Leadership Team on the innovative ways we have redesigned the program and operations to accommodate the children, parents and staff as we virtually visit together. The Team will share details on how we accomplish virtual intakes, consents, assessments, VISM deliveries, as well as enhancing virtual activities with families and encouraging mental health for all of us.

4:15 - 5:15 pm EST: Workshop

**Learning from Practice: Research Highlights from the Newark Trust for Education & ParentChild+ Collaboration**

- + Pritha Gopalan, Ph.D. - Director of Research and Evaluation, Newark Trust for Education
- + Moderator: Andre Eaton - New York State Program Director, ParentChild+

What are parents' experiences with ParentChild+ in Newark? What are their perspectives on their learning and their children's learning through participating in the program? How do experiences and perceptions vary across families? To learn about these and other topics, please come to the Newark Trust's workshop on research with families who have been in the program since early 2019. Also includes highlights from ongoing research on the adapted e-program that began in March 2020.

DAY 2  
Wednesday, MAY 13th

12:00 - 1:30 pm EST: Workshop

**Immigration and COVID-19: Empowering Migrating Families**

- + Carmen Rosa Noroña, LCSW, MS. Ed, CEIS IECMH-E (IV-C) - Child Trauma Clinical Services & Training Lead, Child Witness to Violence Project, Boston Medical Center
- + Joaniko Kohchi, MPhil, LCSW, IMH-E (IV-C) - Director, Adelphi University Institute for Parenting
- + Ivys Fernández-Pastrana, JD - Program Manager, Family Navigation Program, Pediatric and Adolescent Primary Care, Boston Medical Center
- + Moderator: Sarah Walzer - CEO of ParentChild+

In this breakout session, the presenters Carmen Rosa Noroña and Joaniko Kohchi will be joined by attorney Ivys Fernandez-Pastrana and will go into more detail about the two tools introduced during the plenary session, the Family Preparedness Plan and StoryDay/HistoriaDia. The presenters will give suggested guidelines for using these tools and provide case vignettes that will illustrate how an Early Learning Specialist may implement them with families.

1:45 - 2:45 pm EST: Workshop

**To Screen or Not to Screen: Considerations in the Current Environment**

- + Stacy Kurtz, Ph.D. - Assistant Director, Infant Mental Health Developmental Practice at Adelphi University
- + Amanda Nagler - Researcher, Infant Mental Health Developmental Practice at Adelphi University
- + Moderator: Michele Morrison - Training and Program Support Director, ParentChild+

This workshop will discuss screen time for young children within a relational framework. The role of caregivers will be considered as a mediating factor against noted impacts of screen time on various domains of development. Considerations regarding the current public health crisis will be explored.

3:00 - 4:00 pm EST: Workshop

**Understanding and Handling Behaviors Regarding Transitions: At Home or in a Virtual World**

- + Laura D'Angelo - ParentChild+ Coordinator, Malden Public Schools
- + Moderator: Carol Rubin - Massachusetts Program Director, ParentChild+

Toddlers are exploring their environment and making sense of their world. They are very motivated, independent, and have their own ideas. They want what they see, for instance, toys, and may believe that everything is "mine." As part of their development, toddlers often tantrum, with transition times being a very significant factor regarding behaviors. In this workshop, participants will understand how children are communicating through their behaviors, and how to use techniques to help support them, including discussion of the Ages & Stages Questionnaire of Social Emotional development. It will also examine how cultural understandings relate to

supporting families. A major focus of this workshop will be ideas for addressing the current crisis situation for families.

**4:15 - 5:15 pm EST: Panel Discussion (Two Options)**

**Panel A: Offering Year-Round Programming and Rolling Enrollment**

- + Cobi Dunn - ParentChild+ Lead Director, Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County
- + Kathleen Rubinstein, Director of Quality Initiatives, Public Health Management Corporation - Philadelphia
- + Michele Morrison - Training and Program Support Director, ParentChild+
- + Moderator: Malkia Singleton Ofori-Agyekum - Pennsylvania State Director, ParentChild+

Are you thinking about changing your site schedule to working with families year-round, potentially moving families through the program more quickly and cost effectively? Want to learn more about how rolling enrollment works? Please join a program supervisor who has overseen a transition from the school year calendar to year-round programming, and a supervisor who oversees three agencies that offer rolling enrollment, to explore the path to year-round programming, the benefits to your budget, the challenges and successes, and what works best.

**Panel B: Supporting the Professional Growth of Family Child Care Providers in the Post-COVID Landscape**

- + Panelists: Coordinators from ParentChild+ Family Child Care sites
- + Moderator: Tiffany Lee – Family Child Care Initiative Director, ParentChild+

ParentChild+'s Early Learning Specialists consistently report the most powerful element of the model, what makes it a dynamic agent of change, is the relationship they forge with the family child care providers they support. In the era of face masks, social distancing, and heightened awareness of viral transmission, how will our workforce need to adapt their approach to relationship-building when frequent, in-person visits are no longer permitted or welcome? Join this session to hear from Early Learning Specialists whose innovative approach has allowed them to continue work with providers despite obstacles resulting from Covid-19.

DAY 3  
Thursday, MAY 14th

12:00 - 1:30 pm EST: Workshop

**Supporting Children and Families in the ‘New Normal’**

- + Tiffany Lee - Family Child Care Initiative Director, ParentChild+
- + Moderator: Sarah Walzer – CEO, ParentChild+

There is not precedent in recent history to model the future of America’s human services in a post-COVID world, planning for it can seem like a daunting, if not impossible task. There is a plethora of considerations to examine - social, economic, political, and educational impacts being just a handful. Join Tiffany Lee and other experts as she explores the landscape of human services as our nation and the world transition to a new normal.

1:45 - 2:45 pm EST: Workshop

**What’s in Your Toolbox? A Quality Improvement Approach to Screening Families**

- + Maggie Wayne - Quality Improvement Coordinator, Docs for Tots/Help Me Grow
- + Moderator: Michele Morrison - Training and Program Support Director, ParentChild+

Docs for Tots has successfully implemented screening initiatives in pediatric offices across Long Island. This experience led to the development of a toolkit for screening implementation that utilizes intensive technical assistance and a quality improvement framework. This toolkit can be applied to a wide variety of settings, including child care and home visiting. Participants will have the opportunity to practice using Plan-Do-Study-Act cycles that can be applied to the work they are already doing. Docs for Tots screening implementation programs in Developmental Screening, Maternal Depression and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) will be used as a guide to explain the implementation model, and background on maternal mental health, ACEs, and childhood trauma will be discussed to provide background knowledge to workshop participants.

3:00 - 4:00 pm EST: Workshop

**Transforming Practices to Support Early Math Learning of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Children**

- + Gigliana Melzi, Ph.D. - Associate Professor, New York University
- + Nydia Prishker, Ph.D. - Postdoctoral Associate, New York University
- + Moderator: Cesar Zuniga - Research Director, ParentChild+

This workshop will explore initiatives to support culturally and linguistically diverse families in recognizing the math-rich content in their daily lives. Many families incorporate math in their daily lives without really knowing it, through activities such as cooking, basket-weaving, and other crafts. Participants will leave with strategies to empower families to support their children’s school readiness and future academic success, and gain a new understanding of how sequencing, measuring, and other activities are embedded in families’ lives.

4:15 - 5:15 pm EST: Workshop and Conclusion

**Tools for Resilience & Self-Compassion**

- + Robyn Long - Director for Community Partnerships and Training, Center for Child & Family Well-Being University of Washington
- + Shayla Collins - Mindfulness Facilitator, Seattle Children's Hospital Odessa Brown Children's Clinic
- + Moderator: Pamela Williams - Washington Program Director, ParentChild+

In this world, we receive so many messages about our shortcomings. How we internalize that impacts how we treat others and ourselves. As lifelong learners, we have the opportunity to build new habits – habits of resilience – that nurture us and help us show up as our best selves. In this session, we will unpack these topics and practice tools for self-compassion that can support us in everyday situations. We will also highlight strategies and resources for how these skills can be shared with the families you serve.

Pre-Recorded Workshops – will be available on the Bridge e-learning platform

**Parent Engagement and Retention**

- + Lisette Morales - Program Officer of Early Learning, The Newark Trust for Education
- + Kalimah Wilson - Program Officer of Early Learning, The Newark Trust for Education

The Newark Trust for Education's ParentChild+ Program places great emphasis on parent and family involvement. This workshop will discuss the importance of "meeting families where they are" in order to increase family engagement and retention. We will highlight some of the techniques we've used, including making slight customizations to service the target population, fostering community involvement to bridge the gap between parents and available services, and creating a Family Engagement Toolkit that includes ideas for parent engagement events. Please join us to learn about our approach to engage not only families, but all sorts of community partners in the diverse city of Newark, NJ.