



2025 Conference for Early Care & Education

# CULTIVATING CONNECTION:

Families, Educators, and the  
Power of Partnership

**Saturday, October 25, 2025**

**8:00 AM to 3:30 PM**

The Conference Center at Mercer  
Mercer County Community College  
1200 Old Trenton Road  
West Windsor, NJ 08550

# Keynote Speaker: Jillian Best Adler

Jillian Best Adler is an early childhood consultant. She holds a master's degree in child development from the Erikson Institute and has spent most of her career training and coaching early childhood educators and facilitating workshops and support groups for parents. Using a nonjudgmental, laughs-are-welcome-here approach, she guides educators and parents through the process of shifting their perspectives on everyday behaviors and commonly held beliefs about children and our interactions with them. All of her work, including her own parenting, is values-based and informed by/rooted in a commitment to justice.



## **Keynote Address:** ***Intergenerational Differences:*** ***Exploring Adult Dynamics in ECE***

“The parents don’t trust us anymore!” “That young teacher has no work ethic!”  
“Parents just don’t discipline their kids. They don’t care!”

We may be early childhood educators, but we certainly deal with a lot of adults! Jillian Best Adler shines a spotlight on some key differences among Baby Boomers, Gen X, Millennials, and Gen Z, offering a glimpse at how parenting and professionalism have changed, and shares ways that early childhood professionals can respond and adapt.

# **Group A Workshops** **10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

## **A1: Rethinking Family Interactions**

Through a combination of lecture, discussion, and reflective activities, participants will re-invigorate their interactions with diverse families through the exploration of developmental research, the disruptive role of biases, and the importance of fostering trust through proactive and nonjudgmental communication.

*Jillian Best Adler, MS, Independent Consultant and Trainer*

## **A2: Managing Challenging Behaviors in the Classroom**

What drives children's "bad" behavior? Learn to uncover the hidden factors and root causes of common misbehaviors. Use brain science and compassion to understand and solve children's behavioral challenges with a trauma-informed lens. Interactive, engaging, practical – and packed with real-life examples to help participants in real-life classrooms. Powerful solutions for cultivating emotional regulation, empathy, and resilience and for promoting social-emotional development.

*Anna Seewald, MEd, MPsy, Authentic Parenting*

## **A3: Successful Strategies for Communication and Collaboration with Parents**

Working with the families of the children you serve can be trying, but it's very important for the child's success. This workshop will cover strategies that child care programs and teachers can use to build relationships with the families they serve. We will discuss how you can communicate your expectations of the families you serve and their expectations of you, as well as how to approach concerns as they arise. When relationships are built and expectations are communicated, working with families can be less stressful and a stronger community is developed.

*Professor Patricia Getz, MEd, Bucks County Community College*

## **A4: Splat! Squish! Using Painting, Collage, and Three-Dimensional Materials to Inspire Creativity in Preschoolers**

Art experiences in early childhood programs allow children opportunities to express their ideas and foster creativity. Participants will learn strategies for fostering creative and artistic development for preschool-aged children through the visual arts using hands-on activities.

*Simone Taylor, MEd, Early Childhood Consultant, Taylored for Children*

# **Group B Workshops**

**1:30 PM - 3:30 PM**

## **B1: What Should I Know About Early Intervention?**

This session will introduce providers to NJEIS, the special education system for infants and toddlers in New Jersey. It will explain the process for families to request an evaluation, what happens if a child is determined eligible or ineligible, and the transition process before the child's third birthday to preschool special education or other services.

*Allyson Mathews, Early Childhood Inclusion Project Coordinator, SPAN Parent Advocacy Network*

*Mita Bhattacharya, Early Childhood Inclusion Coordinator, SPAN Parent Advocacy Network*

*Maria Arrazola, Early Childhood Inclusion Coordinator, SPAN Parent Advocacy Network*

## **B2: Where Are Literacy and Language Development Hiding in your Classroom? Everywhere!**

Children gain language and literacy skills daily in our classrooms. How do we give young children ample opportunities to build foundational skills and talk to parents about their importance? In this interactive workshop, you will reflect on your practice in language and literacy, discuss developmentally appropriate practice, and learn how to include language and literacy development in every learning center.

*Michele Fortier, MS, Trainer, Early Childhood Strategies*

## **B3: FLIP IT® Strategy for Challenging Behavior**

When children exhibit challenging behavior, we can help them FLIP IT®! In this session, we will dig into the research-based four steps of the FLIP IT® strategy, which helps children cope with their big emotions and make behavioral decisions. Learn how we can strategically help them and how to avoid the common FLOPS that can stand in our way.

*Cindy Terebush, MS, BCISE, Early Childhood Specialist*

## **B4: Nurturing Preschoolers' Scientific Minds Through Math and Science Experiences**

Research shows that many early childhood programs do not engage in enough math and science. In this session, participants will be able to understand how to plan developmentally appropriate activities to use in daily routines, common materials found in programs, and environmental design that can be used to expand on children's natural interest in science and math.

*Simone Taylor, MEd, Early Childhood Consultant, Taylored for Children*

2025 CONFERENCE FOR  
EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION  
THE CONFERENCE CENTER AT MERCER  
OCTOBER 25, 2025

## SCHEDULE

Registration, Continental Breakfast, and Vendors  
8:00 AM - 8:30 AM

Welcome  
8:30 AM - 8:45 AM

Keynote Speaker: Jillian Best Adler  
8:45 AM - 9:45 AM

Training Session A  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Lunch, Vendors, and Raffle  
12:15 PM - 1:15 PM

Training Session B  
1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

*Attending Keynote, Session A, and Session B provides five (5) contact hours toward OOL and CCDBG training requirements.*



# Child Care Connection

## Cultivating Connection:

### Families, Educators, and the Power of Partnership

#### REGISTRATION FORM

For conference information or further details, call Alli Storm at 609-989-7770, ext. 139.

### Participant Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ \*NJCCIS ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Circle: Family Child Care - Center - Before/After School - Nursery School - Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Conference Fee: \$85

We are offering a \$5 discount per person for centers who pay for 5 or more staff to attend. Call for details.

**The registration fee includes workshops, keynote, continental breakfast, buffet lunch, and the conference education packet.**

*\*\*Please note, bottles of water will not be provided. Feel free to bring your own reusable water bottle!\*\**

### Workshop Selection

Please indicate your first and second preferences for workshop selection by placing the numbers 1 and 2 next to your workshop choice for each session. **Do not put a checkmark next to selection!**

Early registration will help secure your workshop choices, but we cannot guarantee your 1st or 2nd preference will be met.

Group A Workshops:      A1    \_\_\_      A2    \_\_\_      A3    \_\_\_      A4    \_\_\_

Group B Workshops:      B1    \_\_\_      B2    \_\_\_      B3    \_\_\_      B4    \_\_\_

\*Please make your non-refundable check or money order payable to: Child Care Connection, Inc.

Mail payment and form to:

Child Care Connection  
1001 Spruce Street, Suite 201  
Trenton NJ, 08638

OR

Visit our Conference page  
on our website. Scan or  
click on the QR code! ->



**All registrations must be submitted or postmarked no later than October 8, 2025.**