The Northeast Colorado Child Care Resource and Referral Annual Child Care Providers' conference, "Working Together for Child Care Success," will be held Saturday, April 21 in Yuma at the First Southern Baptist Church from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Attendance of this amazing training opportunity is open to anyone in Colorado who wants to learn useful skills in working with children. This includes family child care providers, group leaders, preschool teachers, center/preschool directors, social workers, home visitors, children's librarians, parents, court-ordered child representatives, foster parents, teenage babysitters and all others who are in regular contact with children birth to 12 years old.

The keynote this year is being provided by Leslie Bulicz, the associate director of Division of Child Care. Bulicz is the state lead for the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) and works with counties in the administration of the program. She will bring an update of the program and discuss the implications of the current budget forecast in regard to CCCAP.

Breakout sessions at this year's conference include Language and Reasoning, Caregiving Approaches: A Temperament Focus, Grant Writing, Erasing the Battle Lines, Little Lab: Hands-on Science for the Early Learner, Making the Most of Your Classroom Design, How to Shake the Salt Habit in Your Kitchen, Mystery Revealed: The Child Care Licensing Appeal Process, Helping Children Succeed: Emotional Resiliency in Early Childhood, and Fats—Know the Differences.

Ernie Batson, M.A. who is an early childhood specialist that has been working with children of all abilities between birth and age 8 for over 25 years is going to do the two sessions "Erasing the Battle Lines" and "Little Lab." "Erasing the Battle Lines" is a lighthearted look at recognizing and eliminating power struggles while helping children learn about responsibility. "Little Lab" is a hands-on science workshop that will give great developmentally appropriate classroom ideas for young children.

Tom Westfall, who is an independent consultant, writer and parent educator, will be presenting the session "Caregiving Approaches: A Temperament Focus." This session will focus on helping caregivers identify the temperament style of the children in their care as well as assessing their own temperament and then identify approaches to manage temperament of the children in their care.

The “Grant Writing” session is being provided by Laura Carlson from the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation. Temple Hoyne Buell funds various early childhood programs in northeast Colorado and throughout the state. Her session will help center and preschool directors to write successful grants.

Clayton Early Learning is sending two of their staff members, Renee McLaughlin and Brenda Hoge, to provide the sessions “Language and Reasoning” and “Making the Most of your Classroom Design.” The “Language and Reasoning” session will help child care providers and teachers develop a plan for integrating new language strategies that can help impact children’s receptive, expressive and cognitive development.

Teachers will understand how to arrange a classroom that has interest areas with defined quiet, active and transitional centers in the “Making the Most of your Classroom Design” session.

Tiffany Stout and Barbara Willson will co-present a session titled, “Mystery Revealed: The Child Care Licensing Appeal Process.” This session will go over this process and how a licensed provider goes about obtaining a successful appeal to current rules.

Centennial Mental Health is sending their staff member, Lorri L. Wesson, LPC to provide a session on Emotional Resiliency in Early Childhood, and KidCare Nutrition will be providing the sessions “How to Shake the Salt Habit In Your Kitchen” and “Fats—Know the Differences.” Kerri Edgar and Laura McCabe from KidCare Nutrition will be presenting those two sessions.

During the conference there will be a Scholastic Book Fair where attendees can purchase low-cost, quality children’s literature. So far, the booths at the conference will be Discovery Toys, Pampered Chef and Sunshine Consultants. Additionally, participants can earn five college credits and seven continuing education credits toward their licensing requirements. The registration fee includes the college credit and lunch. College and high school students can receive a discount on their registration fee. Also, there will be over $500 of amazing developmentally appropriate door prizes awarded at lunch.

For more information or for a registration form, contact Sheila Anzlovar at the Northeast

Colorado Child Care Resource and Referral at 970-848-3867. Registration for the conference should be received by April 15; however, late registration may be accepted.

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