



# TOPIC DESCRIPTIONS

## — **“Big Feelings, Little Learners: Navigating Challenging Behaviors with Confidence and Care”**

This interactive session equips early childhood educators with practical tools to understand, prevent, and respond to common challenging behaviors during infants' and toddlers' development—like tantrums, biting, and separation anxiety. Through mindfulness, hands-on activities, and real-life scenarios, participants will explore prevention strategies, strengthen family partnerships, and build confidence in managing tough moments with care and intention.

## — **“Sensory Journey: Play & Process Together”**

Did you know there are more than 5 senses? Learn about the different senses children develop, sensory processing challenges, and how to implement sensory play in your classroom beyond the water table. Session will have hands-on demonstrations, activities, and share resources.

## — **“Play to Learn: Keeping Children Engaged Indoors”**

Too hot outside? Too many rainy days? How can we keep little brains and bodies engaged when they can't get outside? We need to PLAY inside with movement and games. Fun, energetic session where you will learn movement games for social skills, math, science, literacy and more!

## — **“Don't Let Great Teachers Fly Away! Building Retention in Your Program”**

In today's fast-paced and demanding child care environment, retaining dedicated, high-quality teachers is more important—and more challenging—than ever. This session will explore the key reasons early childhood educators stay in or leave the profession, and offer practical, research-based strategies to help you build a supportive, engaging workplace that encourages longevity. From fostering a positive culture and recognizing staff contributions to offering meaningful professional growth, this interactive session will equip you with tools to reduce turnover and create a team that thrives.



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## — “Get to Know the Texas Infant & Toddler Specialist Network” (Directors)

Curious about the Texas Infant Toddler Specialist Network (ITSN)? Join us for an interactive session where we’ll explore how ITSN supports early childhood professionals across Texas. Learn about free professional development opportunities, the “Play with Me” course series, CARE mindfulness training, and how to access resources through CLI Engage and TexasITSN.org. Whether you're new to ITSN or already connected, this session will help you discover new ways to grow, connect, and support infants and toddlers with confidence.

## — “Show Me the Day! Visual Routines for Little Learners”

Help young children navigate their day with confidence using visual routines designed just for them! This interactive training will guide child care providers through the importance of visual schedules in early childhood classrooms. You'll explore practical strategies during a brief presentation, get inspired at our hands-on center expo, and create your own take-home visual tools during the make-and-take session. Walk away with ready-to-use resources that support smoother transitions, reduce behavior challenges, and promote independence—even in the youngest learners.”

## — “Show Me the Day! Through Engaging Center Play”

Help young children navigate their day with confidence using visual routines designed just for them! This interactive training will guide child care providers through the importance of visual schedules in early childhood classrooms. You'll explore practical strategies during a brief presentation, get inspired at our hands-on center expo, and create your own take-home visual tools during the make-and-take session. Walk away with ready-to-use resources that support smoother transitions, reduce behavior challenges, and promote independence—even in the youngest learners.”