

Annual Play to Learn Summit

Quality ECE: Back to Basics



April 11, 2026

7:45 AM to 3:45 PM

Missouri Innovation Campus
1101 NW Innovation Parkway
Lee's Summit, MO 64086

presented by the
Missouri Association for the Education of Young Children
and the **University of Central Missouri Early Childhood Program**

This year's summit will emphasize play-based learning as an essential component of quality early childhood programming. Sessions for **beginning or experienced teachers, and a track for directors** will provide specific and relevant information around the goal of bringing children engaging, developmentally appropriate, and high-quality early learning experiences.

6 Hours Approved PD in MO & KS

Register for the conference at:

<https://moaeyc.org/summit-2026>

Opening Keynote



Beyond the Read Aloud: Picture Books for Affirming Learning

Dr. Toni Sturdivant,
MARC Early Learning Director

Dr. Toni Sturdivant will share research and insights from her book "I Like Myself: Fostering Positive Racial Identity in Young Black Children". The session will guide early educators on selecting high-quality, affirming picture books to plan joyful, play-based learning experiences.

Other Session Topics

- ◆ *Risky Play*
- ◆ *Thinking Routines for Little Thinkers*
- ◆ *Movement Matters: Building Balance, Crossing Midline, and Coordination in 3-5 Year Olds*
- ◆ *From Chaos to Clarity: Strengthening Communication and Conflict Resolution in Early Childhood Teams*
- ◆ *Effective Strategies for Facilitating Staff PD Goal-Setting with MOPD*
- ◆ *The Power of Play in Early Learning: Helping Families Make Sense of Play-Based Curriculum*
- ◆ *Leading Continuous Quality Improvement for Your Program*
- ◆ *How Administrators Build Systems That Protect and Promote Play-Based Learning*
- ◆ *Managing Challenging Behavior: Where to Begin?*
- ◆ *From Playdough to Plato: Coaching and Training with the Science of Learning in Early Childhood*

Cost (Includes Lunch):

NAEYC Members

\$60 online or postmarked by Feb 14
\$65 online or postmarked by Mar 15
\$75 online only by April 5
\$100 onsite



Non-members

\$90 online or postmarked by March 10
\$95 online or postmarked by April 5
\$105 online only by April 5
\$130 onsite

*Young Professional NAEYC Member \$20
*Young Professional Non-member \$50

* Young Professionals are the ECE undergraduate students currently in the Student Chapters of MOAECY

moaeyc

Missouri Association for the
Education of Young Children
An Affiliate of **naeyc**

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