

11:00AM-12:30PM

WOFO GLOBAL CAFÉ

Young Children at the Center of Our Climate Crisis

Explore inextricable links between climate change and young children, what young children need to thrive, and ways to bring early childhood issues to the table with other climate change stakeholders.

Facilitated by the WF Initiative on Climate and Young Children

#34 PAVILION BALLROOM

Integrated Systems – Because it Takes a Village to Raise a Child

The way forward in a volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous world- “VUCA” world. Perspectives from diverse contexts.

Naison Bhunhu, *Zimbabwe*; Hajara Ndayidde, *Uganda*; Adeleye Oyeniyi, *Nigeria*; Karthika Viknarasah, *Australia*; Maria Thereza Oliva Marcilio, *Brazil*

#11 JUNIOR BALLROOM A

The Magic of Light

Two educators, a designer, and an architect will present three different perspectives of “working and playing with light” followed by an exciting hands-on activity.

Mike Lindstrom, *United States*; Sandra Duncan, *United States*; Jennifer Kesselring, *United States*; Whitney Dickinson, *United States*

#20 JUNIOR BALLROOM C

Multiple Perspectives for Children’s Well-Being

Explore the value of multiple perspectives for children’s well-being with a focus on nature and sensory connections; Indigenous perspectives in ECE; and inclusion of children with disabilities.

Nicola Maguire, *Canada*; Ana-Luisa Sales, *Canada*; Elise Patterson, *Canada*; Lok Bahadur Birkata, *Nepal*; Bimal Karki, *Nepal*; Jena Ponti Jachius, *United States*; Robin McMillan, *Canada*; Monica McGlynn-Steward, *Canada*

#22 JUNIOR BALLROOM D

Relational Leadership: Engagement and Moving Forward

Explore a groundbreaking leadership framework, organizational change, and systems theory with a spotlight on relational versus traditional leadership.

Michelle Crogie, *Canada*; Karin Duff, *Canada*; Lea Blust, *Canada*; Lisa Lalonde, *Canada*; Maggie Lopez, *United States*; Odette Valdez, *United States*; Ivan Galindo, *Mexico*; Abena Ocran-Jackson, *United States*

#31 PARKSVILLE

Play: A Child’s Right, A Learning Journey

Learn scaffolding strategies for supporting pedagogy of play in the classroom and incorporating support for families in play-based learning.

Barbara Allisen, *Canada*; Leonard Chumo Falex, *Kenya*; Monica Iñesta, *Mexico*; Swati Kela, *India*; Amélie Lambert, *Canada*; Shannon Lockhart, *United States*

#47 PORT ALBERNI

Empowering Caregivers and Building Relationships

Explore different modalities, resources, and strategies to support and honor diverse families and caregivers.

Rosemary Stiglic, *Canada*; Diane Phu, *Canada*; Seema Zain ul Abdin, *Pakistan*; Deborah Young, *United States*; Sarah Lee, *United States*

#7 PORT MCNEILL

Children’s Rights in Action: Children and Adults

Our panel will share stories and art projects illuminating how children use multiple languages to express their rights through experiences and learn how children and adults partner as advocates.

Pat Furman, *Canada*; Victoria Ruth Long, *Canada*; Melissa Stenhouse, *Canada*; Jackie Brien, *Australia*; Sabeerah Abdul-Majied, *Trinidad and Tobago*

#1 PORT HARDY

Fostering Connections and Nurturing Communities

Opportunities for impacting child development and community well-being: from supporting under-resourced educators, to fostering connections, to nurturing communities through the environment of ECE centers.

Milan Dixit, *Nepal*; Andrea Sisbarro, *United States*; Molly Haas, *United States*; Ed Buglewicz, *United States*; Shalini Kumar, *Australia*

WOFO GLOBAL CAFÉ (12:45PM-1:45PM)

World Forum Study Tours

Learn about the impact, logistics and what it takes to host a World Forum Study Tour in your own country.

Facilitated by Mark Elliott, *United States* and Anne Sivanathan, *Malaysia*

Join us in Junior Ballroom A for the Tiny Film Festival at 12:45PM! More on page 12.

2:00PM–3:30PM

2:00PM–3:30PM

WOFO GLOBAL CAFÉ

A Man for All Reasons

Be part of this inspiring discussion that challenges stereotypes and celebrates the caring nature of men. Break down traditional gender roles and encourage men to embrace their nurturing side.

Facilitated by members of the Men in Early Care and Education Working Group

#46 PAVILION BALLROOM

Building Stronger Families Together: Effective Family Engagement

Learn diverse practical tools and resources to promote meaningful experiences. In this interactive presentation, delegates will explore various strategies to help foster a positive and supportive family environment.

Najeebullah Musafirzada, *Afghanistan*; Mercy Sakanya, *Zimbabwe*; Anthony Detrano, *United States*; Melissa Wilhelm, *United States*; Leonard Misana, *Canada*; Jitinder Walia, *United States*

#63 JUNIOR BALLROOM B

Indigenous Pedagogy Influences/Guidance

Educating children with nature through the Indigenous Early Care and Education Understandings and Perspectives.

Barb Carlson, *Canada*; Karen Anderson, *Australia*; Carolyn Cadopony, *United States*

#60 JUNIOR BALLROOM C

Inclusion for Neurodiverse and Traumatized Children

Explore the elements of inclusive culture for neurodiverse learners, children with disabilities, and trauma-affected children.

Gina Blank, *Canada*; Holly Elissa Bruno, *United States*; Masarrat Tavawalla, *India*; Ronald Ssentuuwa, *Uganda*; Sukmita Gurung, *Nepal*

#37 PORT MCNEILL

Key Issues of Diversity and Equity Across the Globe

Learn about how issues of injustice and discriminating practices affect young children in Malaysia, Nigeria, Rwanda and the United States.

Shilpa Lazarus, *Malaysia*; Duane Dennis, *United States*; Eddy Kalisa, *Rwanda*; Adejare Taofeek Somorin, *Nigeria*; Alissa Mwenelupembe, *United States*

#8 JUNIOR BALLROOM D

A Call to Action: Responsive Leadership in Complex Times

Hear experiences from different countries and contexts, focusing on how children's rights and well-being can be either supported or jeopardized based on the policies and actions of leaders, decision-makers, advocates, educators, and communities.

Dinesh Raj Sapkota, *Nepal*; Anne Marie Coughlin, *Canada*; Elaine DaSilva, *Canada*; Laila Jabeen, *Pakistan*; Meenakshi Dahal, *Nepal*; Christine McLean, *Canada*; Ana Luiza Oliva Buratto, *Brazil*

#56 PARKSVILLE

Connecting with Nature through Intentionality

Join us for a hands-on exploration on fostering wonder, curiosity, and joy, followed by a deep dive into holistic, inclusive, play-based practices, focusing on the benefits of nature and using the environment as the third teacher.

Magela Guimaraes, *Uruguay*; Ashanti Bryant, *United States*; Heather Ferillo, *United States*; Rachel Robertson, *United States*; Bridgitte Alomes, *Canada*; Gerrie Stolz, *Canada*

#2 PORT ALBERNI

Three Silent Challenges in Early Learning and Care

Dive into teacher burnout, trauma-informed design, and visual motor integration. Hear a brief overview of each category while learning innovative solutions you can integrate into your center.

Julie Hay, *South Africa*; Kristine Parsons, *Canada*; Liz Hall, *United States*; Samantha Espinoza, *United States*

#51 PORT HARDY

Nourish and Flourish: Educational Systems for Success

Explore several educational settings, including the role of parents, higher education, the development of inclusive environments, and the relationships among them.

Lisa Gannoe, *United States*; Kenneth Kiewra, *United States*; Betty Mong'ina Nyayemi, *Kenya*; Rachel Raz, *United States*; Chanie Wilschanski, *United States*

4:15PM–5:45PM

4:15PM–5:45PM

WOFO GLOBAL CAFÉ

Strategic Partnerships with Early Childhood Nonprofits

Maximizing licensing opportunities and highlighting the crucial role of outdoor play spaces in early childhood development for lifelong learning enhancement.

Facilitated by members of the Malaysia Delegation

#9 PAVILION BALLROOM

Vulnerable to Valuable: Children Facing Climate Change

Explore impacts of climate change on young children, supporting children to gain the knowledge needed to survive and thrive in a climate-changing world, and placing young children at the centre of climate-change responses.

Sheldon Shaeffer, *Thailand*; Ali Formen, *Indonesia*; Paula Mazzola, *Brazil*; Breann Corcoran, *Canada*; Victoria Carr, *United States*; Moderator: Kirsten Haugen, *United States*

#49 JUNIOR BALLROOM B

Sowing Hope and Resilience through Our Stories

Experienced educators will share stories of perseverance in the face of professional challenges. This is a project of the Early Childhood Wisdom Initiative.

Margaret Akinware, *Nigeria*; Ron Blatz, *Canada*; Cornelia Cincilei, *Moldova*; Maria Thereza Marcilio, *Brazil*; Alan Pence, *Canada*; Patsy Pillay, *South Africa*; Kishor Shrestha, *Nepal*; Bonnie Neugebauer, *United States*; Roger Neugebauer, *United States*; Patrick Makokoro, *Zimbabwe*

#38 JUNIOR BALLROOM C

Bridging Gaps, Embracing Diversity in ECE

Delve into the breadth of ECE with an emphasis on the integration of diverse educational approaches and policy advocacy, highlighting the significance of inclusive education strategies to achieve equitable and inclusive ECE.

Timilehin Taiwo, *Nigeria*; Minnie Mossop, *Canada*; Emily Mliczeko, *Canada*; Katorra Enoch-Longshore, *United States*; Kirsten Bevelander, *Canada*; Abby Dalmacio, *Canada*

#3 JUNIOR BALLROOM D

The Eyes and Ears of Effective Early Years: Hands-On Tools, Techniques, and Strategies

Discover strategies and methodologies to support and transform your ECE work. Join this engaging presentation on the processes of learning, with innovative, quality tools to use in your reflective settings.

Daniela A. Uribe Montserrat, *Mexico*; Ali McClure, *United Kingdom*; Ivan Azamar, *United States*; Barbara Thornton, *United States*; Karen Walker, *United States*

#21 PARKSVILLE

It Takes Community: Looking Back and Looking Forward

Let's work together for children and families. We will share our innovative experiences and recommendations as we explore strategies for supporting educators.

Anat Bar, *Israel*; Trudy Hill and Joan Gignac, *Canada*; Shalini Kumar, *Australia*; Christine Kiewra, *United States*

#48 PORT ALBERNI

Global Leader Passions and Perspectives

Hear from a diverse group of current Global Leaders from multiple regions as they share topics that inspire them take their advocacy for children to the next level.

2024 Global Leaders

#14 PORT MCNEILL

Listening to Children, Building Uplifting Environments

Enjoy hands-on activities integrating play-based pedagogy, environments, and gender to shift caregivers' mindsets. Experiment with various methods of authentically listening to children to inform the design of early education spaces.

Rafiath Rashid, *Bangladesh*; Jill Primak, *United States*; Ric Ramos, *United States*; Sherry Duncan, *Canada*

See you at the International Dance tonight! More on page 22.

11:00AM–12:30PM

11:00AM–12:30PM

WOFO GLOBAL CAFÉ

A Conversation About Navigating the Intersection:

Exploring Race, Racism, Equity, and Diversity in the Early Years sector.

Facilitated by members of the Race, Racism, Equity and Diversity Working Group

#42 PAVILION BALLROOM

Global Perspectives on AI, Technology, and Early Education

Explore global perspectives, delving into an international project on digital content for early inclusion. Uncover AI's role in early learning, tackling administration, safety, and policy; explore how the use of AI led to a consensus-building process to define educational technology in early childhood education.

Annie Paquet, *Canada*; Carmen Dionne, *Canada*; Lori Prospero, *Canada*; Nicolas Galindo, *Mexico*; Pedro Olivares, *Mexico*; Andrew Nsigaye, *Rwanda*

#18 JUNIOR BALLROOM B

A Man for All Reasons

What benefits does a mixed gender workforce bring? How can we recruit more men into ECE? What has worked in different geographies in initiatives focused on male recruitment into the ECE workforce?

Kenny Spence, *Scotland*; Leonard Chumo Falex, *Kenya*; Ron Blatz, *Canada*; Quincy McIntyre-Brandt, *Canada*; David Wright, *England*

#23 JUNIOR BALLROOM C

What the World Needs Now? It's Up to You!

Self-directed lifelong learning energizes you to change as the world changes. Step out of your comfort zone, just say "yes," and take a leap of faith, in return for life-changing global experiences, professional growth, and personal transformation.

Dante DiBattista, *United States*; Manju Nair, *Singapore*; Beth Fredericks, *United States*; Samson Myega, *Uganda*; Miriam Angel, *United States*

#36 JUNIOR BALLROOM D

Relationships and Rights: Building Thriving Advocacy

Explore the importance of co-constructing and maintaining relationships at every level of ECE, from individual adults and children to national-level policymaking. We emphasize voices, rights, and sustainability for thriving advocacy, amplifying voices of stakeholders and safeguarding the rights and needs of all individuals.

Lamin Singhaateh, *The Gambia*; Danielle McLellan-Bujnak, *United States*; Kathy Wolf, *New Zealand*; Rosina Merry, *New Zealand*; Loren Weybright, *United States*

#10 PARKSVILLE

Climate Change: The Role of Young Children

Children play a great role in protecting the Earth. They only know about Green Earth; they are not familiar with the climate change and disaster situation in their country, so protecting Earth from any disaster should start at a young age.

Manjusree Mitra, *Bangladesh*; Cheryl Hadland, *United Kingdom*; Catherine Lee, *Australia*

#4 PORT ALBERNI

A Child's Full Potential: Lessons Towards Inclusive, Equitable, and Decolonizing Futures in Early Childhood Education

Explore and discuss the merging relationships among inclusion, equity, and decolonization in early childhood. Reflect as we share stories, practical implications, and recommendations.

Maria Chaffin, *United States*; Ally Quinney, *Canada*; Shanta Dixti, *Nepal*

MS#28 PORT MCNEILL

Create Joyful Organizations-Team, Work, Time

Struggling to get the right staff doing meaningful work in your organization? Explore a new work styles tool leading to highly effective, engaged and joyful teams. Bring your ideas for our emerging World Forum Working Group on sustaining organizations.

Allen Fahden, *United States*; Karen Foster-Jorgensen, *Canada*; Patrick Makokoro, *Zimbabwe*; Angela Moses, *United States*

2:00PM–3:30PM

2:00PM–3:30PM

#15 PAVILION BALLROOM

Embracing Gender Inclusivity in ECE

Hear global perspectives on fostering inclusive ECE environments such as, overcoming childcare access barriers, exploring men's roles in ECE, and promoting inclusive gender identity through persona dolls.

Jacklyn Makaaru Arinaitwe, *Uganda*; Raldeline Sy-Barabar, *Canada*; Lena Ko, *United States*; Mixchel Domingues, *United States*; Andrew Davis, *United States*; Magdalena Diaz, *Canada*

MS#26 JUNIOR BALLROOM B

Recruitment and Retention-Sharing Innovative Practices to Support Multi-Site Organizations

Designed specifically for multi-site leaders, innovators from Canada and New Zealand will provide an opportunity to hear about international innovations, learn from colleagues, share insights and create new connections.

Peter Dixon, *New Zealand*; Anne Marie Coughlin, *Canada*; Lorrie Baird, *Canada*

#54 JUNIOR BALLROOM C

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategies in ECE

Gain insight into how diversity, equity and inclusion strategies can affect children and families in three different organizations. Hear about preserving the mother tongue in an ECE program, celebrating diversity in teams, and strategic approaches for the whole organization.

Shabreen Khondoker, *Fiji*; Ella de la Motte, *Australia*; Judy White, *Canada*

#25 JUNIOR BALLROOM D

Creating a Culture of Care for Young Children

Learn about the Home Instruction Program of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) to break isolation, build confidence, connections and community to realize children's fullest potential. Learn insights from Dr. Pikler's and Rudolf Steiner's pedagogy through the art of caring for infants and toddlers.

Elsa Chahin, *Mexico*; Debbie Laurin, *Canada*; Yusra Qadir, *Canada*; Rajeswary Jesslynn Jeffrey, *Malaysia*

#55 PARKSVILLE

Environmental Courage in Children and Ourselves

Interconnect the impacts of climate change in various contexts, uncovering ideas around 'environmental courage' by spotlighting young people who model it, and sharing practical strategies.

Vincent D. LaFontan, *United States*; Jamie Aquino, *Haiti*; Garikai Makokoro, *Zimbabwe*; Alexandra May, *Canada*

#24 PORT ALBERNI

Leadership Approaches for Embracing Change

Delve into innovative perspectives on ECE leadership. Topics encompass credentialing's impact, leveraging emotional intelligence, professional challenges, and so much more.

MacKenzie Pelland, *United States*; Liz Thorne, *United States*; Tara Dickson, *United States*; Frida Pesin, *Canada*

#64 PORT MCNEILL

Lights! Action! Play! Global Play Advocates Unite!

Learn, play and plan strategies to support and expand play with children, families and communities, including actionable takeaways, activities and play strategies, and a personalized advocacy plan to support foundational child development.

Jodie Riek, *United States*; Barbara Easton, *Scotland*; Valentina Solarin, *Nigeria*; Sanjay Morzaria, *England*; Martha Llanos, *Peru*

#57 PORT HARDY

Global Leader Passions and Perspectives

A diverse group of current Global Leaders share topics that inspire them to take their advocacy for children to the next level.

2024 Global Leaders

WOFU GLOBAL CAFÉ

Artificial Intelligence and Educational Technology in ECE

Hear about the latest AI technologies in ECE and the potential to innovate on learning experiences and child-centric systems.

Facilitated by Pedro Olivares, *Mexico* and Nicolas Galindo, *Mexico*

Visit Junior Ballroom A for an informal Meet and Greet at 3:30PM!

4:15PM–5:45PM

4:15PM–5:45PM

#52 PAVILION BALLROOM

Imagine, Innovate and Interact!

This interactive step-by-step session will evolve the moment you walk in the door - integrating Stonework Play, Puppetry, Story-Drama, Edtech, Math and more!

Diana Suskind, *United States*; Norfazilah Km Ameer Sultan, *Malaysia*; John Cunningham II, *Singapore*; Tram Phan, *Vietnam*

#16 JUNIOR BALLROOM B

Male Teachers: An Endangered Species

Gender of early childhood teachers affects classroom and campus culture. Diverse cultures encounter this disparity in different ways, but our panel recognizes some universal themes persist around the world.

Garry Jones, *Canada*; Mmatsetshweu Ruby Motaung, *South Africa*; Josh Thompson, *United States*

#53 JUNIOR BALLROOM C

Promoting Social and Emotional Well-Being in Children

Explore techniques and tools for nurturing children's emotional development, fostering resilience, and guiding them through challenging emotions and conflicts.

Claire McLaughlin, *Canada*; Penny Deeter, *Canada*; Diane Goyette, *United States*; Amanpreet Arora, *India*; Esteban Morales, *United States*; Shela Minhas, *Canada*; Sarah Minhas, *Canada*; Kenneth Sherman, *United States*

#45 JUNIOR BALLROOM D

Worldwide Workforce Challenges and Solutions

Hear stories from different countries citing everyday challenges within the global ECE workforce. Our challenges are similar but varying contexts lead us to different solutions.

Caroline Wright, *United Kingdom*; Ann Stubbs, *United Kingdom*; Marica Cox Mitchell, *United States*; Saraphina Lelo, *Tanzania*; Katrina Estey, *Canada*

#40 PARKSVILLE

Adult Hindrances on Healthy ECD

Shift your mindset towards encouraging children's self-empowerment and shaping future generational attitudes towards peace and social justice.

Wilma Gold, *United States*; Ana Page, *United States*; Ana Marcilio, *Brazil*; Mismiki Montgomery, *United States*

#61 PORT ALBERNI

Building Strong Foundations: Empowering Parents and Educators for Resilient Child Development

Explore trauma-responsive practices for parenting and ECE. Discover strategies to support educator well-being, nurturing positive environments, and promoting engagement. Delve into mindfulness to cultivate enhanced self-development, compassion, and open-heartedness.

Angela Bayer-Persico, *United States*; Drew Giles, *United States*; Celia Kibler, *United States*; Kathe Petchel, *United States*

#62 PORT MCNEILL

Children's Agency and Resilience in Climate Change

Research and practice with children from United States, Mozambique, Scotland and Nepal gives voice to their concerns.

Kumara Ward, *Scotland*; Meg Gravid, *United States*; Mary Sciaraffa, *United States*; Mery Jose Antonio, *Mozambique*; Bishnu Bhatta, *Nepal*

#58 PORT HARDY

Reimagining Leadership in Early Childhood Care

Discuss innovative approaches that ignite change, inspire growth, and empower leaders to elevate quality of care.

Ada Mawson, *Canada*; Muramira Bernard, *Rwanda*; Jacqueline Ewonus, *Canada*; Julie Julian, *Canada*

WOFO GLOBAL CAFÉ

Female Energy and Potential for Change

Discuss courageous approaches that support all genders in expressing female energy, with the intention of bringing about positive change in our world.

Facilitated by Bonnie Neugebauer, *United States*; Carmen Hernaez, *Argentina*; May Ajram, *Lebanon*

8:30AM–10:00AM

8:30AM–10:00AM

WOFO GLOBAL CAFÉ

Children's Rights to be Seen, Heard, and Valued

Discuss positive frameworks for children's rights, focusing on diverse contexts where children are invited to bring their voices to the table.

Facilitated by members of the Working Group on Children's Rights

#44 **PAVILION BALLROOM**

Stories of Capacity Building Through Empowerment

Understand how preschoolers use photo-documentation to enhance inquiry and reflection skills, hear of curated moments highlighting children's creative and cognitive intelligences, and listen to a Haitian teacher's stories.

Ashley Stewart, *United States*; Caroline Hudicourt, *Haiti*; Sophie Miller, *United States*; Meghan Woods, *Australia*; Jerry Bates, *United States*

#12 **JUNIOR BALLROOM B**

Environment is Learning

Learn how programs from across the globe focus on the places and spaces where learning happens.

Heather Fox, *United States*; Vera Melis Paolillo, *Brazil*; Sheila Williams-Ridge, *United States*; Lexie Estacio, *Philippines*; Susan Houglum, *United States*; Amanda Higgins, *New Zealand*

#43 **JUNIOR BALLROOM C**

Cultivating Wellness in Early Childhood Professionals

Explore how prioritizing wellness can help create environments that empower ECE professionals to thrive in today's demanding work environments.

Kathy Pillow-Price, *United States*; Paloma Cisneros, *United States*; Cristina Perez, *United States*; Yuliana Reyes, *United States*; Veronica Torres, *United States*

#39 **JUNIOR BALLROOM D**

Exploring Identity and Equity, a Global Perspective

"Who" defines our identity and why? Identities are not fixed and have changed over time. How is identity informed by colonialism and now being reclaimed globally? How does identity impact our practice?

Ali Formen, *Indonesia*; Debbie LeeKeenan, *United States*; Diane Daley, *Canada*; John Nimmo, *United States*; Lisa Shortall, *Canada*; Patsy Pillay, *South Africa*; Vilma Williams, *United States*

MS#27 **PARKSVILLE**

Creating a Blueprint for Early Education and Care

Examine a UK campaign to create ECE policy centered on children's outcomes and learning, whilst facilitating sustainable solutions to ECE challenges.

Courteney Donaldson, *United Kingdom*; David Wright, *United Kingdom*

#17 **PORT ALBERNI**

Supporting the Voices of the Marginalized in ECE

Creating an inclusive, equitable environment that respects diverse identities and expressions. Specifically, how the lack of childcare spaces impacts gender equity in migration, and promoting a violence-free classroom through psychosocial support of parents and teachers.

Banasree Mitra Neogi, *Bangladesh*; Mariam Bouchoutrouch, *Canada*; Regine Lijuan Zhang, *Canada*; Adefunke Ekine, *Nigeria*

#29 **PORT MCNEILL**

Play, Risk, Learning and Pedagogy

Play involves physical, social or intellectual risk! Learning requires making decisions, assessing situations, being vulnerable and trying again. How can we encourage learning through developmentally appropriate risk taking?

Alissa Rupp, *United States*; Margaret Akinware, *Nigeria*; Marcelline Kahlari, *Zimbabwe*; Daphne Mawunge, *Zimbabwe*

10:45AM-12:15PM

WOFO GLOBAL CAFÉ

Generations Together: Finding Hope and Resilience

Join in the conversation with experienced early childhood professionals to share stories and strategies about meeting challenges with courage and resilience.

Facilitated by members of the Early Childhood Wisdom Initiative

#6 PAVILION BALLROOM

Children's Rights in Action

Hear from four unique contexts with innovative approaches to embracing Children's Rights, partnering with children as active citizens in their communities through the study of diversity, innovation, language, relationships, and collaboration.

Karen Graham, *United Kingdom*; Connie Durán Robertson, *Mexico*; Carrie Rose, *Australia*; Alex Morgan, *United States*; Sam Hall, *United States*

#30 JUNIOR BALLROOM B

The Play Paradigm

The Play Paradigm emphasizes play and exploration as essential for optimal learning. Discuss creating stimulating environments to enhance creativity, problem solving, and collaboration, and the significance of intentional teaching and scaffolding play experiences for maximizing learning outcomes.

Susan Wood, *United States*; Melissa Samples, *United States*; Suzana Spina, *United States*

#35 JUNIOR BALLROOM D

Improving Access to Child Care Through Advocacy and Policy

Learn about successful advocacy efforts that secured policy changes to improve access to Early Learning and Care.

Rukia Kalanzi, *Uganda*; Patricia Lozano, *United States*; Kelly Reynolds, *United States*; Anjum Nahed Chowdhury, *Bangladesh*; Lynell Anderson, *Canada*; Sharon Gregson, *Canada*; Mary Harper, *United States*

10:45AM-12:15PM

#13 PARKSVILLE

Shaping Our Environments / Environments Shaping Us

Join this lively discussion to explore practical strategies to use when weaving the threads of pedagogy, features of the built and natural environment, and effective leadership to positively influence early childhood learning and teaching.

Kathryn Murray, *Australia*; María Pía Kast, *Chile*; Kylie Durekas, *United States*; Sebastian Baliva, *United States*; Alison Maher, *United States*

#41 PORT ALBERNI

Innovative Models that Support Relationships

Explore two unique ECE programs in the United States that embrace innovative, trauma-informed, joy-filled care and education. Discuss the unique characteristics of an intergenerational program and an ECE program in an affordable housing community, and their commitments to building relationships.

Joanne Esser, *United States*; Kellee Nelson, *United States*; Kylie Cooper, *United States*

#19 PORT MCNEILL

Professional Development to Support Inclusion

Dive into global perspectives on professional development to promote inclusion of children with special needs. Learn about director-to-director advocacy, teacher-training models for ECE inclusion, healthcare and educator partnerships in LMICs, stakeholder engagement, and parent perspectives.

Anne Subashini Sivanathan, *Malaysia*; Cecilia Scott-Croff, *United States*; Linda Barker, *United States*; Dilini Vipulaguna, *Sri Lanka*; Donna Freeman, *Canada*; Roberta Goldberg, *United States*

#59 JUNIOR BALLROOM C

Global Leader Passions and Perspectives

Hear from current Global Leaders as they share topics that inspire them take their advocacy for children to the next level.

2024 Global Leaders