

**SOUTHERN EARLY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION  
CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

**72nd Annual Conference – Chattanooga, TN.**

**March 4-6, 2021**

*Thursday-Friday, Full day • Saturday, Half day*

***Proposals are due July 2, 2020***

**Theme:** "Strengthening the Foundation of Social & Emotional Development"

**Our COVID-19 Response:** While we are moving forward with our conference planning we will continue to acknowledge the concerns around COVID-19. Please do not make any travel plans until your proposal has been accepted.

Are you an engaging speaker who is looking for a platform to inspire change and innovation in early childhood professionals? We need your insight and knowledge! SECA is seeking concurrent session presenters for our 2021 Annual Conference March 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The Theme for 2021 is "Strengthening the Foundation of Social & Emotional Development".

If you can craft a session that will actively engage participants, deliver a solid message about a key issue facing the Early Childcare profession, and send attendees away with several identifiable new skills, we invite you to submit your proposal and be a part of this incredible experience!

SECA Conference brings together over 500 ECE professionals for three days of idea sharing, best practices, engaging dialogue, and networking. We invite you to share your experiences and knowledge during one of our interactive concurrent sessions.

Southern Early Childhood Association's Annual Conference, the premiere three-day professional development and networking event, is an incredible event where our 14 southern states come together to inspire Early Childhood Education professionals.

In its 72-year history, the Conference has provided amazing opportunities where ECE professionals come together to inspire others, as well as become inspired. Over 500 ECE professionals join together to discuss ideas, concepts, research and solutions to strengthen their work in the communities they serve. We are interested in hearing a multitude of perspectives to enrich our attendees' experience and dialogue.

**About the SECA 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference**

Theme: "Strengthening the Foundation of Social & Emotional Development"

When: March 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Where: Chattanooga Downtown Marriott in Chattanooga, TN.

Submit: Submissions are received online. [Click here to submit.](#)

**Please Note:** Because this conference is produced by a nonprofit association with the goal of keeping costs as low as possible for attendees, we are unable to provide stipends, complimentary lodging, or reimburse travel expenses.

**Audio Visual:** We do not provide any audio visual equipment. Wi-Fi signal may not be available in the conference area, so presenters should not rely on presentations that require an internet connection.

**General Registration Fee:** In appreciation of being a presenter the following discounts apply for up two (2) presenters.

**If your proposal is received no later than:**

July 2nd you receive 75% off of the 3-day general registration fee.

August 13th you receive 40% off of the 3-day general registration fee.

**Audience:** Our Conference attracts ECE professionals (directors, teachers, aides, trainers, and childcare staff) representing ages birth to 8, fields and missions, as well as government staff, consultants, and vendors working with ECE professionals.

**Concurrent Session Specifics:**

Length: 1 hour or 2 hour sessions can be requested, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

**Timeline for RFP**

RFP process opens: May 19, 2020

Proposal deadline: July 2, 2020

Notification of acceptance by September 15, 2020

**Criteria for Conference Planning Committee's evaluation of proposals:**

- Is the presenter knowledgeable about the topic?
- How important and/or relevant is the topic of the ECE profession?
- Does the session represent a diverse experience, point of view, or somehow draw on the perspectives of the ECE communities?
- Will the presentation deliver learning takeaways to participants?
- Does the proposal include relevant information for a session?
- Does the presenter avoid self-promotion?

**Submit Proposal**

Your proposal should cover three main areas:

**1. About the Presenter(s):** Name, contact information, and brief (5-6 sentences) biography. There is space for additional co-presenters.

**2. About the Session:** Title, description of session (250 words or less), target audience, level of session, key take-away and/or learning objectives, age of children focused on, and description of how the session will be interactive.

**3. Uniqueness of Presentation:** Description of your unique point of view or unusual subject and/or diversity of personal experiences of the presenter(s).

The 2021 SECA Conference is seeking proposals which will help provide all early childhood educators the knowledge of what relationships are, why they are important, how to implement and assess whether relationships have changed their role and the learning happening in their classroom. Children need to think of their classroom as a community of relationships.

The 2021 SECA Conference seeks to offer a variety of speakers and workshops about preparing professionals to meet these challenges. We encourage proposals that are specific to the challenges of providers being allowed to let children develop relationships as well as those supporting best practices for all children. Content may focus on incorporating relationships through play and math, literacy, science or music activities for infant, toddler, preschool and primary classrooms.

We are also seeking proposals specific to children with special needs, working within faith-based programs, home visiting, and out-of-school time programs. **Proposals should include evidence and research-supported practices.**

Workshop topics may include, but are not restricted to the following:

- ❖ **Physical Health and Development:** fitness, nutrition, obesity prevention, innovative recess implementation and advocacy for primary grades, menu planning, outdoor play, inclusion, and supporting infant and toddler exploration.
- ❖ **Emotional Health and Development:** fostering relationships, children of incarcerated parents, developing emotional awareness, the effects of parental deployment on the developing child, the effects of stress on brain development, bullying prevention, resiliency, differing needs of boys and girls, faith-based instruction, family engagement related to attachment, guidance specific to challenging behaviors, and continuity of care.
- ❖ **Cognitive Development:** neuroscience research related to play and learning, project based learning, play and creativity, innovative curriculum, authentic assessment, overcoming word gap, developmentally appropriate inclusion of standards, problem solving, bi-lingual classrooms, instruction on a “shoe-string” budget, preparing indoor or outdoor environments, overcoming learning challenges, effective transitions and the influence of such on behaviors, indirect guidance, inclusion, supporting infant and toddler exploration, practical strategies and applications for instruction within the autism spectrum.
- ❖ **Professionalism:** supporting longevity in the field, offering support to staff and families through developmental challenges, offering support to intergenerational families, fostering effective communication, staff retention strategies, developing support in faith-based community, conflict management, and staff wellness.
- ❖ **Instructional Leadership:** leadership challenges and successes, supporting best practices, student learning outcomes, mentoring, scaffolding, engaging staff with children and families, strategies for staff and parent meetings, developing and advocating for authentic assessment, and home visiting.

Questions contact Maurena Lopez at: [mlopez@seca.info](mailto:mlopez@seca.info) or 501-221-1648.