

2023 York County Early
Childhood Educational
Conference

Finding Your Superpowers

Saturday March 4, 2023

Dutchman Creek
Middle School
4757 Mount Gallant
Road
Rock Hill, South
Carolina 29732



OPENING LETTER

Dear Early Childhood Professional and Advocate:

We want to extend a special invitation to our Childcare Partners to join us for our Early Childhood Conference on March 4, 2023. It has been a few years of turmoil and chaos in education over the last few years and hosting an in person Conference for our partners has been a priority for some time. We realize that virtual sessions can have their place but we want to encourage you to join us for an enthusiastic return to being in the presence of our gifted and passionate presenters as well as your fellow professionals. We each have a critical role in the educational journey of the children we serve each day and it is important for us to share our insights and reimagine how we engage with young minds as they develop.

Our theme this year is **Finding Your Superpowers**. We are excited to announce that **Roger Day** will be our keynote speaker. You will not want to miss his interactive approach to incorporating music in the classroom while saving the day for early childhood. We look forward to hosting him!

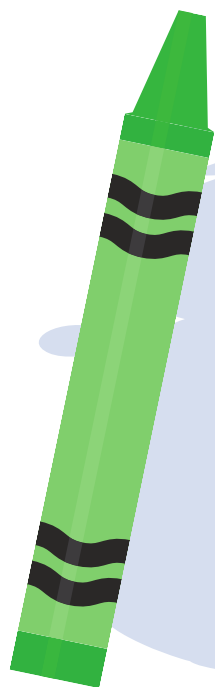
We continue to seek presenters and topics that will interest you, whether you are a brand new childcare professional just beginning your career, or a longtime practitioner. Make sure to check out page 5 for a variety of great workshops to consider participating in!

As you can see, the conference has great topics and presenters, and offers workshops that you can implement in your center and classroom. Thank you for the commitment that you make each day to make a difference in the lives of the children in your care. The childcare industry has been through a number of issues in recent years that continue to offer challenges, staffing, costs, regulations to name just a few. We relearned how critical a robust healthy childcare network is to the running of our economy during the pandemic. We will continue to advocate at all levels on your behalf and we are grateful for your continued support and participation in our Conference. Enjoy the Conference and be sure to use what you learn!

David W. Lisk Sr.
Executive Director
www.ycfirststeps.com

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To Do Check List

- Mark your calendar for March 4th
- Select your breakout sessions
- Complete and mail/bring in registration

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

In order for us to process your registration, you must comply the following instructions.

01

Mark you calendar for the registration deadline

Registrations must be received no later than
February 27, 2023

02

Complete registration form for each participant

Complete one form for each person registering for the conference. You may remove the form provided and make copies of the form.

03

Pay registration fee

The registration fee will be **\$25.00 per participant**. This fee covers 5 certified training hours, continental breakfast, lunch, a souvenir to remember and incredible training, and professional trainers with years of early childhood experience to share.

04

Send your completed forms and payment to us

Mail: York County First Steps
PO Box 969
Rock Hill, SC 29731

Or

Bring your forms to our office at: Sylvia Circle Family Learning Center
929 Sylvia Circle
Rock Hill, SC 29730
We are open Monday-Friday, 8am-3pm

Please Note

DSS awards the credit hours through SC Endeavors. They state that anyone arriving any later than 10 minutes after the training starts cannot receive credit for that training. Therefore, participants arriving or registering after 8:10 am on the Saturday of the training will not receive credit for the keynote address. Participants will be able to attend the workshops in addition to the keynote that they registered for and will receive the 2 hours of certified training per workshop attended. Regardless of later arrival or early departure, the \$25.00 registration fee is **non-refundable**.



CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM
 Registration ends Monday, February 27, 2023

This completed form and registration fee must be mailed or physically turned into York County First Steps to complete registration. To receive DSS credit hours, participants MUST have an SC Endeavors account and a State Registry/ Student ID Number. You may duplicate this form. Complete one form for each participant registering. Please print clearly.

Name of Participant _____

Center, Family Home, or Agency's Name _____

Center's Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Center's Telephone _____

SC Endeavors State Registry/Student ID Number: _____

Your E-mail Address _____

Position/Title/Age Level _____

Teachers: How many children are in your classroom? _____

Directors, Asst. Directors, Owners, Floaters, and Cooks: How many children are in the entire childcare facility? _____

Registration Fee: \$25.00 Cash, Check, Cahiers Check, or Money Order (We cannot accept debit/credit cards.)
 Make Checks Payable to: York County First Steps ; Registration fee is Non-Refundable.

PLEASE NOTE: After attending the opening session, keynote address, and the two workshop sessions, each participant will receive 5 (five) certified DSS credit workshop hours.

PLEASE NOTE: Classes are limited; if all of your selections are filled alternative classes will be given. Every effort will be made to put you in your first two choices; however, classes are limited to 25 participants. There are two sessions, please list six different choices to help us give you at least two of your selections. (Please put workshop # from workshop selection list)

Saturday, March 4, 2023

1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____

4th _____ 5th _____ 6th _____

Continental Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Lunch Selections (please choose one):

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| _____ Turkey Sandwich | _____ Chef Salad |
| _____ Ham Sandwich | _____ Garden Salad |
| _____ Chicken Salad Sandwich | _____ Pimiento Cheese Sandwich |

T-Shirt Size (please choose one):

Small Medium Large XL XXL XXXL

Physical Address 929 Sylvia Circle Rock Hill, SC 29730	Mailing Address P.O. Box 969 Rock Hill, SC 29731	(803) 981-5780 info@vcfirststeps.com
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WORKSHOP SELECTIONS

The following workshops will be offered at the conference. Please select the two workshops you would like to attend.

WS #	Workshop Title	Presenter	Session
1	Be a Super Hero for the Planet! (*At the York County Museum)	Allison Faile & Morgan Lyons	1 & 2
2	The Kindergarten Journey: Providing the Foundation for a Successful Kindergarten Year	Lynn Hayes and Tracy Lee	1 & 2
3	Discovering Your Superpower	Kristi Kennedy & Christian Garcia	1 & 2
4	Remembering My Why	Dr. Taylor D. Spencer	1 & 2
5	Understanding the Regulations	April McDanial	1 & 2
6	Everybody Get Up!	Nigel Smith	1 & 2
7	The Joy of Make and Take	Tala Spitzer	1 & 2
8	Design and Create Your Very Own Jetpack!	Roger Day	1 & 2
9	Garden to Table: Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead	Jonathan Nazeer	1 & 2

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

01

7:00am - 8:00am

Registration & Continental breakfast available in the Cafeteria.

02

8:00am - 8:30am

Welcome and Conference Information in the Auditorium, followed by a short Opening Keynote Address

03

8:40am - 10:40am

Session 1 Breakout Workshops. Training room locations will be posted.

04

10:45am - 11:30am

Keynote by presenter-Roger Day

05

11:30am - 12:15pm

Lunch in the Cafeteria

06

12:15pm - 2:15pm

Session 2 Breakout Workshops. Training room locations will be posted.

KEYNOTE: ROGER DAY

Solve the Problem. Save the Day!
Music to make educators invincible.

A four-time Parents' Choice® Gold Award winner, Roger's smart, interactive music has been featured on Radio Disney, XM Radio's Kids Place Live and Public Television.

A life-long learner in the best liberal arts tradition, Roger is a magna cum laude graduate of Washington & Lee University. He lives in Franklin, TN with his wife Jodie who has a Masters in Speech-Language Pathology and works in the early childhood program for children with special needs.

Roger and Jodie have three adult children; Thomas, a pediatric resident at Boston Children's Hospital; Marjory, who just earned both a masters in Industrial Science and an MBA from the University of Tennessee; and Jacob, a Bonner Scholar at Washington & Lee University.

Roger is an Eagle Scout who volunteers for Troop 137 in his spare time.



“ It's a bird! It's a plane! It's the power of the brain! ”

Our Presenters

Morgan Lyons

Morgan Lyons has a BS in Zoology and a MA in Biology. She has been in the environmental education field for five years and has worked in state parks and museums as an educator. Morgan is the Education Program Manager for the Museum of York County.

Allison Faile

Allison Faile has a MS in Early Childhood Education and a BM in Music Education. She taught both music and preschool for several years. She is now the Program Manager for the Main Street Children's Museum.

Lynn Hayes

Lynn Hayes is a Multilingual Learner Program Teacher for Rock Hill Schools. She has a Bachelor of Science degree and Master of Education degree from Winthrop University. Mrs. Hayes is certified in the areas of Early Childhood, Elementary Education, and as a Literacy Teacher. She also has an endorsement as a R2S Literacy Teacher. Mrs. Hayes taught First Grade for twenty years and Kindergarten for eight years.

Tracy Lee

Tracy Lee is retired from teaching for Rock Hill Schools. She has a Bachelor of Science degree and Master of Education degree from Winthrop University. She is a National Board Certified Teacher in the Early Childhood Generalist area. In addition, Mrs. Lee is certified in the areas of Early Childhood, Elementary Education, and as a Reading Teacher. She also has an endorsement as a R2S Literacy Teacher. Mrs. Lee taught First grade for fourteen years and Kindergarten for sixteen years.

Kristi Kennedy, M.S., LMFT, IMH-E

Kristi Kennedy is currently serving as the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant Manager of the PEAR Network, a program of South Carolina Infant Mental Health Association. Kristi has over 27 years of experience serving individuals, couples, children, and families in the mental health nonprofit sector. Kristi has a master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Auburn University and is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in both South and North Carolina. She is endorsed as an Infant Family Specialist and recently submitted her application to be endorsed as an Infant Family Reflective Supervisor. Kristi has experience working in the juvenile justice system, family preservation, child abuse/neglect, domestic violence/sexual assault, loss/grief, and adoption/foster care issues. She believes that all children are valuable and deserving of love, safety, and security in a family environment. Kristi sees education, empowerment, and community as key to helping parents meet their children's needs. Kristi lives in the York County region with her husband, three children, and an assortment of pets. She enjoys spending time gardening, cooking, traveling, and taking active adventures with her family.

Christin Garcia, MSW

Christian García is an Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant with the PEAR Network, a program of South Carolina Infant Mental Health Association. Christian's main work focus is serving young children, parents, and families in the educational and nonprofit sector. Christian has a master's degree in Social Work from Baylor University and a bachelor's degree in Family Community Services from Michigan State University. Christian lives in the Lancaster County area with her husband and one child. She enjoys crafting, working on the farm, traveling, and trying new food.

Our Presenters

Dr. Taylor D. Spencer

Dr. Taylor Dee is a former elementary teacher turned song-singing, children's author and songwriter, professional development coach, and multi-passionate EDUpreneur. For more than a decade, she has been dedicated to unlocking the multiple gifts of others as she believes that everyone has a calling and a special place on Earth. Dr. Taylor holds a Doctoral Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, a Clemson University Master's Degree in Youth Development Leadership, and a Bachelor's degree in Elementary and Early Education from Winthrop and Liberty University. She is the founder of Wonder Academy Preschool & After School, Right Now Works Education Agency, and Taylor Dee Kids TV Youtube. Through Right Now Education, Dr. Taylor specializes in professional development for early childhood leaders, organizations, and small businesses while simultaneously creating educational music and books for students and educators. Dr. Taylor Dee is a proud multi-passionate at heart, on fire for impacting education & business, all while striving to inspire and help other "multi-passionates" along her journey to understand it's ok to be more than one thing!

Jonathan Nazeer

Jonathan Nazeer is the CEO/Founder of Victory Gardens International, a non profit organization located in the city of Rock Hill, SC. Our mission is to spearhead community redevelopment through urban farming, food production, food access and job creation in low wealth communities across the globe. VGI and its volunteers have provided FoodFit Jr programs to afterschool and summer programs here in Rock Hill where the children learn about gardening, food nutrition and help prepare healthy snacks.

April McDaniel

April McDaniel has a BA in Sociology. She is currently enrolled in the Master Cohort pursuing a degree in Early Childhood Education from The University of South Carolina. She has been a child advocate for the past 29 years. She has worked at the Department of Social Services for 22 years as the Regional Supervisor for the Midlands Region. Prior to working at the Department of Social Services, Mrs. McDaniel worked for a Private Therapeutic Foster Care Agency where she was a Family and Youth Specialist, Licensing Specialist, and Interim Director. She is committed to ensuring that the learning environment for children are safe and promote healthy growth and development for all ages.

Nigel Smith

Nigel is the previous Music Director at Friendship Community Church in Greensboro, NF. After finding his love for music Nigel Smith founded Music by Design, a personalized children's music company and has visited and taught in hundreds of preschools sharing his passion for music and education with children. Mr. Nigel is now the CEO of The Edutainment Group where Nigel and Friends work to spread the power of music and joy of togetherness nationwide.

Workshop Descriptions

Keynote: Solve the Problem. Save the Day! (Curriculum Activities)

Presented by Roger Day

Roger Day uses superhero-themed music, energetic movements and a childlike imagination to inspire teachers that yes, they can “Solve the Problem and Save the Day”, no matter what challenges they face in the classroom.

Music after all is THE original superpower of early childhood classes, the superpower that will make any teacher feel “Invincible!”.

Using the witty, interactive songs from his newest album “Invincible!” - winner of a 2020 NAPPA Gold Award - Roger will teach songs that teachers can use in their classroom immediately. Songs that will help with small motor skills and large motor skills. Songs that will help develop language and build on important social skills.

Be a Super Hero for the Planet! (Curriculum Activities)

Presented by Allison Faile and Morgan Lyons

“Be a Super Hero for the Planet!” will highlight ways to incorporate conservation-minded activities in early childhood education. We will look at ways that people can make a difference and learn how to explore the nature in our own backyards. The workshop will consist of a brief presentation about the museum as a Project Learning Tree Environmental Education Center, a short walk through our nature trail (weather-permitting), and hands-on activity demonstrations that can be used in the museum or in a classroom setting. *Note that this workshop will be held at the York County museum!

The Kindergarten Journey: Providing the Foundation for a Successful Kindergarten Year (Curriculum Activities)

Presented by Lynn Hayes and Tracy Lee

This session will provide best practices on ways to foster growth for children in all areas of their development, with a goal of nurturing each child’s natural desire for knowledge and understanding of multiple concepts and content. Research based information and engaging activities that motivate and prepare children to be inquisitive, successful learners will be shared.

Discovering Your Superpower (Professional Development)

Presented by Kristi Kennedy and Christian Garcia

During this fun and energizing workshop, participants will have the opportunity to explore their own passions and strengths and identify ways to use these skills within their early care and education centers. Information will be shared on the concept of community cultural wealth, benevolent childhood experiences (BCEs), and resources in South Carolina that help to support ECEs. Participants will also have the chance to get creative and leave with their own mini-superhero cape!

Workshop Descriptions

Remembering My Why (Professional Development)

Presented by Dr. Taylor D. Spencer

Life has thrown plenty of curve balls over the course of the last two years in a variety of ways. Sometimes with so much going on, it is easy to lose sight of your why and purpose in life. Check out this hands-on engaging session to not only refuel your purpose personally and professionally, but also to learn strategies on how to find stability despite the inconsistencies of life.

Understanding the Regulations (Health and Safety)

Presented by April McDaniel

This interactive workshop is a review of the standards that protect the health and safety and well-being of children receiving care in child care facilities. Through activities and a review of the regulations for child care settings, participants will gain ways to create an environment in which children can be safe and enhance their learning to promote appropriate skill development. Participant will also leave with a better understanding of the regulations as it relates to health, sanitation, safety, supervision, and physical site. Come and learn effective ways to meet the needs of children while maintaining regulatory compliance!

Learning to the Beat! (Curriculum Activities)

Presented by Nigel Smith

Get in rhythm of learning to the beat. Keep the pulse of your classroom alive with music. In this workshop, our team will show you fun and simple ways to use music throughout your day. Let's explore how music can be incorporated in every aspect of your classroom. Get ready for the M.E.P. (Musical Education Party)!

The Joy of Make and Take (Curriculum Activities)

Presented by Tala Spitzer

Participants will focus on the importance of promoting experiences to stimulate a child's thoughts, ideas, and creativity. Learn to set up a make and take that will inspire your classrooms curiosity and explain the importance of exploring creativity and curiosity through creation. Participants will explore and create while learning new ways to incorporate unique and educational ideas.

Workshop Descriptions

Design and Create Your Very Own Jetpack! (Professional Development)

Presented by Roger Day

What better way to introduce Roger Day's superhero-themed music than by designing, creating, and wearing your very own superhero jetpack! Instead of focusing on our weaknesses, we will highlight our STRENGTHS (the ones we secretly think of as superpowers)! The best part? You can take this activity right back to your classroom! No two students have the same superpower, and you can take what you learn to come together and focus on all of your students' strengths!

Garden to Table: Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead (Curriculum and Nutrition)

Presented by Jonathan Nazeer

Garden to Table will provide a glimpse on how early childhood educators and facilities can introduce nutrition and gardening at their centers which can lead to healthier homes for children and parents alike. We will also explore both traditional and innovative gardening such as aeroponic and how bringing this into the learning environment will spark conversation not only with the children but families as well. Our nutrition segment presented by our student partners at Winthrop University's Human Nutrition Department is a hands-on laboratory/test children for healthy snacks and fun following a S.T.E.A.M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture and Math) placed based learning curriculum.

OUR PARTNERS



Culture & Heritage Museums

ParentsSMART



SOUTH CAROLINA Infant Mental Health Association



DSS SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT of SOCIAL SERVICES

DIRECTIONS & PARKING

Parking at Dutchman Creek Middle School is available off Mt. Gallant and Museum Roads. There is more parking in the back of the school from Museum Road. Drive around by the Football Field and park up next to the school. The entrance to the school is beside the Cafeteria.

Directions to Dutchman Creek Middle School: 4757 Mount Gallant Road Rock Hill, SC 29732

From Charlotte, NC or Fort Mill, SC:

Total Est. Distance: 27 miles

- Take I-77 South to Rock Hill, SC.
- Take the SC-161 W exit, EXIT 82C toward York.
- Turn slight right onto Celanese Rd/SC-161. Continue on Celanese Rd.
- Turn right onto Mount Gallant Rd (beside Walgreen's).
- Go 5.6 miles-turn left into Dutchman Creek's parking lot.

From Columbia, SC or Chester, SC:

Total Est. Distance: 79 miles

- Take I-77 North to Rock Hill, SC.
- Take the SC-161 W exit, EXIT 82C toward York.
- Turn slight right onto Celanese Rd/SC-161. Continue on Celanese Rd.
- Turn right onto Mount Gallant Rd (beside Walgreen's).
- Go 5.6 miles-turn left into Dutchman Creek's parking lot.

From Clover, SC:

Total Est. Distance: 19 miles

- Take Hwy-55 toward Hwy-271.
- Turn right onto Hwy-271 (Hands Mill Road).
- Turn right onto Mount Gallant Road.
- Turn left into Dutchman Creek's parking lot (right before York County Museum).

From Lancaster, SC:

Total Est. Distance: 27 miles

- Take US 521-N toward Rock Hill/Charlotte.
- Merge onto SC-5 via the ramp on the left toward Catawba/Rock Hill.
- Merge onto US-21 N/Anderson Rd. S/SC-5.
- Take Hwy-72 Bypass to the right past York Technical College.
- Turn left onto Mount Gallant Road (as soon as you pass Rock Hill School District 3).
- Continue on Mount Gallant Road 6 miles-turn left into Dutchman Creek's parking lot.

YORK COUNTY



PO BOX 969

ROCK HILL, SC 29731