

Victor Valley College

2nd Annual Child Development Conference

January 27, 2024



**2024 Topic:
Positive Child Guidance**



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Amanda Wilcox-Herzog



Presentation:

**Rethinking and Reframing
Children's Actions: From
Misbehavior to Mistaken Behavior**



CONFERENCE AGENDA

7:30-8:15

Registration and Breakfast

8:30-9:30

Keynote Speaker

9:45-11:00

Break Out Session 1

11:15-12:30

Break Out Session 2

12:30-1:30

Lunch

1:45-3:00

Break Out Session 3

Wrap Up- Raffle

3:00-4:00

**Puppet Show, Petting Zoo,
Yoga and Meditation**

About the Conference

The Child Development Program (CHDV) at Victor Valley College (VVC) is hosting the 2nd Annual Child Development Conference. The goal of the Child Development Conference is to provide VVC students, local teachers/providers, and community members an opportunity to experience an affordable conference event. This conference will allow ECE professions obtain professional growth hours for their Child Development Permits, make connections with possible employers, obtain new knowledge for the field; all while being local and at a low cost. The theme for this year's conference will focused on Positive Child Guidance.

Due to the pandemic, many educators have reported more issues in their classrooms due to children struggling with social and emotional development which affects their behaviors in the classroom. Many educators are reporting more behavioral issues in the classroom and seeking referrals for social emotional issues; however, many referrals are not granted due to the children's young age. Therefore, more teacher trainings on Positive Child Guidance Strategies are essential to help the local area to serve the children and families. The High Desert area is a rural community which experiences high levels of poverty, child abuse, trauma, and children that have or have not been diagnosed with mental health concerns and abilities. Even though the High Desert is significantly growing in population, the services in the local area are limited. Many educators and providers reach out to VVC CHDV Program for additional resources or trainings for the children and families they are serving; especially related to Positive Child Guidance. Therefore, there is a need for this conference in the High Desert area so VVC can provide this opportunity to further the student's knowledge in positive child guidance strategies in their classrooms.

Attendees will be provided a certificate after attending the conference which can be provide to future or current employers and used for professional development hours for their Child Development Permits and learn new techniques to serve the children and families with high-quality strategies.

Keynote Speaker: Amanda Wilcox-Herzog, PhD



Dr. Wilcox-Herzog is the Chair of the Department of Child Development. She focuses on early childhood development and contexts, particularly early education environments. She is the founder of the Infant/Toddler Lab School at CSUSB and supervises the assessment arm of the Quality Start San Bernardino Project. Prior to coming to CSUSB she taught elementary, preschool, and infant/toddler age children. Dr. Wilcox-Herzog is also interested in developing teacher skills through the enhancement of teacher talk and self-regulatory skills. A recent project involved asking practicum students to wear Fitbits to evaluate their heart rate and increase self-regulation.

Contact Person for the Child Development Conference:
Heather Hammond-Williams
+(760) 245-4271 Ext. 2776 (Office)
heather.williams@vvc.edu

Registration and Webpage:

www.vvcfoundation.com/cdc

Presenters

Roxana Garcia Chelin



Roxana Garcia Chelin has over 34 years of experience in Early childhood education. She has dedicated her career to positively impacting the lives of young children and their families. She began her journey as an Early and Preschool Head Start teacher. Transitioning into the role as Family Advocate Associate caseworker playing a role in strengthening Families and providing support to parents. She has also mentored, coached, and trained early childhood professionals on FCCERS, DRDPs, and other ECE competencies. For four years, she served as Trauma trauma-informed care consultant. Currently, in her new position as an ECE curriculum Administrator, she serves as the lead coordinator for the Trauma Informed-Care Cafes in San Bernardino County.

Sarah ShaBazz-Ugwumba, PhD



Dr. Sarah ShaBazz-Ugwumba received her PhD in Education from Walden University January 2019. Dr. ShaBazz is a professional educator. She has experience teaching students from kindergarten through Master's degree university level. She taught high school for four years before her 21 year tenure as a resource specialist on the elementary school level. Dr. ShaBazz was an adjunct professor at Pacific Oaks College (Pasadena Campus) and Cal State San Bernardino (Palm Desert Campus) before becoming a full-time professor of Child development at Barstow Community College. Her passion for teaching goes beyond the classroom. She coached the elementary girls' basketball team for five years, where her teams swept the annual tournament and won the championship in 2015. Additionally, she implemented an after school cheerleading program, which gave 55 girls 18 cheerleading opportunities at the basketball games. Dr. ShaBazz is the founder of a mobile tutoring company that provides educational support to students of all ages. She is also a civic leader and works in the community in programs that support women, their families, the community, and awards scholarships to high school girls. She is the immediate past president of Soroptimist International Victor Valley (She is now a Director and also serves as a scholarship chair). She is the section president of The High Desert Section-National Council of Negro Women. Dr. ShaBazz also serves as a group leader for the 11 and 12 year old girls in the Little Miss African American Scholarship pageant for girls 6 – 12 years old. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, where she takes pride in providing service to all mankind. She has also recently become certified Doula and provides service to expectant families. Dr. ShaBazz is the wife of Dr. Diala Ugwumba and the biological mother of eleven children: six sons and five daughters. She has 17 grandchildren. She is the author of seven books and has recently begun publishing books for others.

Karina Bravo, PhD



Dr. Karina Bravo is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. Karina's entire career has been focused on helping at-risk children and their families. Her expertise was honed in a variety of different contexts to include: Preschool Teacher, Group Home Treatment Support Staff, Behavioral Specialist, Volunteer for ARMY Chaplain Services, MFT in private practice providing therapy & consulting, Director of Early Intervention for Project CUIDAR, Child Custody Recommending Counselor for the Superior Court of California and most recently as a university professor. Hence, she is well rounded in her capacity to understand and explain the world through the eyes of a child. She has presented at national and international conferences on childhood mental health. In 2009 she was a 30 under 30 Latino/Native American Recognition Honoree, as awarded by California State Assembly member Wilmer Amina Carter for outstanding service to her community. She enjoys teaching graduate level university courses at Cal State San Bernardino, Northcentral University, Loma Linda University, and currently University of Massachusetts Global (formerly Brandman University) to help future professionals hone their expertise in early childhood mental health and working with children.

Nancy Sherod & Denise Cates-Darnell



Nancy Sherod & Denise Cates-Darnell are Early Childhood Coordinators for San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools. Together they work in the Early Education and Development Department working towards supportin gthe foundation, setting, and structure of early education and development services for all San Bernardino County children ages 0-8.

Annette Franquez, MA



Annette Franquez is currently the director of Victor Valley College Child Development Center and also the High Desert Region Coordinator for the CA mentor program. Prior to coming to Victor Valley College, Annette was a quality rating assessor and trainer for early learning programs that participated in the State Quality Counts California (QRIS). She started of her career in education as an Elementary School Teacher for Los Angeles School District, which allowed her to realize her true passion in Early Childhood Education. "It is a very rewarding field, where you can truly make a difference." – Annette

Dominique Metoyer



Dominique has been in the early childhood field for over 17 years. She found her passion when her career began in the classroom as an infant toddler teacher. After years with the children, she transitioned to a more supportive role as a coach/mentor and later settling in as a trainer. Dominique is an ECE Community Trainer for Child Care Resource Center in the San Bernardino County area while virtually supporting LA counties as well. What she enjoys most about the work that she does is being able to support and train providers to increase their knowledge, reach their goals and how their outcomes positively affect the children that they serve. Along with working with families, especially her role in facilitating their Nurturing Father's Program. Outside of work, her life revolves around her two amazing, smart, loving and very active boys. She has said being their mother is the hardest and most rewarding career but also her greatest gift. You will often hear her refer to them during trainings as they lead to many of her examples.

Presenters

Aileen Salamanca



Aileen Salamanca is a first generation student in her second year of the Child Development Master Program at California State University of San Bernardino. In addition, she is a Master Teacher for the Sunflower's Room, ages 21-35 months, at the Infant Toddler Lab School at CSUSB. A few of her interests include Baby Sign Language, mindfulness with toddlers, emotional regulation, and positive guidance.

Emma Nicole Herzog



Emma Nicole Herzog is currently a student in the master program, a Teacher at Infant Toddler and Instructor for the Child Development Department at CSUSB. She loves working with young children, families, and college students from diverse backgrounds. She teaches Infant/Toddler and Preschool courses. The main focus of her teaching revolves around interactions and guidance, curriculum, and play. Some of her interests include collaborative thinking, teamwork, relationship building, nature-based learning, mental health awareness, positive guidance, and trauma informed care.

Markus Law, MA



Markus Law has master's degrees in early childhood education leadership and applied behavior analysis. He is currently adjunct faculty at Victor Valley Community College, musician (guitar/vocals), the Owner and Sole Proprietorship for Pathfinder CD, and Owner and Puppeteer/Performer for Party Puppet Show. He previously worked as a substitute teacher and consultant for ML Early Childhood Education. He has coordinated various classes, presentations and workshops and presented at various local conferences (CAAEEYC, QSSB, NAEYC, Crystal Stairs).

Alycia Granado, MA



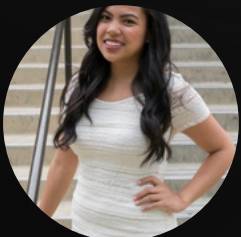
Alycia Granado is currently adjunct faculty at Crafton Hills Community College, as well as adjunct lecturer at CSUSB. She has been teaching child/human development, early childhood education, and psychology courses since 2014. She previously worked as a parent educator and curriculum developer for a parent education program, for parents and those who work with children, via The Parenting Center at The Institute for Child Development & Family Relations at CSUSB. She has coordinated various classes, presentations and workshops and presented at various local conferences, including the Children's Network Conference.

Rhiannon Ramkissoon, MA



Rhiannon Ramkissoon is currently adjunct child development lecturer at California State University, San Bernardino, and Crafton Hills College. Program coordinator and parent educator for Science of Parenting through ICDFR at CSUSB. Southern CA Connect Coordinator for Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy. MA in child development. Parent of two exceptional children. Research interests surround parenting and families (especially student parents and those caring for children with developmental differences) and improving care/education for all children through attachment-based practices.

Jaclyn Largoza, Ms



Jaclyn Largoza has almost 15 years working in early childhood education (i.e., preschool teacher, infant/toddler teacher, and school psychologist). She has two Bachelor's Degrees, Psychology and Human Development – Early Childhood, and a Master's Degree in School Psychology with a Pupil Personnel Services credential. She has been a school psychologist for 9 years and is in her 8th year at the Early Childhood Learning Center in Irvine Unified as a school psychologist at the district preschool. Her scope includes working with children who are typically developing and students with disabilities including, but not limited to, autism, speech or language impairments, intellectual disability, other health impairments, deaf or hard of hearing, blind or visually impaired, orthopedic impairment, etc.

Presentations

Session 1

Classroom Strategies to Support All Learners in Early Childhood Education

9:45AM-11:00AM

Jaclyn Largoza

Attendees will be provided with strategies and practices to support an inclusive classroom for students who are typically developing, students with identified disabilities and students who are neurodivergent. This presentation will give a brief overview of special education disabilities (as outlined by CA Education Code) and early childhood special education services available to identified students. An overview of how to identify the function of behaviors will be presented. Strategies presented are not only effective or applicable to students with identified needs, but for ALL young learners. Common maladaptive behaviors and needs of young children will be addressed and strategies to support these behaviors will be presented (e.g., positive rephrasing, flexible seating accommodations, language prompting, token systems, visual schedules, etc.). The objective of this presentation is to provide a toolbox of strategies to early childhood educators and attendees will leave with a better understanding of behaviors exhibited by young children and how to effectively support all children.

A Day in the life of a Toddler Teacher: Guiding Young Children's Behaviors

Session 1

9:45AM-11:00AM

Emma Nicole Herzog

Aileen Salamanca

Positive child guidance is a key element in creating a safe, supportive and inviting learning environment for young children. Adults provide a pathway of learning for children through their interactions and guidance techniques. When adults use positive guidance they strongly support children's overall development as they are building critical life skills. Positive guidance is a teaching method used to influence children's behaviors both directly and indirectly. Direct guidance is when adults use physical and verbal interactions and indirect guidance is the behind the scenes work adults use to plan materials, activities, curriculum, and the environment. In order to implement appropriate positive guidance strategies it is important to first understand children's behaviors. Children of all ages, especially toddlers engage in behaviors adults may find challenging to manage (biting, self-sufficient, peer relationships). Toddlers are still learning how the world around them works as well as how to integrate themselves as independent individuals! This is where positive guidance comes into play, specifically as a helpful tool for toddler teachers based on positive guidance in their classrooms. The presentation will address daily routines (diapering, hand washing, and mealtime), interactions with peers, meaningful experiences and toddlers' big emotions based on positive guidance strategies.

Session 2

Speaking Monkey: Understanding the Young Child's Behavior

9:45AM-11:00AM

Dr. Karina Bravo

Tantrums and meltdowns. Even the thought of one is enough to make many people cringe. Sometimes we don't even know why the child became upset and some have even gone as far as saying that the child seems to be acting like a wild animal as they scream, cry and fall to the floor! Believe it or not children want to comply with our instructions. Children try to communicate with us about the struggles they're having in cooperating with our requests through their words and through their behavior. The child needs our help overcoming the challenges they're having in trying to cooperate. However, we often don't understand what children are communicating, or we don't understand that they are even trying to communicate, so perhaps we don't listen, and we don't help them. Now we have an upset child AND a frustrated adult. Come learn how children communicate with their behavior, how to understand the communication and how to leverage your relationship with the child towards collaboration and harmony. We will discuss several developmentally appropriate guidance strategies; a child's attachment needs and sprinkle in a brief overview of how a child's brain functions.



Presentations

Session 2

Taking a Positive Approach Through Powerful Interactions and Culturally Appropriate Guidance Strategies

Guiding children's behavior is something done throughout the day, not just when a child acts in a way that is unsafe. This presentation will provide an introduction to attendees on the importance of meaningful interactions through positive cultural guidance strategies. Guidance strategies will focus on modeling kindness, dignity and respect. The workshop will allow participants to gain skills and strategies to resolve common behaviors with respect, and without punishment or rewards. Participants will be able to apply and develop reasonable limits, will receive guidance on setting up the classroom environment, and most importantly provide culturally appropriate guidance strategies. It is important that all adult-child interactions are intentional in order to connect with a child to extend their learning.

11:15AM-12:30PM

Annette Franquez

Navigating the Path to Positive Child Guidance: Strategies for Early Childhood Educators

In the ever-changing landscape of early childhood education, I firmly believe that effective child guidance serves as a foundational pillar for nurturing young minds and fostering their development. In this upcoming presentation, titled "Navigating the Path to Positive Child Guidance: Strategies for Early Childhood Educators," my goal is to equip fellow educators like myself with invaluable insights and practical tools that will help us navigate the intricate journey of guiding young children toward emotional and behavioral growth. Throughout the presentation, I will lead a comprehensive exploration of child guidance, emphasizing a holistic approach that takes into account the child's social, emotional, and cognitive development. Drawing on the latest research and best practices in the field, I aim to provide a clear roadmap for educators to create supportive and nurturing environments that empower children to thrive. Key topics covered in this presentation will include: Understanding Child Development, Positive Behavior Reinforcement, Building Healthy Relationships, Cultivating Emotional Intelligence and Inclusive Practices. Attendees will leave this presentation armed with a toolkit of evidence-based strategies and practical tips to enhance their child guidance skills. By embracing these insights, early childhood educators will be better equipped to create a nurturing, empowering environment where children can flourish emotionally, socially, and academically.

Session 2

11:15AM-12:30PM

**Dr. Sarah
ShaBazz-Ugwumba**

Bigger than their 'behaviors': Positive child guidance for Autistic/Neurodivergent young children

This presentation will use up to date research on neurodivergent children and guidance to highlight best practices for guidance of preschoolers with disabilities. The presentation will address the complexity of behaviors, define neurodiversity, and explore how teachers and families can support young children with disabilities/divergent brains in building the skills and self-regulation needed to be successful in school and life. We will explore the differences in behaviorist vs developmental approaches to managing behaviors (including challenging ones), highlighting the importance of respecting the autonomy and unique needs of all children. We will look at how many factors (including communication and sensory differences) can influence behavior/interactions and the best techniques to use for different situations. There will be some discussion on the long-term impacts of practices such as ABA for autistic/neurodivergent children and adults. The concepts of trauma and intersectionality, and how our current systems may further harm our most at-risk families and students will be discussed. Participants will leave session with a more informed understanding of the autistic/neurodivergent experience and ways to support children's strengths rather than focus on changing their weaknesses.

Session 2

11:15AM-12:30PM

Rhiannon Ramkissoon

Session 2

Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (SEFEL)

The Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (SEFEL) is a professional development series aimed to empower early educators with the necessary tools to support social-emotional competence in young children. Focused on responsive caring, cultivated learning environments, facilitating social-emotional skills, and supporting children with challenging behavior, the SEFEL training series will help teachers build and grow specific skill sets.

11:15AM-12:30PM

**Roxana Garcia Chelin
Dominique Metoyer**

12:30–1:30PM

Mariscos el 46
Mariscos Estilo Nayarit

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LUNCH



Taco Options:

Chicken, Beef, Veggies.

Sides:

Rice, Beans, Fresh Garden Salad

Salsa Bar (3 Salsas):

Cucumber, Limes, Onion, Cilantro, Grilled Onion, Cooked Jalapenos, Chopped Cabbage, and Chips.

Three Types of Fresh Waters:

Hibiscus, Lemonade, and Rice Water.

Presentations

Mindfulness as a Child Guidance Practice– for Teachers & Parents

Session 3

1:45PM–3:00PM

Alycia Granado

In this presentation attendees will learn about how mindfulness can be used as a positive child guidance practice. Information will be presented on what mindfulness practices are, and how they relate to guiding children's behavior through social emotional development. A discussion of mindfulness strategies to work with children in the classroom, as well as how to share information with primary caregivers of these children, will follow. The presentation will finish with a hands-on/demonstration type activity as well as time for questions.

Session 3

1:45PM–3:00PM

Markus Law

PathfinderCD@gmail.com

Positive Behavior Management

This presentation gives participants an introduction to behavior management in the classroom environment. We'll briefly go over various aspects of understanding why challenging behaviors occur, and the skills to change them around to more appropriate ones. The workshop comes from a hybrid perspective from early childhood education as well as applied behavior analysis

Session 3

1:45PM–3:00PM

Nancy Sherod
Denise Cates–Darnell

Creating Equitable Early Learning Environments for Young Boys of Color

This session uses the new CDC publication to share an honest and comprehensive look at the inequitable experiences of our youngest boys of color in early learning programs. It will provide an overview and an opportunity to practice strategies for improving racial equity through strengthening racial awareness, addressing implicit bias, and creating culturally responsive environments that are safe, affirming, and engaging for boys of color and their families.