



**2025 CSEA/VOICE Statewide Conferences  
Albany • Niagara Falls**

# ***Agenda***

**May 31 - June 1, 2025**

**Marriott Albany  
189 Wolf Rd  
Albany, NY 12205**



**Friday, May 30: 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.** – Registration

**Saturday, May 31: 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.** – Registration and Vendors

**8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.** - Welcome

**8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.** - Opening Plenary

### **United We Rise!**

OCFS Topic Code: 5

*Traducción al español en vivo disponible.*

**Description:** We will be negotiating our 5th Contract with New York State and the Office of Children and Family Services. Come learn more about contract negotiations and how it affects your business.

**Presenters:** Aminata Stephens and Bonnie Caldwell

**9:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. (choose one)**

### **Demystifying IFSPs (Individualized Family Service Plans) and IEPs (Individualized Education Programs)**

OCFS Topic Code: 1, 3

*Traducción al español en vivo disponible.*

**Description:** All children enter the world ready to learn. Some children have Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), or Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs) to accommodate their unique learning needs. Demystify your role on the special education team by discovering how to empower families to know their rights under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Using the law as our guide, you will walk away with a deeper understanding of Early Intervention (EI) and the Committee for Preschool Special Education (CPSE)

**Presenter:** Heather Sweet

### **Parent Handbooks and Policies**

OCFS Topic Code: 4, 5, 7

**Description:** This session will enable providers to establish a business relationship with parents, identify the key elements of policies and procedures, and enforce agreements with parents.

**Presenter:** CSEA/VOICE

### **Setting Up a Diverse and Inclusive Environment**

OCFS Topic Code: 1, 3

*Traducción al español en vivo disponible.*

**Description:** This session is all about making early childhood environments more inclusive and vibrant! We'll dive into the concepts of diversity and inclusion, explore how regulations support these ideas, and reflect on ways to improve our practices. You'll discover fun, diverse materials, learn how to observe and support different learning styles, and get creative with designing classrooms and activities that celebrate all cultures. We'll also brainstorm ways to make your daily schedule more inclusive and share ideas with fellow participants. By the end, you'll have fresh, practical strategies and resources to bring more inclusivity and fun into your classroom!

**Presenter:** Ke'Shon Mack-Brown

### **Beyond the Bubble Bath**

OCFS Topic Code: 3, 10

**Description:** Anti-burnout Strategies for Family Child Care Providers (that lead to long term growth and reflective practice). This is a stress management self-care course that incorporates strategies with yoga and a guided meditation to assist providers in keeping their calm. As well as learning to model these strategies to teach Social emotional intelligence to their littles.

**Presenter:** Jessica Dean



## 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (choose one)

### Understanding Mandated Reporter and Shaken Baby Syndrome

OCFS Topic Code: 6, 8, 9

*Traducción al español en vivo disponible.*

**Description:** It is the role of anyone working directly with children to know and identify when a call must be made to report child abuse. In New York State, everyone working at a licensed/registered childcare program is a Mandated Reporter. This session will prepare you to identify observable characteristics of child abuse and maltreatment. Along with informing you when and how to make the call to the Central Registrar it will also cover preventive strategies for Shaken Baby Syndrome and proactive strategies for handling stressful situations.

**Presenter:** Kathleen Harland

### Meet and Greet with the Office of Children and Family Services

OCFS Topic Code: 3, 5, 7

*Traducción al español en vivo disponible.*

**Description:** OCFS will provide an overview of the childcare elements included in the enacted budget, share information about the work of the recently reconvened Child Care Availability Task Force, and provide information and updates on the availability and utilization of the Child Care Assistance Program. There will be time at the end for questions and answers.

**Presenter:** Office of Children and Family Services

### Understanding Insurance Needs for You, Your Family and Your Business

OCFS Topic Code: 5

**Description:** Providers will learn about insurance needs and what is available to protect themselves and their businesses

**Presenter:** Pearl Insurance

### Keeping Children Healthy

OCFS Topic Code: 2

**Description:** Learn the basics of how to carry out specific procedures that occur daily in order to have a healthy learning environment. Review procedures from the Health Care Plan for hand washing, diaper changing as well as cleaning and sanitizing/disinfecting to minimize the spread of infection.

**Presenter:** Raquel Saddlemire



## 2:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. (choose one)

### Environments Matter

OCFS Topic Code: 1, 3, 4

*Traducción al español en vivo disponible.*

**Description:** Whether intentionally designed or not, environment influences all who inhabit it. The vision is to cultivate a space the children will miss because it delivers a sense of place and honors their needs and empowers them to build a life beyond the years we have them in our care. This session will examine the ecosystem of the environment, which is comprised of the philosophical, physical, programmatic and interpersonal elements and how these transform lives.

**Presenter:** Jeanine Fitzgerald

### Quality Stars and NAFCC Accreditation

OCFS Topic Code: 1, 3, 5

**Description:** Providers will learn about Quality Stars and accreditation with the National Association Family Child Care (NAFCC) and how both processes can align.

**Presenter:** Quality Stars and CSEA/VOICE

### CSEA/VOICE Legal Representation

OCFS Topic Code: 4, 5, 7

*Traducción al español en vivo disponible.*

**Description:** OCFS has many forms of enforcement in their licensing process. CSEA attorneys will help providers protect themselves and navigate the various forms of enforcement through OCFS and CPS.

**Presenter:** Jennifer Zegarelli

### Responding to Opioid Overdose Naloxone Rescue Training

OCFS Topic Code: 2, 4

**Description:** This training will help participants understand harm reduction principles and services funded through the Addiction Care Center of Albany. Participants will learn how an overdose might occur, how to recognize an overdose and what to do (rescue breathing, naloxone administration). We will also discuss local harm reduction resources.

**Presenter:** Addiction Care Center of Albany

## 4:30 pm – 5:30 p.m.

### How to Develop Daily Routines that are Applicable to Your Family Child Care

OCFS Topic Code: 1, 3

*Traducción al español en vivo disponible.*

**Description:** The content of this workshop will include an introduction to the newest edition of the Redleaf Family Child Care Curriculum, Sharon Woodward, Redleaf Press 2025. Participants will learn about and discuss how implementing a curriculum that actually reflects the day to day reality of family child care will enhance their ability to facilitate the healthy development of all the children enrolled in their programs.

**Presenter:** Sharon Woodward



7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. – Breakfast

7:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – Registration and Vendors

8:00 am – 9:00 a.m.

### Brains at Risk

OCFS Topic Code: 1, 10

*Traducción al español en vivo disponible.*

**Description:** We are in the midst of a revolution that applies new brain research to our care and teaching of children. There are two critical questions to answer. Are the brains of children today receiving the right stimulation during the right developmental periods in order to maximize their potential? Can a brain that has been compromised by early life experiences or genetics be enriched to its full potential? This keynote will answer both and provide insights into the role of professionals when maximizing how a brain develops.

**Presenter:** Jeanine Fitzgerald

9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (choose one)

### Stand At Attention

OCFS Topic Code: 1, 2, 3

*Traducción al español en vivo disponible.*

**Description:** Attention is a complicated network of controls that regulates most of the processes involved in learning and behavior. These controls govern the flow of energy, the intake of stimulation and supervises the brain's output. The attention control system is located throughout the brain and decide 100,00 times or more a day where to turn our attention. We always pay attention to something. This session empowers professionals and parents with effective ways to strengthen these controls and address ways to capture a child's attention, manage activity level and teach impulse control. It also explores what is known as acquired ADHD and what to do about it.

**Presenter:** Jeanine Fitzgerald

### How the Learning Environment Affects Play

OCFS Topic Code: 1, 3

**Description:** Participants will be exploring how play affects brain development and learning; therefore, recognizing that the environment is an essential element for developmental growth. Participants will be reflecting on their favorite play spaces as well as their current Family Child Care environment.

**Presenter:** Michelle Friedel

### Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) 101

OCFS Topic Code: 5

*Traducción al español en vivo disponible.*

**Description:** Come learn how to navigate the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) with tips, tricks and information on program updates.

**Presenter:** CSEA/VOICE

### At My Daycare There's A Farm E I E I OOOOO

OCFS Topic Code: 2, 3

**Description:** How to integrate gardening into the childcare curriculum

- The benefit of gardening with children
- The nutritional and health impact of gardening with children
- Beyond the garden incorporating animals. (chickens, rabbits, etc.)
- Resources and information on how to get started/ expand

**Presenter:** Jessica Dean



## 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

### **Bright Beginnings: Creating A Happy Rewarding and Engaging Daycare Experience for You, the Child and your Employees**

OCFS Topic Code: 1, 4

*Traducción al español en vivo disponible.*

**Description:** This interactive training session will provide daycare providers with practical strategies to create a joyful, nurturing, and engaging environment for children. Participants will explore techniques for fostering positive relationships, implementing structured yet flexible routines, and incorporating play-based learning to keep children excited and engaged. The session will cover effective communication with both children and parents, conflict resolution strategies, and ways to create a warm and inclusive atmosphere. Through hands-on activities, real-life scenarios, and expert insights, attendees will leave with actionable steps to enhance the daycare experience, making it a place where children thrive, parents feel confident, and caregivers find fulfillment in their work.

**Presenter:** Bonita Whitlock

## 12:15 p.m. – 12:45 p.m. – Conference Closing and Raffles

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Independent Childcare Educators*

