

# Thompson Child and Family Focus Union County Trainings

## Teacher Training

### **Ages and Stages:**

#### **Setting Realistic and Individualized Goals for Young Children** Sept 12, 2017 at Rainbow Child Care Center 4405 Sardis Rd

Does your current teaching style effectively reach all the students in your classroom? Do you believe that all children learn in the same way? This interactive training will assist early childhood professionals with developing techniques to be inclusive of the learning needs of all children. We will take a closer look at various teaching styles and focus on ways that we can include families in this process. We will also discuss ways that educators unconsciously exclude some children when creating learning opportunities.

### **Tell Them What You Want To See:**

#### **Creating Clear Rules and Expectations**

Oct 10, 2017 at Rainbow Child Care Center 4405 Sardis Rd

"If I said it once, I've said it a million times!" Stop sounding like a broken record! Come spend some time learning how to give clear directions, rules, and expectations to young children. In this training we will discuss how to talk to children in a way that will promote active listening and direction following. First, we will identify, and/or create, developmentally appropriate classroom rules and expectations. Then, we will discuss strategies and techniques on how to teach the rules and expectations in fun and meaningful ways. Through hands-on and make-n-take activities, participants will learn how to create a learning environment that promotes on-task behavior and engagement throughout the day!

### **We are All Unique!**

#### **Celebrating Our Differences and Cultural Diversities**

Oct 17, 2017 at Rainbow Child Care Center 4405 Sardis Rd

Research shows that the presence of activities that promote cultural inclusion in the classroom setting is a vital part of the early childhood experience. Do you treat all families the same? Do you acknowledge and celebrate cultural differences? This interactive training will assist early childhood professionals with ways to be inclusive of all children and families. We will look at various definitions of diversity and ways that we can include all family dynamics in our classroom settings, as well as discuss ways that we unconsciously exclude some children and their families.

#### **Make Your Move: Teaching Transitions**

Nov 14, 2017 at Rainbow Child Care Center 4405 Sardis Rd

Still in traffic... even after you arrived to your classroom? Come find out about some traffic transition techniques that will keep your day running smoothly! We will explore strategies that will actively engage children during transitions to help promote successful movement and reduce challenging behavior. From large group ideas to creating individualized support, we will see how visuals will guide your way to the end of the day! Using hands-on and make-n-take activities, participants will be given strategies, materials, and techniques that will help promote successful transitions, everything from drop-off to pick up, is covered!

#### **I've Had it up to Here: Dealing with Stress and Difficult Situations in Early Childhood**

Dec 12, 2017 at Rainbow Child Care Center 4405 Sardis Rd

Do you ever feel like you are one incident report away from losing your mind? If so, this is the workshop for you! This interactive training will assist early childhood professionals with identifying ways to effectively deal with stress, encourage parents who are dealing with difficult situations and providing a healthy social/emotional outlet for children who are facing various stressors. We will also discuss the importance of boundaries and promoting the use of coping techniques in the classroom setting.

#### **Using Books to Teach Friendship Skills**

Jan, 16, 2018 at Rainbow Child Care Center 4405 Sardis Rd

Scissors, Markers, and Glue, Oh my! Get ready for some arts and crafts. Come prepared to create tools and fun classroom activities that will promote friendship skills through the use of common classroom books. By exploring some popular children's books, participants will learn how to expand and embed hands-on social skill building activities into everyday classroom routines. Come find out how 1 book can create numerous activities and lessons that help children learn about friendships! Participants enjoying this training may be asked to bring additional materials for the make-n-take fun.

#### **Building Positive and Nurturing Relationships**

Feb 13, 2018 at Rainbow Child Care Center 4405 Sardis Rd

"Every child needs at least one adult who is irrationally crazy about him or her (Urie Bronfenbrenner)".

How can you be *THAT* person for all the children in your classroom? Additionally, how can you be *THAT* person for your entire school community? Learn what influences our relationships with those we meet and how to build, maintain, and re-pair those relationships within the school community. We will discuss the importance of creating nurturing and positive relationships with the families, children, and co-workers in your school... Just in time for Valentine's Day!

## **It Takes A Village: Encouraging Positive Early Childhood Mental Health through Community Involvement**

**Mar 13, 2018 at Rainbow Child Care Center 4405 Sardis Rd**

Early Childhood educators are in a unique position to identify and address issues that contribute to negative mental health in both children and their families. Do you ever feel like you ever encounter families that are one incident report away from losing their minds? If so this is the workshop for you! This interactive training will assist early childhood professionals with identifying families that are dealing with stressful situations, advocating for positive mental health by providing community resources and creating a safe place for children who are facing various stressors. We will also discuss the importance of establishing boundaries, utilizing a 'kindness' curriculum and promoting overall positive mental health in the both the home and classroom setting.

## **It's Time to Play! Are Your Centers Ready?**

**Mar 20, 2018 at Rainbow Child Care Center 4405 Sardis Rd**

They need to play, it's what they do! Think about a child in your classroom who is well liked, what do you notice about their behavior that makes it easier for them to have friends? As teachers, we must teach children how to be a friend. The easiest, most developmentally appropriate, way to do this is through creating centers activities during free play that help children practice friendship skills. After identifying the different types of friendship skills, we will develop activities and strategies that you can incorporate into your different centers. Participants will learn how to set up child-directed free play that promotes increased engagement, reduction of challenging behaviors, and purposeful play activities that teach friendship skills.

## **Morning Meetings with Meaning!**

**Apr 24, 2018 at Rainbow Child Care Center 4405 Sardis Rd**

It's only 15 minutes of your day, yet it could feel like an eternity if you are meet with challenges! Morning meetings are a great way to introduce a new skill, sharpen learned skills, and engage children in the daily happenings of your classroom. So much planning goes into these few minutes, let's learn how to make the most of them! Learn how to set the stage for a successful circle time that encourages and promotes active engagement and reduces challenging behaviors. Through hands-on and make-n-take activities, participants will be given great ideas for making circle time work. Come find out what you can do to guide children to be more interactive during your circle time!

## **Helping Children Manage Their Feelings**

**May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 at Rainbow Child Care Center 4405 Sardis Rd**

Big emotions, without big skill, could lead to big challenges. Do you have a child who has trouble regulating their emotions? Let us help! Emotional literacy should be a top priority in a preschool classroom as children are often faced with many different emotions throughout the day. If a child is unsure about the emotion, and how to deal with it appropriately, we may find ourselves in the middle of a meltdown. Come and learn how to help children recognize, express, and deal with their emotions in a socially acceptable way. Specifically, how to help children control anger and deal with disappointment. Through hands-on and make-n-take activities, participants will learn the ins and outs of teaching emotions.

## **Director Training**

The following trainings are part of a series of 8 trainings, one time per month with lunch provided. A commitment must be made to attend every month in order to receive the accompanying tools. Tools include, but are not limited to: the book Creating the School Family, a job board, posters and much more. Other attendance incentives may be awarded as well. You and your assistant director may alternate attendance.

### **Creating the School Family – Anti-Bullying Among your Staff and Classrooms (Chapter One)**

**Sept 14, 2017 at the Union County Public Library 316 E. Windsor Street**

Being a director is very tiring. Making it even worse is when the environment is negative or hostile among co-workers or children. Creating a family atmosphere is challenging but well worth the effort. This meeting is the beginning of a series where you will learn strategies and be given tools to bring your faculty together as a family (Yes, you will leave with some good 'stuff' after upcoming meetings!) Our goal is always to avoid turnover and to provide quality care and education. This will help you bring them together to care for one another, not just work together. Each meeting will also be an opportunity to talk with other directors about topics that YOU care about therefore, **personalizing** your training.

### **Creating the School Family – Making Connections and Emotionally Intelligent Classrooms (Chapter Two & Three)**

**Oct 12, 2017 at the Union County Public Library 316 E. Windsor Street**

Some of our teachers and students come from a "traditional" family makeup but the overwhelming majority of American's grew up with one parent or the other, grandparents, step parents, step siblings, etc. So how do we make a school family that fits everyone's needs? We just need to make everyone feel safe in mind, body and soul to allow them to feel totally comfortable at work/school. We are not born knowing how to feed ourselves or get dressed or sing our ABCs. Why should we expect our teachers and students know what having a healthy social and emotional really looks like? Let's talk Social and Emotional Curriculum!

## **Creating the School Family – Incorporating Families into your School Family (Chapter Four)**

**Nov 9, 2017 at the Union County Public Library 316 E. Windsor Street**

We are always trying to get our families involved in the school. It seems like pulling teeth sometimes, doesn't it? What if they were included in the School Family modal? They would then know how important they are to every aspect of their child's life. They are not excluded from their child's classroom but invited and made visible to all of the students. This chapter will help us bring everyone together.

## **Creating the School Family – Keeping Children Safe at School (Chapter Five)**

**Jan 11, 2018 at the Union County Public Library 316 E. Windsor Street**

Do the children in your school live in a safe environment? So many children today are at risk of coming from homes that are unstable and unsafe. We want our children to feel safe and loved while they are with us in order for them to experience optimum learning. The same goes for your teachers. You have no idea what they may be experience in their homes. If they feel safe, loved and appreciated in their positions, you can bet you will get much better productivity from them. This chapter will teach us how to make a feeling of safety throughout the school with a concept of having a "Safekeeper".

## **Creating the School Family – Providing Visual Rules and Routines (Chapter Six)**

**Feb 8, 2018 at the Union County Public Library 316 E. Windsor Street**

Is every moment of every day planned out for you? Do you know what you are supposed to do every second? Our children and teachers come to school with rules and routines in mind. There is a time clock, a daily schedule, lunch breaks and a multitude of other things that are decided as best practice. The only problem with this is that many people come from chaos. Many students come into our midst never having to share or follow a schedule. It takes time and patience to teach these practices. We will discuss this chapter and then make a sample schedule.

## **Creating the School Family – Why Should I Ask Myself, "Is that helpful or hurtful?" (Chapter Seven)**

**Mar 8, 2018 at the Union County Public Library 316 E. Windsor Street**

The children in our care are still in the egocentric stage. They do not naturally know how to be helpful and think of others before themselves. We cannot expect it of them. We need to teach them. In this meeting, we will discuss ways to be helpful to our school family and things we may do that are hurtful.

## **Creating the School Family – Stating Your Day the Brain Smart Way (Chapter Eight)**

**April 12, 2018 at the Union County Public Library 316 E. Windsor Street**

Transitions! How many times have you talked to your teachers about better transition practices yet they still continue in their old ways? It is hard for children to go from one environment or activity by using a quick directive. Their brain doesn't have time to catch up with their body. We will talk about not just ways to transition but coping tools children (and adults) can use while transitioning.

## **Creating the School Family – Creating a Safe Place (Chapter Nine)**

**May 10, 2018 at the Union County Public Library 316 E. Windsor Street**

Isn't this just a glorified area that used to be "Time Out"? We are told that time out is not best practice. A Safe Place is nothing like Time Out. Come and find out how they are different and then practice some of the techniques that make a Safe Place so successful make a tool to use in the Safe Space.