



New Jersey Celebrates Infants and Toddlers



CITE

Coalition of Infant/Toddler Educators



33rd Annual Conference

**NEW
LOCATION!**

March 23, 2018

National Conference Center

East Windsor, NJ



Conference Coordinator:
Helen Muscato

732-329-0033 or HelenMuscato@verizon.net



Coalition of Infant/Toddler Educators 33rd Annual Conference

Welcome to the 33rd anniversary of the Coalition of Infant/Toddler Educators annual conference, I am looking forward to an informative conference this year. We have great workshops scheduled for the specific needs of teachers/caregivers who care for infants and toddlers.

The Coalition of Infant/Toddler Educators (CITE) is now managing the New Jersey Infant/Toddler Credential to enhance the knowledge, skills and practice of infant/toddler professionals and para-professionals in center based and family child care programs. Here at CITE we encourage you to pursue this credential when advancing your career as a professional who works with infant and toddlers. Scholarships are being offered to full time staff of Grow NJ kids programs. Visit our website to find out more: <http://www.njcite.org/credential>.

Our annual conference brings together the best minds and talent in early care and education focusing specifically on infants and toddlers. By attending this conference you will have the opportunity to learn from the best in the field while earning up to 6 hours of professional development. In addition, you get to network with state and local leaders, with your peers in center-based and family child care settings, and with others working in the field of early child care and education. We hope to see you at the conference and all the exciting extras available too. Don't forget to like us on Facebook and Twitter.

*Sincerely,
Jennifer Santana, CITE President*



Follow CITEprez on Twitter



<https://www.facebook.com/Coalition.Infant.Toddler.Educators>

<http://www.njcite.org/>



CITE celebrates those dedicated teachers who have earned their NEW JERSEY INFANT/TODDLER CREDENTIAL!

*Learn what this exciting initiative can mean for you and how **YOU** can earn the Credential.*

Visit the CITE table in the Exhibitors Hall for details.

How To Get The Most Out Of Your Conference . . .

CITE plans its conference to provide you with workshops, activities, and exhibits that will enrich your professional life. To help you maximize your conference experience, we would like to suggest the following:

- ❖ Allow enough time for traffic.
- ❖ Dress in layers, as room temperatures may fluctuate.
- ❖ Please be courteous to your presenters and fellow attendees as elevated noise levels can be disruptive, especially during large group sessions. ***Please turn off your cell phones!***
- ❖ Make sure you register early for your first choice workshops. All workshop allocations are made on a first-come, first-served basis. Room capacities are limited due to fire regulations and you must attend the workshops reflected on your name tag.
- ❖ **Be sure to visit our vendors in the Exhibit Hall and network with colleagues.**

⇒ Presentation of the 2018 June Moss Handler Award ⇐

Conference Schedule . . .

Registration, Breakfast and Exhibits:	7:30 am	-	8:30 am
Welcome & Keynote	8:30 am	-	10:00 am
Exhibits:	10:00 am	-	10:30 am
Morning Sessions:	10:30 am	-	12:30 pm
Lunch / Exhibits	12:30 pm	-	2:00 pm
Afternoon Sessions:	2:00 pm	-	4:00 pm

Conference 2018 Terms & Fees . . .

Early bird registration must be postmarked by March 8th, 2018. Registrations postmarked after March 8th will be returned and must be resubmitted with the increased amount.

Payments must be made by check or money orders. Vouchers and purchase orders will not be accepted. Returned checks will be charged a \$35.00 fee.

Refund Policy - Conference Fees are **NOT REFUNDABLE** - No Exceptions
NO CONFIRMATION WILL BE SENT.

Conference Fees Include . . .

- Keynote speakers, breakfast, lunch, workshops, exhibits, **and A ONE YEAR MEMBERSHIP TO CITE**
- **Clock hours will be provided • Earn up to 5 1/2 hours of professional development**

CITE Membership benefits . . .

As a CITE member, you help us support our goals while you open new opportunities for your own training and professional development

- Free workshops near you
- Support of other early childhood professionals
- Opportunities for professional and personal growth
- Voting rights in CITE elections to help shape the future of the infant/toddler profession in New Jersey
- Access to the most current articles and events in the infant/toddler field through our website, Facebook page and Twitter feed.
- Membership to CITE local chapters
- Membership meets CDA and NJ Infant/Toddler Credential requirements



June Moss Handler Memorial Fund

CITE founder Dr. June Moss Handler died on November 6, 2017 at her home in Hackensack. For more than four decades, Dr. Handler dedicated her life to best practices in infant and early childhood care and education. As a professor at Kean University, Dr. Handler introduced new courses on infant and toddler development and trained her students at the first Babyland infant care center in a high-rise Newark housing project. In this role, she educated generations of leaders in the field. As an authentic social activist, she convinced Crayola to change their “flesh” colored crayon to “peach” – because skin is of many colors! Through her infectious hope, magic and excitement to see beyond the horizon, and her insistence that infants and toddlers be recognized



as unique members of society, she has given a voice for those who have none. Her book, *Infants and Toddlers as Members, Makers, Interpreters: A Philosophical Journey*, remains a record of the deepest respect and insights about infants and young children.

Under Dr. Handler’s leadership, CITE set the standards for the initial licensing of 466 infant/toddler care centers throughout NJ and trained hundreds of infant/toddler caregivers. CITE, since its founding in 1984, has become the lead agency advocating for and affecting public policy for young children’s rights. In 2013, CITE introduced the **June Handler Award** which recognizes an individual who has earned the NJ Infant/Toddler Credential, demonstrates continued advocating for infants and toddlers, and supports the professional development of others. The Award is presented at the annual conference.

At the request of Dr. Handler’s family, CITE has established the **June Moss Handler Memorial Fund**. Contributions to the fund may be designated for the June Handler Award or to assist individuals to attain the NJ Infant/Toddler Credential. (NOTE: The State no longer supports scholarships for the Credential, so contributions will assist applicants with the \$350 application fee.)

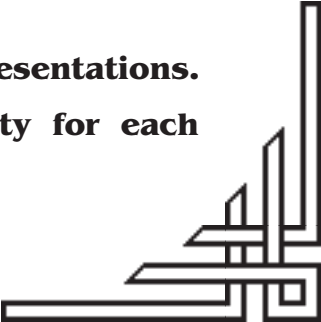

If you wish to remember Dr. Handler in a meaningful way, please donate by pressing the donate button on the right navigation column on www.njcite.org, or mail a check to: CITE, PO Box 1015, Barnegat Light NJ 08006. (All donations are tax-deductible.)

Generous donations have been made in memory of Billee R. Kiley, and by Terri Buccarelli, CITE Past President.



In an effort to cover all the interests of our attendees we have addressed the following NJ Infant/Toddler Credential Quality Key Indicators:

- **Infant Mental Health: Social/Emotional Well Being**
- **Child Development • Curriculum • Environment**
- **Family and Community • Health and Safety**
- **Nutrition • Professionalism**



We have also listed the competency level of each of the presentations. The NJ Infant/Toddler Credential Key Indicator of Quality for each workshop is listed after the workshop title and presenter.

• **Level I**

Individuals at this level are at the first step in the commitment to a career in early care and education; they contribute to and assure the maintenance of a safe and nurturing environment in which young children learn and develop; they learn about children and families through participation in professional development activities; they receive ongoing supervision from someone at a higher level.

• **Level II**

Individuals at this level consistently exhibit practices grounded in theories of growth, development, and learning; they work cooperatively with others, establish good mentoring relationships, and sometimes provide direct supervision; they have participated in formal study leading to a degree and/or certificate and have refined their knowledge through guided and reflective experiences with young children and families.

• **Level III**

Individuals at this level have extensive academic preparation and experience in the field; they can be responsible for mentoring those at Level I and II; they possess the ability to provide new resources in the development of theory and innovative practice; they demonstrate a mastery of developmentally appropriate practices which allow them to mentor peers as well as persons at other levels.

Friday Keynote Speaker - Gigi Schweikert

8:30 am - 10:00 am



With 18 published books, in three languages, and 30 years of experience, Gigi Schweikert is a highly demanded, internationally known leader in early childhood education and child care. Her best-selling book series, *Winning Ways for Early Childhood Professionals*, has changed the field through innovative ideas about leadership, child development, and professionalism.

As a parenting expert, Gigi has appeared on CBS, Fox News, CNN and the Wall Street Journal Lunch Break. She has offered advice in *Parenting* magazine, held a column in *Children's Ministry* magazine, and written for *Hightscope*, *Child Care Information Exchange*, and

FamilyLife.

Gigi managed the Johnson & Johnson Early Education Programs and directed the United Nations Child Care Centre in New York City where she attended Bank Street College of Education. Gigi is President & COO of Lightbridge Academy. Gigi also hosted the television show, "Today's Family."

As a working mother of four children, Gigi's practical ideas and realistic perspective on parenting and child care will have you laughing and learning. Follow Gigi on Twitter @gigischweikert and checkout her website: **www.gigischweikert.com**.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

Winning Ways for Teaching Infants and Toddlers

Why do we do all this for parents? Why did they have kids anyway? Don't we work here to care for children, not their parents? Our lives would be much easier if children didn't come with parents. Sound familiar? Sure, but in today's world, we're realizing that if we really want to impact children, we have to have a positive impact on their families, too. Creating great places for families means caring for and educating parents as well as their children. Hey, we'd all love it if the parents never complained, paid their tuition on time, listened to our advice and did everything we said, since we are in fact "the experts," but as inconvenient as it may be, we should expect good parents to be demanding, questioning and involved. Why? It's good for their child.

**1. Prime Times for Infants and Toddlers: Giving Children Individual Attention – Gigi Schweikert; President and Chief Operating Officer, Lightbridge Academy (Level I,II, III)
NJ Infant/Toddler Credential Quality Key Indicator - *Professionalism***

Caring for infants and toddlers can be busy and exhausting. How do you help every child reach their fullest potential when there are so many little ones? How can you give each child the time and attention he needs while managing the rest of the group and fishing a Lego out of the toilet? In this humorous and practical workshop, you'll learn easy ways to effectively give every infant and toddler individual attention by making care times, prime times.

**2. “!Come on, Vamonos!”: How to support dual language learners – Melissa A. Rivera-Serna, Technical Assistance Supervisor, Central Jersey Family Health Consortium; and Maribel Tapia, Technical Assistance Specialist, Central Jersey Family Health Consortium (Level I)
NJ Infant/Toddler Credential Quality Key Indicator – *Child Development***

Educators will understand the benefits of teaching and exposing infants and toddlers to dual language throughout the classroom environment. They will empower a child's home language by welcoming family engagement in the classroom community and be exposed to strategies and activities at a competency level of I.

**3. What do science, math and technology look like in an infant toddler program? – Margie Brickley, Faculty, Bank Street College; Elizabeth Lockhart, Blue School (Level I, II, III)
NJ Infant/Toddler Credential Quality Key Indicator - *Curriculum***

Together we will explore concepts and themes related to science, math and technology. We will discuss what types of experiences are interesting to very young children and how to design an exploration.

**4. What's New in Child Care Licensing? – Elissa Lombardo and Antonette Franklin, Child Care Quality Assurance Inspectors 2, State of NJ/DCF, Office of Licensing (Level I, II, III)
NJ Infant/Toddler Credential Quality Key Indicator - *Professionalism***

Staff from the NJ Office of Licensing will answer your questions and provide the most current information on licensing with an emphasis on infant and toddler requirements.

5. Foundations for Literacy Development in the Infant/Toddler Years – Cindy Terebush, Early Childhood Consultant (Level I, II)

NJ Infant/Toddler Credential Quality Key Indicator - Curriculum

Infant/toddler teachers have a great influence over the foundation for early literacy learning. Learn how literacy develops in the infant/toddler years, discover physical and cognitive activities you can do to promote literacy development and gain an understanding of a high quality interaction with the children in your care as defined by ITERS-3.

6. Engaging Families and Connecting Families to Community Resources (A limited number of scholarships are available from SPAN if you select this workshop) – Denise Bouyer-Hargrove, Director, Inclusive Child Care Network, Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (Level I, II)

NJ Infant/Toddler Credential Quality Key Indicator – Family and Community

Involving and supporting family engagement is a critical indicator of a high quality inclusive childcare environment. The success of young children in early childhood settings is dependent upon engaging and supporting families. In this session we will discuss the unique needs of families of children with special needs and connecting families to community resources and supports that will promote the healthy development of children with diverse needs. In this interactive session we will identify county and community resources for providers and families.

7. Exploring the Key Indicators of High Quality Infant and Toddler Care – Linda Carter, Assistant Professor, Passaic County Community College; Nicole DeNude, Social Worker/Administrator, Passaic County Community College (Level I)

NJ Infant/Toddler Credential Quality Key Indicator - All

This workshop will provide a comprehensive overview of the Key Indicators of Infant and Toddler Care and how they align with the NJ Infant Toddler Credential. Join us on an interactive journey of exploration and self-reflection that will raise your awareness in the key skills of caregiving.

8. Why Interactions Matter – Paula Hartley, Infant Toddler Specialist – The Women’s Center Technical Assistance Center for Grow NJ Kids; Liz Nicholson, Technical Assistance Specialist - The Women’s Center Technical Assistance Center for Grow NJ Kids (Level I)

NJ Infant/Toddler Credential Quality Key Indicator - Environment

Participants will examine the new ITERS-3 interaction items/indicators and why these areas are important for infants and toddlers. Participants will also engage in an interactive discussion of the challenges and solutions to creating high quality interactions in early childhood environments.

Friday Morning . . .

10:30 am - 12:30 pm

9. Just Tell Me What You Want!! Teaching sign language to infants – Dr. Keri Giordano, Psy. D.; Assistant Professor, Kean University; Briana Calcagno, M.A., Adjunct Professor, Psy. D. Candidate, Kean University (Level I, II)

NJ Infant/Toddler Credential Quality Key Indicator – *Infant Mental Health: Social/Emotional Well Being*

How do you know what a child wants if they won't tell you?! Participants are invited to learn how to enhance infant communication skills through baby sign language. During this introductory session, you will learn about the benefits of using sign language, learn 20-25 signs, and practice your new skills.

10. Toddler Chefs: Classroom Cooking Activities – Jennifer Salt, MS, RD, CHES, Nutrition and Food Service Manager, Center for Family Resources (Level I, II)

NJ Infant/Toddler Credential Quality Key Indicator - *Nutrition*

Although it can be a messy and difficult endeavor, toddlers can learn a great deal through cooking activities. Come participate in some hands on activities and recipes that can be recreated in the classroom that will include building language skills and help the children lay the foundation for healthy eating habits.

Friday Afternoon . . .

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

11. Tips for Keeping Our Infants & Toddlers Safe & Healthy in Child Care – Judi Connor, Child Care Health Consultant (Level I, II)

NJ Infant/Toddler Credential Quality Key Indicator – *Health and Safety*

What they are learning matters, but health & safety is top priority in caring for infants and toddlers! Do you know your health & safety policies? Have you had the necessary trainings? Are you prepared for emergencies? How can you assess the child care environment and your practices to implement changes? We will discuss all of these important factors and more, along with tips & tools for keeping the children in your care safe & healthy!

12. Providing a Comprehensive & Timely Orientation for Your New Infant-Toddler Staff – Angie DeFazio, Early Childhood Consultant, Is It Good for Children (Level III)

NJ Infant/Toddler Credential Quality Key Indicator – *All*

This workshop is intended for directors to use with newly hired childcare staff and will provide participants with a manual which contains necessary orientation information needed to care for children. Some of the topics covered will include: Creating A Safe Space for Children; Parent Involvement; Professionalism; Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)/Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Syndrome (SUIDS); Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS); Developmental Milestones for Infants/Toddlers; Discipline; Staff Orientation' and State Regulations.

13. Finding Your Inner Advocate – Cynthia Rice, Esq. – Senior Policy Analyst, Advocates for Children of New Jersey; Diane Dellanno, LCSW, Policy Analyst, Advocates for Children of New Jersey (Level I)

NJ Infant/Toddler Credential Quality Key Indicator - *Professionalism*

Now more than ever it is critical that early care and education professionals become strong advocates for their programs, their staff and the children they serve. While the thought of advocacy may be intimidating at first, this introductory level interactive workshop will provide participants with the knowledge, skills and confidence they will need to become successful advocates for infant and toddler issues.

14. How Do Our Interactions Build Healthy Brains: Play the Brain Architecture Game – Cindy Terebush, Early Childhood Consultant (Level I, II, III)

NJ Infant/Toddler Credential Quality Key Indicator - *Infant Mental Health: Social/Emotional Well Being*

Positive, tolerable and toxic experiences in the infant/toddler years provide a foundation for a child's ability to learn and cope in the years ahead. Play the Brain Architecture Game and learn, through this interactive experience, about the influence experiences and interactions have on the developing brain and a child's social/emotional foundation for the future.

15. Infant/Toddler Curriculum and Individualized Planning – Carmen Espinosa, M.Ed. Curriculum and Learning Consultant (Level I)

NJ Infant/Toddler Credential Quality Key Indicator - *Curriculum*

The infant and toddler environment is a part of the curriculum. Why is the physical environment important for learning and play? What does a curriculum look like to infants and toddlers? Individualized curriculum for infants and toddlers will be discussed.

16. Reflective Practices & Caregiving: How Our Feelings Affect Our Work – Lorri Sullivan, Curriculum Coordinator – Montclair State University – Center for Autism and Early Childhood Mental Health (Level I)

NJ Infant/Toddler Credential Quality Key Indicator – *Infant Mental Health: Social/Emotional Well Being*

This workshop will provide an introduction to Reflective Practices for staff who work with young children and their families. We will explore the intense emotions that are stirred up when our work involves forming relationships with young children and their families. Caregivers who are new to the work or have years of experience can benefit from Reflective Practices.

17. Speaking “Toddler” - Jennifer Romanoff, VP of Education Training, Lightbridge Academy (Level I,II, III)

NJ Infant/Toddler Credential Quality Key Indicator – *Child Development*

This workshop will provide guidance on the appropriate ways to speak to toddlers to not only improve behavior but to also teach valuable life lessons. Challenging behavior can be addressed and corrected by simply understanding a “life lessons” language approach!

18. Playful Support: Promoting healthy play practices in the classroom! – Alexandra Gil, Doctoral Student/Child Development Specialist/ Early Intervention Therapist (Level I)

NJ Infant/Toddler Credential Quality Key Indicator – *Infant Mental Health: Social/Emotional Well Being*

Play is a fun part of a young child’s day and it is also important for overall development. In this interactive session we will explore various ways you can promote positive play practices in the classroom through the arrangement of center materials and helping children to develop friendship skills.

19. “Are You Hungry?” – Understanding Responsive Feeding – Adaobi Nwoka, Program and Policy Analyst, Nemours Children’s Health System; Brianna Holmes, Technical Trainer, Nemours Children’s Health System (Level I)

NJ Infant/Toddler Credential Quality Key Indicator - *Nutrition*

This interactive workshop dives into effective responsive feeding techniques and practices with infants and toddlers. This session focuses on hunger cues, infant feeding and supporting families to support healthy growth and development.

20. Waves of Change: Oceans of Opportunity with the ITERS-3 – Simone Taylor, M.S.Ed., NJ First Steps Infant/Toddler Specialist, Programs for Parents, Inc. (Level II, III)

NJ Infant/Toddler Credential Quality Key Indicator - *Environment*

Join us as we take a journey through the new ITERS-3 Environment Rating Scale. We will navigate through the new items and indicators that measure infant/toddler classrooms and the caregivers, assess the reasoning behind these changes and examine how caregivers can meet the new indicators in their classrooms. Participants should have prior use and knowledge of the ITERS-R assessment tool if attending this session.



Donate Diapers and Help Babies in Need

Diaper Need is a Critical Issue – And Together We Can Make a Difference In Our Own Community

Please bring an unopened package of diapers to donate!

Date of Diaper Drive: *March 23, 2018*
Time: *Duration of conference*
Drop-off Site: *National Conference Center*

Visit www.everylittlebottom.com



CITE 33rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Registration Form

For online registration and payment go to www.njcite.org

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ County _____ Work Title _____

Employer Name & Address _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____ NJCCIS # _____

Please Check Chapter:

_____ Northwest (Morris, Hunterdon, Sussex, Warren)

_____ Northeast (Bergen, Hudson, Passaic)

_____ University (Somerset, Middlesex, Union, Essex, Mercer, Monmouth, Ocean)

_____ Southern (Atlantic, Cape May, Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland, Camden, Burlington)

Friday 3/23/18

Morning Session: 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

First Choice _____ Second Choice _____ Third Choice _____

Afternoon Session: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

First Choice _____ Second Choice _____ Third Choice _____

CONFERENCE FEES ARE NOT REFUNDABLE - NO EXCEPTIONS

Early Bird - must be postmarked by March 8th \$135

Postmarked after March 8th \$170

Register early, sessions fill up quickly!

Register and pay online at www.njcite.org or

return this form with the Registration fee by **March 8th** to:

CITE, PO Box 1015 • Barnegat Light, NJ 08006

Please make checks payable to: CITE

Can't attend the Conference but want to become a member?

Please complete the following information and mail it along with the \$30.00 membership fee to:

Coalition of Infant/Toddler Educators (CITE)
PO Box 1015
Barnegat Light, NJ 08006

Name _____

Address _____

_____ County _____

Employer Name & Address _____

Job Title _____ E-mail _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

Please check Chapter:

_____ Northwest (Morris, Hunterdon, Sussex, Warren)

_____ Northeast (Bergen, Hudson, Passaic)

_____ University (Somerset, Middlesex, Union, Essex, Mercer, Monmouth, Ocean)

_____ Southern (Atlantic, Cape May, Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland, Camden, Burlington)

PLEASE HELP!

Please consider making a donation to CITE!

It is individual donations such as yours that help us complete our mission *to promote quality infant and toddler care and education by building collaborations, providing professional development opportunities, support and resources, and by influencing public policy.* We are a tax-exempt organization and your donation qualifies as a tax deduction. **THANK YOU!**

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ Amount _____

Please mail your donation to CITE, PO Box 1015, Barnegat Light, NJ 08006 or donate online at www.njcite.org.



**EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT AS A CITE MEMBER
TO VOTE FOR YOUR STATE BOARD
REPRESENTATION AT THE 33rd ANNUAL
CITE CONFERENCE**

Go to the CITE website at www.njcite.org after 2/23/18
to find the 2018-2019 Slate of Officers.

New Board members are always welcome!

Consider becoming a CITE State or Chapter Board
Member, visit the CITE Information table in the
Exhibitor's Hall at the CITE 33rd Annual Conference for
more information.

Nominations will be accepted from the floor before the
vote on 3/23/18.