

Workshops for Virtual UnConference: Re-Opening to a 'New Normal'

Please select one workshop for 1:45-3:00pm and another workshop for 3:15-4:30pm. If you have any questions, please email Yu-Ling Cheng at conference@tryingtogether.org.

Coping with COVID – HR Thoughts and Tips for Child Care Centers

Presenter: Phyllis Hartman, PGHR Consulting

Tues, May 26, 1:45-3:00pm

The novel corona virus pandemic has disrupted everyone. People are finding they need to adopt new life styles. Employers and employees are not sure what will happen next. Child Care centers, many operating with limited resources, are struggling. Some are closed by shelter in place regulations, like schools and theatres. Others are operating to respond to needs of critical workers like nurses and EMTs. This workshop will overview what center leaders should be thinking about and doing from an HR perspective. Information on responses and resources will be provided focusing on what to do now and what to think about going forward as business re-opens.

Building Community and Connection with Digital Technologies

Presenter: Katherine Gullone, Trying Together

Tues, May 26, 1:45-3:00pm

In this time of physical distancing, educators play an essential role in maintaining responsive relationships with children and families through the use of technology and media. More than ever before, digital devices are being used in creative and innovative ways to strengthen the home-school connection and to support early learning experiences. In this session, participants will explore the role of early childhood educators as “media mentors” in the new educational landscape. Participants will virtually interact with a technology tool, Message from Me, designed to strengthen adult-child interactions, as well as have the opportunity to share ideas and helpful tips when digitally connecting with children and their families. This session will also include COVID-19 resources to facilitate technology-mediated practices online and in the early learning setting.

How to Stay Healthy and Provide Safe Child Care During COVID-19

Presenters: Amy Requa, The Pennsylvania Key and Lisa Perry, Jeremiah's Place

Tues, May 26, 3:15-4:30pm

In this session, Amy Requa, Senior Health Manager from The Pennsylvania Key, will help child care providers understand safety protocols and guidance from the CDC Guidelines for Child Care as centers re-open. Lisa Perry is the Executive Director of Jeremiah's Place, an emergency child care center. As a facility that has remained open throughout COVID-19, Ms. Perry will share their real life experience on how they implemented these safety precautions for staff and families.

Everyday Interactions Matter: Noticing the Simple and Ordinary

Presenter: Sarah Grubb, Trying Together

Tues, May 26, 3:15-4:30pm

The primary ingredient of early childhood quality begins with the “everyday interactions” between educators and children. These simple and ordinary interactions that take place during play, transition, and daily routines form the very foundation of learning and growing. How can we uphold these essential interactions with children during this challenging time? Within this module, early childhood educators will engage with the Everyday Interactions Matter approach through a process of careful observation, discussion, and self-reflection. Through this reflective process, we can recognize powerful moments of connecting, sharing, growing, and belonging in our everyday interactions with young children.