

The Growing With Children Conference

In March, over 450 family child care providers, preschool teachers and child care center employees attended Child Start's annual "Growing With Children" conference.

Growing With Children participants each attended six hours of training and went home re-energized and equipped with tools of the trade to help them offer young children the best possible early childhood experience. One participant called the training she received "meaty, fun and informative." She added, "Thanks for making this part of my job easy!"



Some highlights from this year's event included a mental health series where participants learned about the connection between early childhood development and mental health and gained skills for managing challenging behaviors and recognizing mental health issues. There were workshops on motivating children to be lifelong learners, creating safe and fun outdoor spaces, preparing for disasters, early literacy and much more.

Each year, participants enjoy the opportunity to network with other early childhood professionals. They also get to visit the exhibit area where the latest early childhood books and products are demonstrated and sold.

Ashley Harris, a teacher at the YMCA's Child Development Center in Northwest High School, said, "This was my first time attending a Growing With Children conference and it certainly will not be my last."



To see more images from the Growing With Children visit Child Start's Facebook page.