



Pre-Conference Sessions

We will be offering these sessions as part of the pre-conference in 2017. If you would like to participate in any of these, make sure you include this in your conference registration. [Register Here](#).

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- **QRIS 101: Everything You Wanted to Know About QRIS but Were Afraid to Ask**
This interactive, introductory session is for anyone interested in learning more about QRIS including new state leaders, implementation partners, Head Start grantees and staff, and others! Discussion will focus on emerging research and trends; standards and frameworks; and implementation considerations like monitoring and supporting diverse populations. Opportunities will be offered to connect at different points of the conference to share information, ask questions and make connections.
- **Research Related to QRIS: Taking Stock and Thinking Ahead**
This session will highlight recent research and its implications for Quality Rating and Improvement Systems. The session will offer an opportunity for participants to learn about new research findings, discuss the implications for QRIS and other quality-related efforts, and think together about future research and policy needs related to QRIS.
- **EarlyEdU Alliance: Transforming Teacher Preparation Program Quality**
The EarlyEdU Alliance is working to transform the early care and education workforce. We have developed extensive coursework and an innovative video sharing and coaching feedback app that directly address the requirements for effective higher education, including relevant content, meaningful field experiences, and demonstration of key competencies. Learn about how states and institutions of higher education are leveraging the EarlyEdU Alliance resources to impact teacher preparation and workforce development and use this opportunity to develop a plan for your own state.
- **Reducing Expulsion: The Intersection of Leadership, Policy, QRIS, and Supports for Programs and Families**
There is an increasing priority to reduce and, ultimately, eliminate expulsion and suspension from early learning settings. States face significant complexity in the reasons for expulsion and

how children's challenging behaviors are understood. We will be focused on the role of the state and its public policy approach. Specifically, we will examine possible strategies and examples that exist at the intersection of child care policy, QRIS, professional development, early childhood mental health, and intervention services. Participants can expect to walk away with increased knowledge of how to develop a comprehensive state policy approach, and ideas for policy and program support strategies. Racial equity and continuous quality improvement will be critical elements to this conversation.

- **It's About Time! Using Classroom Observation to Inform and Guide Practice**

How do children 0-5 really spend their day? How much time are they engaged in developing language, exploring scientific phenomenon, and positively relating to adults and children? Presenters will guide participants through a classroom observation measure (BabySnap) that quantifies how children spend their time in education and care settings and how to use the data to promote strength-based approaches that perpetuate equity, and as a catalyst for inquiry and change in settings for young children.

- **Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI): Building on What We are Learning to Deepen our Collective Impact**

Join us in a lively discussion on what states and technical assistance professionals are learning about how to embed reflective practice and a passion for ongoing improvement into programs and systems. What can we learn from other systems, such as health care and education, and what are the keys to igniting a passion in programs for continuous improvement? Share effective strategies you've used to support CQI to leverage lasting change on all levels of programs and systems and learn from colleagues who are experimenting with ways to maximize effectiveness.

- **State Strategies to Increase the Availability of Non-Traditional Hours of Quality Child Care**

changes need to happen in your state to meet families growing need for quality child care during nights/weekends, non-traditional hours (NTH)? This interactive session will highlight strategies in states that are currently driving system changes. Discussions will explore the need for specialized training, NTH standards and linkages to QRIS; and, stimulate other ideas for innovative approaches to increase the quantity of qualified NTH providers.

- **Tell Me So That I Can Grow**

Quality Improvement Specialists are in a unique position to empower early childhood professionals by engaging them in safe, reflective coaching conversations that shift beliefs and transform instructional practice. This session will expand the conversation about feedback and present a promising roadmap for making feedback more meaningful, actionable and growth enhancing. The content being shared is based on the coaching model being implemented statewide in Florida. During the session, you will participate in a simulation that will anchor your learning around the four developmental approaches to feedback and collaboration.