

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE



MORNING

Saturday, May 20th 9am-4:30pm

8:00-9:00am	Registration
9:00-9:30am	Welcome & Belonging
9:30-10:30am	Keynote <i>The Power of the Puppet: Supporting Social Emotional Development Through Puppetry Arts by Ashley Jefferson</i>
10:40am-12:10pm	Breakout Session 1 <i>The Power of the Puppet: Supporting Social Emotional Development Through Puppetry Arts: Deep Dive - Ashley Jefferson (Sequoia B)</i> <i>Creative Dance With and For Young Children - Shoshanna (Annex)</i> <i>Cultivating and Strengthening Family Connections through Abriendo Puertas - Silvia Esqueda (Redwood Room)</i> <i>Storytelling is Healing: Indigenizing Early Childhood Mental Health with CuentoTerapia - Brianna Bragg & Stephanie Roberson, UPRISE Collective (Sequoia A)</i>
12:15-1:15pm	Lunch & Networking

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE



AFTERNOON

1:15-2:15pm

Keynote

Beyond Books and Baby Dolls: Practical Ways to Integrate Anti-Bias Education into playing and learning with young children - Ijumaa Jordan

2:30-4:00pm

Breakout Session 2

Beyond Books & Baby Dolls: Deep Dive - Ijumaa Jordan (Sequoia B)

Powerful Play - Mo Harper-Desir (Redwood Room)

Humboldt ECE Outdoor Classroom Panel Discussion (Sequoia A)

Hupa Language Immersion Nest: Cultivating Intergenerational Healing Through Language Resurgence (Annex)

4:00-4:30pm

Closing

KEYNOTE & WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS



KEYNOTES

Saturday, May 20th

THE POWER OF THE PUPPET: SUPPORTING SOCIAL EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PUPPETRY ARTS

Ashley Jefferson

Sharing stories isn't just for grown-ups, it's for children, too! In this engaging workshop, participants will explore the fundamental role of puppetry in early childhood education. Through music, dancing and loads of fun, we'll learn how puppetry can foster language and social-emotional development, as well as creativity and imagination. Trust us, you've never seen anything like this before! But, most importantly, we'll learn ways in which we can further empower children to share THEIR stories for holistic growth, self-discovery and community connectedness.

BEYOND BOOKS AND BABY DOLLS: PRACTICAL WAYS TO INTEGRATE ANTI-BIAS EDUCATION INTO PLAYING AND LEARNING WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

Ijumaa Jordan

This keynote and session are a co-learning experience for early care and education workers. It will support their ethical responsibility to create and sustain programs that are play-based, inclusive, culturally responsive, and equitable. The keynote will explore the goals of antiracism/anti-bias goals through storytelling and provocations.

Participants of the workshop session will deepen their understanding of the ideas expressed during the keynote and examine "diversity activities" to refresh and align classroom experiences with the Anti-bias education goals. We will close with a strategy session where participants develop specific ways to integrate the goals of Anti-bias education into their daily work.

KEYNOTE & WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS



WORKSHOPS

Saturday, May 20th

STORYTELLING IS HEALING: INDIGENIZING EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH WITH CUENTOTERAPIA

Brianna Bragg & Stephanie Roberson, The UPRISE Collective

Storytelling lives in our very being as people of color, as parents and caregivers, and as early childhood educators. Since time immemorial we have used storytelling, relationships, and art to share important parts of ourselves, our memories, and our healing. This interactive workshop is designed for folks that care for tiny humxns who want to help connect the dots between play, story, relationships, development, and mental health. Participants will learn to utilize children's stories to support learning, development, and healing, using concepts from CuentoTerapia, a mental health modality originally developed in Spain. The workshop will blend meaning making strategies with art projects that community members are free to continue to use with the children that enrich their lives. This workshop is designed for anyone who cares about kids - no special training required.

Take-Aways:

- Connect early childhood development, mental health, storytelling, and healing.
- Learn to embed cultural humility into mental health care and practice for early childhood education.
- Explore CuentoTerapia as an Indigenized model for working with young children.
- Decolonize the way we look at early childhood education and development by honoring stories, systems of care, and the expertise of caretakers as crucial to a "whole child" approach.

POWERFUL PLAY

Mo Harper-Desir

Join Mo Harper-Desir for an interactive, hands-on workshop entitled "Powerful Play". In this workshop participants will participate in ice breakers, warm ups, activities, games and learning opportunities to help adults foster youth empowerment and mindfulness, in their homes, their classrooms or schools. Participants will leave with intro to social justice information and activities and games to try out with the young people in their lives.

KEYNOTE & WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS



WORKSHOPS

CULTIVATING AND STRENGTHENING FAMILY CONNECTIONS THROUGH ABRIENDO PUERTAS.

Silvia Esqueda

The workshop will be engaging, experiential and informative. Participants will learn about the cultural and linguistic relevance of the Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors curriculum with families with children 0-5. Participants will learn about Popular Education that includes popular sayings, games, horizontal learning, etc. These engaging strategies foster a welcoming environment and build connections among participants and service providers. Participants will experience a hands-on activity that can be implemented with families to highlight the importance of play to strengthen child development.

HUMBOLDT EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION OUTDOOR CLASSROOM PANEL DISCUSSION

Family Childcare Providers: Tami Evans, Anna Davison, Nina Surbaugh, Nayeli Velazquez & Linda Powell

Join us for an informal conversation about the intentional use of outdoor spaces with young children. We will discuss the positive aspects and challenges of developing an outdoor space for group childcare, and what learning looks like there. Also covered will be some of the benefits to children of spending time in nature as well as using it as a pandemic response.

CREATIVE DANCE WITH AND FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Shoshanna

Delve into basic concepts of dance that make up Creative Dance, locomotor and non-locomotor movements, the BrainDance, and ways to effectively use props. Explore fun ways to integrate movement into storytime, reinterpret stories, and strengthen curriculum ideas through movement. Also, of course we'll make lots shapes and have an epic freeze dance party with scarves. It is my hope that all who attend will feel more comfortable and confident using movement and creative concepts with the children they work with. I will have handouts, a booklist, and a music playlist to share. Bring a water bottle and try to dress comfortably, though Creative Dance is a come-as-you-are style for all ages, skills, and levels.

KEYNOTE & WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS



WORKSHOPS

HUPA LANGUAGE IMMERSION NEST: CULTIVATING INTERGENERATIONAL HEALING THROUGH LANGUAGE RESURGENCE

Erika Tracy, Sara Merrick, Jenna Hailey & Melissa Sanchez

In this presentation we will chart the ways we've been able to cultivate intergenerational healing through Na:tinixwe Language and Educational resurgence with Na:tinixwe families. Since 2017 our group has been offering Na:tinixwe Mixine:whe (Hupa language) Immersion programs. Each year we have been building our capacity by increasing the number of families served, the age ranges of the children, the duration of the programs, and expanding and improving curriculum and pedagogical approaches. Most recently, we conducted two rounds of our Nohk'isdiyun Nohoł (Caregivers with Us) program that worked with caregivers and their 0-3 year old(s).

We will take you through our journey which has led us to this current moment in which we are ready to open a full-time Hupa Language Immersion Nest in the fall of 2023 with 18-35 month olds, sharing lessons learned and best practices. We will reflect on how we've balanced sustainable growth with the urgency of the work that we do. Our programs typically work with Na:tinixwe as young as newborns to our elder language and cultural experts. Colonization targeted and continues to target our people by disconnecting us from our language, the land and one another. We know this has created vast amounts of intergenerational trauma amongst our people. Through these ongoing resurgence efforts we have focused explicitly on the reconnection between our language, land and people across generations which disrupts cycles of trauma and promotes cycles of healing.

SPEAKERS



ASHLEY JEFFERSON

Play Plan Afrikan / Nguzo Babies

Ms. Ashley (she/her) is an early childhood enthusiast and play advocate. She brings her 20+ years of experience as an early childhood teacher, museum curator, and performer as the Founder of Play Plan Afrikan (playpanafrikan.org), an early learning collective, and Nguzo Babies (nguzobabies.com), a children's puppet show. Ms. Ashley is also a prolific curriculum author, the popular being her Kwanzaa 365 curriculum to help classrooms integrate cultural diversity. Her passion is offering support and quality resources to families with young children to restore the beauty of childhood and family pastimes.



IJUMAA JORDAN

Ijumaa Jordan is a fat, Black, cis-gender woman (she/her) daily engaging in the beautiful struggle of life, doing the internal and external work to abolish systems of oppression such as racism, sexism, transphobia, and classism, etc. Ijumaa shows up for this work with intensity and passion, being joyful, thinking critically, and holding learning space with care and grace. She loves afternoon naps and snacks, you can usually find her online looking serious and laughing loudly.



JOVONNE DEMPSTER, MSW

Jovonne Dempster, MSW currently resides in Phoenix, AZ where she is the Director of Social Emotional Learning and Social Worker at a Charter School that serves grades 7-12. Jovonne received her Masters of Social Work degree at Cal Poly Humboldt and spent 12 years working in and serving Humboldt children and families. Her experience ranges from Child Welfare Services social worker, Service Coordinator with adults with developmental disabilities, School Social Work, and investigating allegations of elder/dependent adult abuse with Adult Protective Services. Jovonne continues to stay connected to Humboldt County as a lecturer in Cal Poly Humboldt's Social Work distance learning program.

Although Jovonne enjoys direct work with clients, her true passion is community work. This will be Jovonne's third time offering her energy and time to the Children's Mental Health Summit and Counting on Community Symposium as our Holder of Space.

SPEAKERS



SILVIA ESQUEDA, M.S., LMFT

Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors

Silvia Esqueda is a bilingual/bicultural, licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. She has worked with families and Promotoras Comunitarias for more than twenty-five years. Presently, Silvia Esqueda is the national master trainer and consultant for Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors program. Silvia Esqueda was the director for Hathaway Family Resource Center, adjunct professor for Pacific Oaks college, trainer for Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, and writer of mental health topics that have been incorporated into Promotoras Comunitarias' curriculums. Silvia Esqueda graduated from California State University Los Angeles with a Bachelor's Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling, has earned a certificate in Pupil Personnel Services, a Masters Degree in Counseling and is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist.



MO HARPER-DESIR

Mo HD Creates

Mo Harper-Desir, Mo, is a first generation, Queer arts activist from Western MA. Working across the country to provide arts based creation, education and services for community growth. Mo is a mother to 2 free brown boys and considers herself a caretaker to her community. Mo has been dedicated to social justice & arts based education for over 15 years and implements her experiences as a marginalized identity and an artist to build meaningful curriculum, professional development and learning moments of play. You may also recognize Mo from her work with Humboldt County organization Black Humboldt or Access Humboldt and her micro business Mo HD Creates. As an artist Mo actively creates using Multimedia Visual Arts, Hip-Hop, Hip Hop theater, Dance and Poetry. Mo values free speech, inclusion/equity, education, open communication and Black Joy!



SHOSHANNA ANTHONY

Shoshanna has danced throughout her life and has been delighted to teach little ones since she was a teen. She is a professional dancer who has studied many forms of Middle Eastern Dance, Modern, Jazz, Ballet, and even Tap, but finds some of her deepest happiness teaching Creative Dance for young children and getting others comfortable with bringing the concepts of dance to life in working with little people. She has been putting on local parties, camps, and festivals for over a decade and since 2022 has been the Youth Services Outreach Coordinator at Humboldt County Library. At the library, she happily advocates for early literacy and a joy of reading all across the county and can often be found at the Eureka Library Children's Room.

SPEAKERS



BRIANNA BRAGG, MSW

The UPRISE Collective

Brianna C Bragg (they/she), Ihanktonwan Nation, is a Co-Creator at The UPRISE Collective. Brianna is a fat, queer, two-spirit, biracial womxn who roots her work in relationship, with liberation and healing as the goal. Brianna has over 15 years in professional early childhood education, social services, and advocacy. She was born and grew up on the stolen and occupied lands of the sovereign Salish and Duwamish people. They are the eldest of over 20 first cousins, where they learned early on the value of childhood, education, and community. Brianna has worked as a Montessori Teacher, Nanny, Family Advocate/Home Visitor, Sexual Assault Crisis Responder, Early Childhood Policy Advocate and Therapist for folks that live outside. She has spent her post-graduate experience as a clinician and in community organizing work within the Houseless, Indigenous, and QTPOC communities. Brianna is dedicated to the eradication of oppressive systems utilizing the means of community organizing, civil disobedience, and structural policy shifts. She believes strongly in the need to approach oppressive and inequitable situations with a both/and mindset, looking at these restructure opportunities with a wholist, relational worldview. Brianna works to demystify systems and flatten hierarchical structures so they are accessible, and useful to the people while working on the preservation, reclamation, and uplifting of traditional practices and ways of knowing. They have two undergraduate degrees from Portland State University in Social Science (Womxn's Studies & Sociology) and Child & Family Studies (Early Childhood Education) and a Masters in Social Work (Policy, Leadership, and Community Organizing). They love to read, write, grow their own food, cook for the community, bead, crafting of any kind, and a good road trip. Brianna stays grounded with the help of her partner, her two tiny dogs, and her chosen family.

SPEAKERS



STEPHANIE ROBERSON, MSW

The UPRISE Collective

Stephanie Roberson has 18 years of experience in education, nonprofit, and social change work. Stephanie has worked as a middle school teacher, K-5 school administrator, and a mental health practitioner with unaccompanied immigrant and refugee children. Stephanie's work includes the development of SixOne, a collective of middle school students across six schools in St. Louis who work to desegregate spaces and engage in policy work that is important to them, in response to the death of Mike Brown in Ferguson, MO. Stephanie is also privileged to serve on the Board for the African Youth and Community Organization (AYCO), and is a founding member of the Oregon chapter of the Association of Black Social Workers. Stephanie has engaged in grassroots policy work at the state and national level, while working and volunteering with people in hospice care, sexually trafficked youth, and youth with significant and multiple disabilities. Stephanie is an experienced teacher and facilitator with respect to restorative justice, decolonizing spaces, equity and liberation work, and culturally humble curricula and instruction. Stephanie has undergraduate degrees in International Business and Romance Languages and Literatures, a graduate degree in Social Work with a certificate in Human Services Management, and is bilingual in English and Spanish. Stephanie is a woman of color with light skin privilege who loves to garden and to roll around on the floor with her baby boy.



HUPA LANGUAGE IMMERSION NEST

Erika Tracy, Sara Merrick, Jenna Hailey & Melissa Sanchez

The Hupa Language Immersion Nest is a group of Hupa Language Learner/Teachers, dedicated to the resurgence of the Hupa Language through creating spaces for our children to speak our language and be proud to be Na:tinixwe. Presenters for this panel include: Erika Tracy - Indian Education Director for the Klamath-Trinity Joint Unified School District, Dr. Sara L. Chase Merrick - Assistant Professor in Child Development at Cal Poly Humboldt, Melissa Sanchez - K-12 Language and Culture Specialist for the Education Department of the Hoopa Valley Tribe, and Jenna Hailey - Curriculum Specialist for Cal Poly Humboldt and Hoopa Tribal Education's Spencer Foundation Research-Practice Partnership Grant. These Hupa women presenters, along with other team members, have years of experience implementing Hupa Language Immersion and other educational programming for youth on the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation and working closely with first language elder speaker, Verdena Parker, and Hupa Language teacher, Danny Ammon, to learn our Hupa Language and pass it on to our youth and their families. Through both personal and professional experiences, our group has dedicated many years to working with our local Native youth, managing educational programs, learning Hupa Language and participating in our Hupa Culture.