

Southern CLASS Summit

Saturday, April 12, 2025: [Register Today](#)



**Stratton Mountain Resort
Black Bear Lodge
5 Village Lodge Rd,
Stratton Mtn, VT 05155**

Southern CLASS Summits

WELCOME

8:45 AM - 9:00 AM



Opening Remarks

Victoria Ward

Join us promptly at 8:45 AM to kick off a day filled with exciting opportunities to connect, learn, and grow together as we explore the latest strategies in early childhood education.

KEYNOTE
SESSION

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM



The Power of Connection: Building Belonging and Purpose in Early Education

Kelly Lynn Driscoll

Step into a transformative journey where the heart of early education shines brightly: authentic connection. In this inspiring keynote, we'll explore the profound impact of meaningful interactions on fostering trust, belonging, and growth—for children and educators alike. Grounded in research, we'll uncover how connection serves as the foundation for developmental milestones, emotional well-being, and social flourishing in young children.

Want to learn more about
the CLASS Tool?



Connecting Infant Dimensions: Identifying Intersections to Enhance Teaching Practices that Support Infant Development

Infant Track

This workshop is designed for infant educators who are looking to enhance their teaching practices using the CLASS Infant tool. Through this interactive session, educators will explore the dimensions of the CLASS Infant framework, gaining a deeper understanding of how these dimensions intersect and impact infant learning and development. Educators will have the opportunity to reflect on their current practices and identify areas of growth. Educators will leave with practical strategies to provide more effective, responsive care for infants.

Authentic Conversations With Toddlers

Toddler Track

The potential for learning is endless when we intentionally use our words to engage toddlers in thoughtful conversations. These interactions not only strengthen our bond with them but also support their overall development. This hands-on training equips educators with strategies to effectively engage toddlers in meaningful conversations, while exploring how these conversations boost cognitive, social, and language growth. We'll also look at how the environment plays a role in fostering effective communication. By the end of the training, participants will understand the importance of curiosity in toddler development, enhance their interactions through purposeful conversations, and gain at least three practical strategies to implement in their teaching, all aligned with the CLASS tool.

Encouraging Children's Thinking Skills Through Purposeful Play

Preschool Track

Join us to consider how to encourage children's cognitive development through everyday interactions and experiences in your learning setting. Through interactive discussion, personal reflection, and hands-on exploration of materials, we will share strategies on using materials in your program to support children in thinking more deeply and growing their skills in reasoning, problem solving, and cognition.

A CLASS® Primer for Teachers

An Introductory Track for those New to the CLASS Tool

A CLASS Primer for Teachers introduces CLASS concepts and brings focus and purpose to the everyday interactions educators have with children. Participants will receive a CLASS Primer Participant Guide, CLASS Strategy Cards, a CLASS Dictionary, and access to the CLASS Learning Community.

Baby Talk vs Talking to Babies - Language Support with Infants

Infant Track

In this session, participants will explore the Infant CLASS “Early Language Support” dimension. Concrete learning, example videos, and hands-on activities will help deepen educators’ understanding of how to support and promote speech and language in an infant classroom. Participants will also have an opportunity to troubleshoot struggles or to compare classroom notes relating to early language support with Infants with educators from other programs. Participants will walk away with teaching practices, tools, and resources that will equip them to implement high level interactions in their classrooms.

Navigating Multiage Classrooms for Inclusive and Engaging Learning

Toddler Track

This hands-on training helps early childhood educators create inclusive, nurturing classrooms where children of all ages and abilities can learn together. Educators will explore strategies to promote peer learning, foster collaboration, and design flexible, developmentally appropriate lessons. Aligned with the CLASS framework, the session will focus on using Emotional Support to build a safe, responsive environment, Classroom Organization for smooth routines and behavior management, and Instructional Support to engage children in creative, play-based activities that foster critical thinking. Participants will also learn tools for assessing progress in a multiage setting, leaving with practical strategies to enhance classroom interactions and support every child's growth.

Captivating Young Minds: Strategies for Engaging Read-Alouds

Preschool Track

In this session, participants will explore the value of small group read-alouds with preschool-aged children. Presenters will highlight various levels of read-alouds and share effective strategies that educators can implement in the classroom. Key strategies will focus on fostering peer conversations and considering the developmental needs of the children. Additionally, these strategies will be aligned with key dimensions from the Pre-K CLASS tool.

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Facilitated Exploration with Infants: Examining the Roots of Cognitive Thinking

Infant Track

In this session, participants will compare and synthesize goals for infant development as presented by major child development theorists, the VT Early Learning Standards and the CLASS Assessment tool. The content will be presented and examined using mini lecture, print materials and group discussion. Then participants will have a chance to link their interactions and play strategies with babies to cognitive development goals outlined in the VT Early Learning Standards.

Independence, Leadership, and Child Voice in a Toddler Classroom

Toddler Track

In this session, participants will take a deep dive into the Toddler CLASS Dimension “Regard for Child Perspectives,” which addresses interactions and activities that support independence, provide choices, and incorporate child interests, as well as self-help and peer perspective taking skills in a Toddler Classroom. Participants will explore different parts of daily routines and how CLASS indicators can be supported throughout the day. Participants will explore Toddler development and touch on temperaments, giving participants new tools for flexibility and strategies to adjust their approach for individual students. With concrete learning, in addition to hands-on practice, participants will walk away with teaching practices that will equip them to integrate high level interactions into their classrooms.

Pre-K CLASS and Nature: Unlocking Meaningful Learning

Preschool Track

When children are immersed in nature, they are presented with many sensory rich opportunities to explore their surrounding environment. Looking to the natural world as a guide and teacher can promote creativity and allow us to make connections to our everyday lives. In conjunction with the CLASS tool, educators can expand children’s exploration through conversations and asking questions that encourage children to think deeper. This workshop will specifically focus on the Concept Development dimension of the PreK CLASS tool. Come dressed and prepared to be outside, in any type of weather!

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