



October 24, 2024

For Immediate Release

Contact: Cristina Barrera, preschool education specialist

(801) 538-7586 · cristina.barrera@schools.utah.gov

Utah State Board of Education Announces the 2024 Utah Preschool Conference

SALT LAKE CITY—The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) is excited to announce the 2024 Utah Preschool Conference (UPC), which will bring together early childhood educators, administrators, preschool parents/guardians, and stakeholders from across the state on Friday, October 25, and Saturday, October 26, at the Utah State Capitol. The conference will focus on sharing resources for best practices, discussing current research, exchanging ideas, and promoting collaboration to enhance early learning opportunities for Utah's children.

The 2024 UPC will be a rich learning experience featuring a diverse lineup of keynote speakers, panel discussions, and interactive workshops designed to address the most pressing issues in early childhood education. This year's conference focus will be "Cultivating Connections: Strengthening Collaboration for Preschool Professionals." USBE understands the importance of accessibility, which is why we are offering virtual attendance with online sessions and hybrid options. This format ensures that all attendees can learn from leading experts, engage in meaningful discussions, and gain valuable insights to enhance their professional practice.

On Friday, October 25, from 9:30-10:45 a.m., the keynote session will be a speaker panel discussion followed by an audience Q&A. Special guest speakers will be the Utah Governor's Office Senior Advisor of Education Rich Nye, State Senator Kathleen Riebe, Representative Ashlee Matthews, USBE Vice Chair Molly Hart, and USBE Board Member LeAnn Wood.

On Saturday, October 26, from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m., GatherRound President and CEO Kathy Pomer will be the keynote speaker. She will discuss "The Power of Storytelling in Early Care and Education." GatherRound Consulting "is passionate about transforming early childhood education into a powerful force for good. They believe that by creating authentic, reflective, and intentional environments and systems, we can empower children, families, educators, and their communities to thrive."

Key Highlights of the Conference:

- Keynote Speaker Panel Session: Esteemed speakers will share their insights on the challenges and opportunities in early childhood education.
- Interactive Workshops: Hands-on sessions covering a range of topics, including innovative teaching strategies, family engagement, and inclusive practices.
- Networking Opportunities: The conference provides numerous networking opportunities, allowing you to connect with fellow educators, administrators, and advocates. These connections will help you build a supportive network dedicated to early learning, making you feel part of a larger community committed to the success of Utah's children.
- Exhibitor Showcase: Explore the latest educational resources, tools, and technologies from leading vendors in the field.

"We are thrilled to host the 2024 Utah Preschool Conference and provide a platform for preschool professionals and families to come together and advance the field of early childhood education," said Cristina Barrera, USBE Preschool Education Specialist. "This conference is an excellent opportunity for attendees to gain new perspectives, share their experiences, and collaborate on strategies to support the development and success of young children's early learning in Utah."

We invite you to join us at the 2024 Utah Preschool Conference. Be a part of this inspiring event dedicated to the future of early childhood education in Utah. Your participation will contribute to the success of the conference and the advancement of the field of early childhood Education. Registration for the 2024 Utah Preschool Conference is now open. For more information and to register, please visit <https://sites.google.com/schools.utah.gov/usbe-preschool-conference/home> or contact USBE Early Learning Support Specialist Monica Bellenger at monica.bellenger@schools.utah.gov or 801-538-7679.

www.schools.utah.gov