

# ZERO TO THREE:

A CRASH COURSE IN COVERING  
CHILD CARE AND EARLY LEARNING  
IN THE PANDEMIC

JANUARY 28, 2021 | 12:30PM - 6:30PM



# WELCOME

Welcome!

Low-wage child care workers struggling to keep centers open amid surging costs and reduced attendance. Mothers who have left the workplace at alarmingly high rates. Three-year-olds who simply miss play time.

Thousands of stories are waiting to be told about the ways the COVID-19 pandemic has upended the lives of young children and their families.

That's why we're so pleased that you're joining us for the Education Writers Association online event, "Zero to Three: A Crash Course in Covering Child Care and Early Learning in the Pandemic."

One of the most consequential impacts of the pandemic has been the closure or disruption of child care and early learning programs. Without that support, millions of parents had to change, scale back or quit their jobs, in many cases threatening their careers or their families' financial stability.

Evidence so far suggests that cuts in child care and early learning opportunities only worsened inequities in the job market and educational systems, as wealthier parents could afford alternatives, reducing the disruptions to their careers.

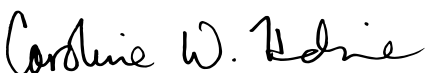
It is still unclear how this disruption will impact the educational outlook of the children themselves. But the need to cover how the pandemic is impacting the lives of young children – and society at large – is more important than ever.

This afternoon-long crash course on child care and early learning amid COVID-19 is featuring experts, policymakers, researchers, and advocates to help reporters take stock of the crisis from multiple angles – and discuss what's to come as President Biden takes office. The event is placing special focus on issues impacting children from birth to age three, and will consider these issues as they relate to the political, economic, and social contexts of P-16 education.

We hope you come away with information that inspires you to cover issues impacting the littlest learners in your community.

As always, I can't wait to see how you use what you learn!

Warm wishes,





EWA THANKS

**PRITZKER  
CHILDREN'S  
INITIATIVE**

FOR ITS  
GENEROUS  
SUPPORT OF  
THE SEMINAR



# SCHEDULE

## WELCOME (“CIRCLE TIME”)

12:30 p.m. - 12:35 p.m.

- ▶ **Caroline Hendrie**, Education Writers Association

## A CHILD CARE CRISIS OF PANDEMIC PROPORTIONS

12:35 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

From cost to availability and quality, the pandemic has exacerbated the inequities that strained the child care marketplace long before COVID-19. Experts in the child care field help reporters better understand the patchwork system in the U.S., how it's been impacted by the pandemic, and what's needed for the fragile child care industry to recover. They also discuss how race, gender, and class are embedded in every story about child care, and offer guidance on how to write about these issues in your local community.

- ▶ **Dionne Dobbins**, Child Care Aware
- ▶ **Alycia Hardy**, Center for Law and Social Policy
- ▶ **Rasheed Malik**, Center for American Progress
- ▶ **Megan Leonhardt**, CNBC (moderator)

## RECESS (BREAK)

1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

## INNOVATIVE EARLY EDUCATION POLICY MODELS: PROMISING OR PIPE DREAMS?

2:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Even in the depths of the coronavirus recession, state and local governments are finding new ways to generate revenue and voter support for universal preschool, child care, and early development programs, such as an initiative backed by voters in Oregon's Multnomah County. Early childhood policy experts discuss the sustainability of these measures and share thoughts on President-elect Joe Biden's sprawling early education agenda.

- ▶ **Mark Holloway**, Social Venture Partners
- ▶ **Angela Rachidi**, American Enterprise Institute
- ▶ **Javaid Siddiqi**, The Hunt Institute
- ▶ **Emily Tate**, EdSurge (moderator)

# SCHEDULE

## NAP TIME (BREAK)

2:45 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

## HOW IS COVID-19 IMPACTING BRAIN DEVELOPMENT FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS?

3:15 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The pandemic has resulted in all kinds of stresses on families. What are the implications on brain development for infants and toddlers and on their health, well-being, and education over time? Experts share insights as well as strategies to mitigate potential negative effects.

- ▶ **Rahil Briggs**, ZERO TO THREE
- ▶ **Jack Shonkoff**, Harvard University
- ▶ **Mariana Dale**, KPCC – Southern California Public Radio (moderator)

## SNACK TIME (BREAK)

4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

## HOW TO DO THE CHILD CARE/EARLY ED STORY

4:30 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

There are important stories to tell in every community about the coronavirus' impact on children from 0 to 3, but many education reporters have little experience covering this domain. In this session, fellow journalists provide practical guidance on how to get started, where to turn for experts and data, and how to quickly and efficiently develop compelling coverage. Participants also break into small groups to brainstorm your next great lede.

- ▶ **Amy Feiereisel**, North Country Public Radio
- ▶ **Lillian Mongeau**, The Hechinger Report
- ▶ **Kavitha Cardoza**, freelance journalist (moderator)

## BATHROOM BREAK (BREAK)

5:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

# SCHEDULE

## PLAY TIME: PARENTING YOUNG CHILDREN WHILE COVERING EDUCATION

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Join journalist and parent educator Katherine Reynolds Lewis for an interactive talk on how parents can manage working from home, 24-7 parenting, and their own anxiety and stress. Lewis offers daily and weekly practices for finding calm, discerning and meeting their real needs, and setting healthy boundaries. This talk covers attuning to children's emotions, stress management strategies, and setting up routines that support a family's values.

- ▶ **Katherine Reynolds Lewis**, independent journalist and author
- ▶ **Jackie Mader**, The Hechinger Report (moderator)