

# Early Childhood Connections event set for April 18

FOR THE WEEKENDER

**MCHENRY** — The Early Childhood Connections Conference is set April 18 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Garrett College. The event is sponsored by Garrett College, Garrett County Community Actions Child & Family Development Programs, Maryland State Department of Education office of Child Care, and the Garrett County Early Childhood Professionals Association.

A day full of training and networking is in store for participants. The cost of the conference is \$50 per person, and includes breakfast and lunch, keynote speaker presentation, two workshops of choice, Maryland EXCELS recognition, five hours (.5 CEUs), door prizes and raffle, conference bag with promotional items, and a chance to network with vendors and exhibitors on site. Interested participants are encouraged to register early for the best opportunity to receive the two workshops of your choice.

The keynote speaker for the

conference is Andrew Nelson, Program Coordinator for the Eastern Panhandle Region and he works for the Marshall University West Virginia Autism Training Center.

Nelson's presentation, "I've Got This!" focuses on teaching children with autism or other learning differences with confidence. This session is designed to meet caregivers where they are, demystify autism and other learning differences, and inspire providers to use their own personal strengths to reach students with unique social and educational needs.

Participants can choose from two of the eight workshop choices below (register early for the best chance to receive your choice of workshops): The Behavior and Communication Connection — presented by Andrew Nelson

Visual Supports for Children with Autism or Other Learning Differences — presented by Andrew Nelson

Music and Movement for Infants & Toddlers — presented by Elizabeth Nelson,

licensed Kindermusik educator Using Music and Movement in the Pre-School Classroom — presented by Elizabeth Nelson, licensed Kindermusik educator

Child Friendly Gardening Ideas: Building a Salad Box — presented by Ashley Bodkins, Faculty Extension Assistant

What does Early Childhood STEM Look Like — presented by Arlene Lantz, K-8 Math & Technology Resource Teacher, Swan Meadow School

Instructional Strategies to Promote School Readiness — presented by Steve Knepp, Judy Center Education Coordinator

Maryland **EXCELS:** Overview & Update — presented by Sharon Vance and Darlene Schmidt, MD EXCELS QAS

The deadline to register for the Early Childhood Connections Conference is , April 10. To register, contact Connie Meyers, Director of Professional Development and Contract Training at Garrett College, at 301-387-3084 or [connie.meyers@garrettcollege.edu](mailto:connie.meyers@garrettcollege.edu).