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EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS WILL GATHER ON MAY 30 FOR *HEAD TO TOE: THE MIDWEST INTERACTIVE INFANT-TODDLER CONFERENCE™*

CHICAGO—On May 30, early childhood professionals who care for our youngest children during their most formative years will come together for a day of learning at Chicago Metro AEYC’s 4th annual *Head to Toe: The Midwest Interactive Infant-Toddler Conference™*. *Head to Toe* begins at 8 a.m. at Whitney Young High School, 211 S. Laflin St. in Chicago’s West Loop. Conference details can be found at <http://www.chicagometroaeyc.org>

This year, in addition to over 50 workshops covering four relevant topic areas, Chicago Metro AEYC is introducing *The Academy of Professional Early Childhood Practice.™* *The Academy* offers focused trainings to both administrators and practitioners to support and improve the quality of services provided to children and families. Participants will receive an integrated model of theory, research, and practice in an intimate and interactive environment.

Head to Toe focuses on the importance of play, temperament and behavior, mental health, nutrition, and language and literacy. Keynoters Julie Lumeng, M.D., University of Michigan Department of Pediatrics, Laurie Kabb, Erickson Institute, Kelley Barnhart, Hands 4 Learning, and Dr. Vince Allocco, El Valor, will cover a range of topics from investigating how aspects of the home and child care environment impact a child’s risk of obesity to how to safeguard young children’s emotional health.

“The *Head to Toe Conference* keeps me fresh and up to date,” says Dr. Gloria Davis from ESLUP Rapid Learning Center Inc. “The workshops help me help children achieve academically and I look forward to the conference each year.” Dr. Davis is a certified teacher and has a bachelor’s degree in early childhood and a master’s degree in special education with a focus on learning disabilities from Chicago State University.

Head to Toe was developed in 2006 to provide those who care for our youngest children with the tools and research-based information they need to nurture and teach children. Featuring the nation’s experts in infant-toddler learning and care, *Head to Toe* brings together more than 500 early childhood professionals.

Chicago Metro AEYC is the professional go-to resource for early childhood educators and is dedicated to leading and strengthening their efforts towards healthy development and quality education of children from birth to age eight. Since 1926, Chicago Metro AEYC has been providing professional development to the Midwest’s early childhood educators. Chicago Metro AEYC is the local affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

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