



2025 CTE Summer Swap Academy

*hosted by Maize Career Academy
facilitated by Kansas Center for CTE*



Hands-On Projects & Activities for Early Childhood / Teaching Pathways

Developed for: High school FACS teachers

Day 1: Led by Megan Sauer

Discover creative ways to integrate hands-on activities into lecture-based child development courses. This session will feature a variety of engaging activities organized into key teaching categories, including brain breaks, icebreakers, review games, class openers, and projects. Participants will also tour an early childhood facility for additional insights.

Day 2: Led by Cassy Dalbom

Explore innovative strategies to engage students in the Early Childhood Pathway. This session will highlight hands-on projects that bring child development concepts to life, along with methods for tracking student work experiences, securing grants for classroom projects, and leveraging dual credit partnerships. Gain practical ideas and resources to enhance your classroom and program.

Over the two days, these specific topics that will be addressed:

- Collaborate and exchange ideas for brain breaks, icebreaker activities, review games, lesson openers, and hands-on projects and activities for FACS lecture courses.
- Take a tour of the Maize Early Childhood facility and discuss how it's implemented into a Foundations to Early Childhood Education class.
- Explore activities like Story Walks, personalized Christmas books for kids, Fraction Stations with waffles, and designing your own daycare projects.
- Discover engaging lessons, including MyPlate meal planning and crafting infant development mobiles.
- Learn how students can earn certifications like CPR and KCCTO to prepare them for childcare roles in Dragon Daycare and beyond.

Participants will leave with valuable resources and ready-to-use materials for their classrooms, including:

- Access to the **KCCTE Resource Library** for ongoing curriculum development.
- A **daycare project planning sheet** featuring a floor plan activity to inspire student creativity.
- A **MyPlate meal plan planning sheet** to integrate nutrition education into lessons.
- Additional classroom activities and project ideas tailored to child development and early childhood education.



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Participants will need to bring:

Lesson Swap: Time will be built in to share and trade your favorite lesson plan/activity relating to Early Childhood Education / Teaching Pathway. *Please bring 15 copies of ONE lesson plan/activity!*

Laptop & charger: Please bring in order to complete a hands-on activity.

PPE: None

Supplies needed: None

About the Presenter

Megan Sauer is a Family and Consumer Sciences instructor at Maize High School and Maize Career Academy, currently in her 19th year of teaching. She holds a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education. Mrs. Sauer teaches a variety of child development courses, including Family Studies, Foundations of Early Childhood Education, and Applications in Early Childhood Education. Her teaching philosophy centers around integrating engaging, hands-on activities into lecture-based child development courses, and she is committed to continuously exploring innovative methods to actively involve students in their learning experience.

Cassy Dalbom is an educator serving as the Family and Consumer Sciences teacher, FCCLA advisor, and District CTE Coordinator at Belle Plaine High School. With a commitment to empowering students, she played a key role in establishing the Dragon Daycare program, providing invaluable hands-on learning opportunities. Through her leadership, students acquire real-world skills, preparing them for future success. Cassy's passion for Family and Consumer Sciences extends beyond the classroom as she advocates for the importance of the field in shaping well-rounded individuals.