NTI 2027




# Conference Justification Toolkit

## April 5-9, 2027

Tampa Marriott Water Street Hotel
Tampa, Florida

# National Training Institute on Effective Practices: Addressing Challenging Behavior

## Introduction

The National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations (NCPMI) and the Pyramid Model Consortium (PMC) are pleased to bring you this unique and inspiring professional development experience. NTI's format is designed to provide an in-depth learning experience built around the Pyramid Model. The Pyramid Model for Promoting Social-Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children provides a multi-tiered system of support for promoting young children's healthy social, emotional, and behavioral development. The Institute brings together experts from across the country who skillfully present three-hour workshops and 90-minute sessions, offering practical, ready-to-use information on systems and practices to promote the social-emotional development of young children. It is an unparalleled opportunity to enhance your skills, build a network of colleagues, and join a growing professional community that uses the Pyramid Model.

## Purpose

The National Training Institute on Effective Practices aims to provide professionals with an in-depth, intensive learning experience around the Pyramid Model framework for addressing the social and emotional development and challenging behavior of young children.

## Who Should Attend?

We encourage anyone interested in learning more about the Pyramid Model framework, learning new strategies, building state and program systems, and hearing about new research to attend. Individuals who may benefit and have previously attended the Institute include administrators, consultants/trainers, program implementation coaches, practitioner coaches, behavior specialists, higher education faculty, researchers, teachers, child care staff, program administrators/directors, state program administrators, early interventionists, and infant early childhood mental health specialists.

**Age groups our attendees serve:**




## Format

Topics and speakers have been carefully chosen to provide NTI participants with a high-quality learning experience focused on promoting the social and emotional competence of young children, addressing challenging behavior, improving systems and practices, and building systems of care.

- In-Depth Workshops

A variety of three-hour sessions are offered on Wednesday and Thursday morning. Participants do not need to sign up in advance and choose which sessions to attend.

- 90-Minute Sessions

These sessions (90 minutes) provide an interactive opportunity to learn and discuss many aspects of Pyramid Model implementation and related content areas. They are designed to offer information relevant to coaches, administrators, practitioners, and state leaders.

## Program

To view a representative sample of the types of sessions and topics covered, you can view a sample program.

# Agenda At-a-Glance

| Time | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7:30 am | Registration Open 7:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m. | Registration Open 7:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m. | Registration Open 7:30 a.m.–4:45 p.m | Registration Open 7:30 a.m.–4:45 p.m | Registration Open 7:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m |
| 8:00 am | **Pre-Conference Breakfast** 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. | | **Breakfast** 7:30 a.m.–8:30 a.m. | | |
| 8:30 am | | **Pre-Conference Workshops** 8:30 a.m.– 11:30 p.m. | **Morning Worskhops** 8:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m. | | **Session 1** 8:30 a.m.– 10:00 a.m. |
| 9:00 am | **Pre-Conference Workshops** 9:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m. | | | | |
| 9:30 am | | | | | |
| 10:00 am | | | | | **Break** 10:00 a.m. - 10:20 a.m. |
| 10:30 am | | | | | **Session 2** 10:20 a.m.– 11:50 a.m. |
| 11:00 am | | | | | |
| 11:30 am | | **Pre-Con Lunch** 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. | **Lunch** 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. | | |
| 12:00 pm | **Pre-Con Lunch** 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. | | | | |
| 12:30 pm | | **Pre-Conference Workshops** 12:30 p.m.– 3:30 p.m. | | | |
| 1:00 pm | **Pre-Conference Workshops** 1:00 p.m.– 4:30 p.m. (end times vary) | | **Afternoon Sessions** 1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m. | | |
| 1:30 pm | | | | | |
| 2:00 pm | | | | | |
| 2:30 pm | | | **Break** 2:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m. | | |
| 3:00 pm | | | **Afternoon Sessions** 3:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m. | | |
| 3:30 pm | | | | | |
| 4:00 pm | | **Keynote** 4:00 p.m.– 5:30 p.m. | | | |
| 4:30 pm | | | | | |
| 5:00 pm | | | | | |
| 5:30 pm | | | | | |
| 6:00 pm | | | | | |
| | On Sunday Registration is open 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM | | | | |

*Schedule subject to change*

## Exhibitor Area

The exhibitor area will be open daily, Tuesday-Friday, with access to NTI sponsors and exhibitors, and opportunities to network!

# Registration Rates

## Conference Fee

### Conference Admission: $640

NTI session offerings are normally finalized in January and published by early February. In the meantime, if you need to see a representative sample of the types of sessions and topics covered, you can view the NTI 2026 program.

**What's included?**

- Keynote presentation on Tuesday afternoon
- Three days of informative, in-depth Pyramid Model-inspired 3-hour workshops and 90-minute sessions
- Meals (Breakfast, Wednesday-Friday; Lunch, Wednesday-Thursday)
- Event app access for help planning your sessions, connecting with attendees, and viewing session handouts

**What's not included?**

- Pre-conference workshops
- Hotel and transportation fees
- CEU credits*

## Pre-Conference Workshops

Pre-conference workshops are offered at an additional cost. Pre-conference workshops are offered on Monday and Tuesday before the conference begins.

- 1-Day Workshops: $265 (limit 2 per person)

**What's included?**

- Workshop materials
- Breakfast and lunch on the day of the workshop

**What's not included?**

- NTI Conference Admission
- Hotel and transportation fees
- CEU credits*

**One-Day Workshop Offerings:**

- **Monday**
  - ▷ Practice-Based Coaching: Supporting Practitioners' Use of Effective Practices (PBC)
  - ▷ Prevent-Teach-Reinforce for Young Children: A Model for Addressing Serious Challenging Behavior
  - ▷ Held in Relationship: Trauma-Informed Care as a Foundation for All
  - ▷ Training of Trainers: Pyramid Model Practices for the Preschool Classroom
  - ▷ When Children Need More Support: Providing Coaching on Targeted (Tier 2) Interventions
- **Tuesday**
  - ▷ Better Together: Facilitating Group Coaching to Support the Implementation of Pyramid Model Practices
  - ▷ Training of Trainers: Implementing Practice-Based Coaching to Promote Use of Pyramid Model Practices
  - ▷ Effective Discipline Policies: Tools for Implementation and State Compliance
  - ▷ Facilitating Positive Solutions for Families

## Contact Us

Additional questions can be sent to nti@usf.edu. Please allow us 48 hours to reply.

** Due to the low demand, NCPMI is not providing CEUs for NTI. Participants interested in CEU credits should contact their licensing agency to find out whether they can apply for CEUs directly with that agency.*

# Location and Accommodations

## Hotel

This year's conference will be held at the Tampa Marriott Water Street Hotel in Tampa, Florida, a redesigned waterfront hotel conveniently located in downtown Tampa, close to the Tampa Riverwalk, Florida Aquarium, Benchmark International Arena, and Sparkman Wharf. The hotel offers relaxing, inviting spaces, including a stylish rooftop pool bar, five unique food and beverage outlets, and a featured indoor/outdoor restaurant and bar, the Anchor and Brine. Plus, don't miss a workout during your stay and enjoy the hotel's state-of-the-art Fitness Center, open 24/7.

### Tampa Marriott Water Street Hotel

505 Water Street, Tampa, FL 33602 | www.marriott.com |1-888-789-3090

- NTI Group Rate: $287
  - ▷ Per night, single or double occupancy.
    Price does not include 13.5% tax and $1.95 TMD City Fee.
- NTI Group Code: NTI
  - ▷ Rate is valid through March 4, 2027, or until the room block is full
- Making your hotel reservation:
  - ▷ Hotel reservations open when registration opens
  - ▷ The reservation link will be available on the NTI hotel page

## Parking

Both self-parking and valet parking are available.

- **Self-parking** is available but is not affiliated with the hotel. Pam Iorio Garage: hourly rate, $18 max daily (no in/out privileges). May have blackout dates or increased rates due to events at Amalie Arena or the Convention Center.
- **Valet parking:** Let the valet parking department know that you are part of the NTI conference to receive a discount. Valet parking rates are as follows: Day parking is $35, less a 35% conference discount. Overnight parking is $55 less, a 35% conference discount.

## Check-In/Check-Out

- Check-in: 4:00 PM
- Check-out: 11:00 AM

**Early check-in/late check-out:** The Marriott Water Street Hotel makes every effort to accommodate early check-ins and late check-outs. Due to the high guest volume during the conference, early check-ins and late check-outs may be unavailable. The Marriott Water Street Hotel will gladly store your luggage at the Bell Stand if needed.

**Need a late check-in?** Please call ahead so the hotel can hold your room for late check-in.

## Airports

Tampa International Airport (TIA) is approximately 20 minutes from the hotel and the most convenient airport to use. Visit their website at http://www.tampaairport.com.

- **Shuttle service:** Blue One Transportation provides a group discounted rate for NTI attendees to and from TIA to the Tampa Marriott Water Street. **Group code: NTI2027**. The rate is $15 pp each way. Call (813) 282-7351 from baggage claim at TIA once you've collected your luggage on arrival at Tampa, or from the hotel for your return trip to the airport.

**St. Petersburg/Clearwater International Airport** services several airlines. The drive to or from the Tampa Marriott Water Street Hotel takes approximately 20 minutes. Visit their website at http://www.fly2pie.com.

# Writing a Justification Letter

Provide your supervisor with an email or letter proposal that highlights the multiple benefits of your NTI 2027 attendance. Discuss the educational value, networking opportunities, and exposure for your position in your organization. Focus on how attending the NTI conference will increase your Pyramid Model practice and implementation knowledge and enable you to better support your program or state system, colleagues, children, and families, as well as the potential to advance your team's objectives.

## Sample Letter

Dear *<Supervisor's Name>*,

The National Training Institute on Effective Practices: Addressing Challenging Behavior (NTI) brings together over 1,000 early childhood professionals at all levels to enhance their knowledge and skills on the Pyramid Model for Promoting Social-Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children (Pyramid Model). I would like to attend this in-person event, from *<Monday April 5th OR Tuesday April 6th>* through Friday April 9th, 2027, to learn best practices, increase my knowledge of Pyramid Model practices, and participate in a variety of opportunities that will enhance my skills to provide high-quality, inclusive services for the young children and families in our community.

By attending the conference, I will gain valuable knowledge that I can implement as soon as I get back to work. I'll also be able to select sessions that best inform and support my work while making connections with and learning from the experiences of other professionals, from my profession and other professions, who are serving in programs just like ours throughout the world.

NTI provides opportunities for me to:

- Attend sessions focused on the critical knowledge and skills that I need to help the young children I serve be successful, as I support our program to offer quality, inclusive services.
- Connect with other professionals serving young children with disabilities and their families, with whom I can exchange ideas, skills, resources, and practices.
- Collect strategies, insights, and resources that I can bring back and share with our team to improve our services.

To meet my professional development goals, I am seeking approval for expenses during the conference as detailed below:

- Conference registration:
- Pre-conference workshop costs:
- Hotel/travel expenses:
- Other related expenses:
- **Total estimated conference cost: *<insert total cost here>***

The opportunity to connect with Pyramid Model professionals and to gain exposure to new ideas from leaders in the field makes my participation at NTI a valuable investment for our team.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*<Your full name here>*