

Gain the knowledge and skills to:

Explore and strengthen business and professional practices, focus on improving the learning environment, and practice strategies to become a change agent.



Thrive as a FCC small business owner



Enhance your program's learning environment



Expand your leadership competencies



Deepen your understanding of quality assessment tools

A blended event of virtual and in-person sessions.





Taking the Lead (TTL) Includes:

- 9 monthly training sessions (in-person and virtual)
- 119 total contact hours and credit towards Illinois Family Child Care Credential
- A \$300 quality improvement grant
- Support through a community of peers and a TTL coach
- Registration to the Leadership Connections™ National Conference, Family Child Care Summit
- 10 quarter hours of undergraduate college course credit (for an additional fee)

*Valued at over \$5,000.

\$175 registration fee is for Illinois administrators. Out-of-state administrators, please contact MCECL.LA@nl.edu





FULL SCHEDULE

September 6, 2025

Orientation: It Starts With You

October 4, 2025

More Than a Nurturing Heart, Creating Continuous Quality Improvement Plans

October 23, 2025 (2 hour evening session)

Recordkeeping Introduction
Webinar

November 8, 2025

Promoting Quality: An Overview of the FCCERS-R

December 6, 2025

Making Dollars and Sense: Budgeting and Fiscal Management | Part 1

January 10, 2026

Put it in Writing: Contracts and Handbooks

February 7, 2026

Making Dollars and Sense | Part 2, Family Engagement

March 7, 2026

Marketing with a Message

April 4, 2026

Advocacy in Action

April 25, 2026

Final Presentations and Ceremony

May 29-30, 2026 - Schaumburg, IL

Leadership Connections National Conference Family Child Care Summit

IN-PERSON

TAKING THE LEAD



Note: Participants must be able to:

- Have computer access with audio and video capabilities
- Access the internet, including Zoom platform and McCormick Center Learning Management System (LMS)