

Interaction, Imagination & Emotion...Oh My!

ADVANCED CONFERENCE



Agenda

Thursday, May 16: 9:00AM-4:15PM

Eastern Time Zone (ET)

9:00AM-9:15AM Welcome and Introduction

Discover more about your fellow attendees as we lay the groundwork for an incredible day of learning!

9:15AM-10:15AM Keynote: Born to PLAY

Richard Solomon, MD, Founder and Medical Director of The PLAY Project

In this playful talk, 'Dr. Rick' reviews recent research on the biological basis of playfulness and explores 5 practical lessons to be learned from play science about human development especially as it applies to children with autism. 'We take play seriously!'

10:15AM-10:30AM Break

10:30AM-11:30AM Morning Session Options

(You will join the breakout room for the option you registered for.)

Option #1: Mastering Effective Responses to Parent Fears of Early Childhood Special Education

Scott Mesh, PhD Child Psychologist, Co-Founder Los Niños Services

Parents have high hopes for their children and the thought that their child might have special needs is often very concerning. Learn about the 10 most common fears/concerns and how to address them effectively. Parents are concerned about the record, the label, that their child might enter special education and not leave special education. Words that work to address parent concerns will be shared so professionals can be effective and help parents get a professional opinion about their child's needs and accept services when they are needed.

Option #2: Shhhhhh!! Conversations without Words - The Importance of Gestural Communication

Cindy Harrison, M.Sc., Reg. CASLPO, PLAY Project Consultant & Master Trainer

This workshop will discuss the importance of gestural communication in the development of speech language and communication. The presenter will use a "toolkit" approach focusing on user-friendly strategies and techniques that can be used by parents and clinicians to facilitate the development of gestural communication.

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11:30AM-12:30PM Break for Lunch

12:30PM-12:40PM Welcome Back & Mick Katschor Awards Presentation

12:40PM-1:40PM Parent Panel

Listen as past and present PLAY families share their stories and experiences.

1:45PM-2:45PM Keynote: Finding My Voice from Three Different Perspectives: Autistic Adult, Specialist Educator and PhD Student

Emile Gouws, PhD, ICDL Board President

This presentation will center on the nuanced development of identity as an autistic adult, Ph.D. candidate, spouse, and advocate for autism self-awareness. The crux of this discourse will underscore the paramount importance of cultivating a robust support ecosystem—one that is both continuous and consistent. This framework is not only instrumental in fortifying a personal journey but also serves as a pivotal model for parents, encouraging them to establish analogous ecosystems with professionals such as psychologists and educators. Throughout the presentation, an insider's perspective will be provided to elucidate the intricate dynamics of navigating these roles and, to to advocate for the imperative nature of fostering an inclusive and supportive community.

2:45PM-3:00PM Break

3:00PM-4:00PM Afternoon Session Options

(You will join the breakout room for the option you registered for.)

Option #1: Coaching Caregivers: The Why and How!

M'Lisa Shelden, PhD, PT

This awareness-level presentation will provide the background and rationale for using a coaching interaction style to build the capacity of parents, teachers, and other care providers to promote child learning within the context of everyday routines and activities. Dr. Shelden will share the evidence-based characteristics of coaching practices and discuss strategies that can be used by all early childhood intervention practitioners from a variety of backgrounds to support caregivers of young children with high-intensity needs.

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Option #2: Character Development and Representation in Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood

Christopher Loggins, Senior Producer, Fred Rogers Productions

Supervising Producer, Christopher Loggins will provide a behind the scenes look at the making of Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood. Specifically, Chris will talk about the introduction of Max, one of the newest Neighbors to join the Neighborhood of Make-Believe. Chris will discuss the care that went into the development of this character, who is autistic, and how he is represented in the series. There will even be a sneak peek at an upcoming episode in which Max is the star!

Option #3: Ease On Down the Road: Navigating the Unseen Path & Following the Child's Lead in Motor Apraxia

Virginia Spielmann, PhD, Executive Director STAR Institute for Sensory Processing

Join us for a transformative journey down the road less understood, as we delve into the world of motor apraxia and its impact on non-speaking and unreliably speaking autistics. This workshop is an invitation to move forward despite the obstacles faced by individuals with motor apraxia. This session will introduce you to the complexities of motor inhibition, impulsivity, and motor loops.

4:00PM-4:15PM Reflection and Conclusion

We will solidify our learning objectives with reflection and consider next steps with Dr. Rick!