

SAVANNAH AUTISM CONFERENCE 2024



SAVANNAH
AUTISM
CONFERENCE

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22-23, 2024

Richmond Hill City Center
520 Cedar Street, Richmond Hill, GA

PRESENTED BY THE MATTHEW REARDON CENTER FOR AUTISM

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WORKSHOPS



MATTHEW WENETA, M. ED.

The Role of Play In Development and its Use in Facilitating Emotional Regulation

This presentation intends to facilitate an understanding of play as a developmental phenomenon and need as a working framework. Within that framework identify and facilitate congruent environmental feedback within the play sphere to grow emotional regulation in kiddos not developing in the fat part of the bell curve while using a neuro-sequential developmental lens.



TRACI COLE, MS, BCBA

ABA 101: What is it? How does it work? How can ABA help treat symptoms of autism?

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is widely accepted as the gold standard in autism because it has been studied for decades and has the largest body of scientific research to support its effectiveness. This presentation will discuss what ABA is and is not, the controversy behind ABA therapy, the principles of ABA and how they apply to the symptoms of autism, what to expect as a parent and professional from ABA, and the direction the field is going.



DR. KYLER SHUMWAY AND DR. DANIEL WENDLER

Neurodiversity and the Myth of Normal

This workshop will help attendees understand autism in a new way, and develop practical strategies for helping autistic people live their best lives as autistic people (instead of strategies for making autistic people more like neurotypical people.)



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WORKSHOPS, CONTINUED



DR. KYLER SHUMWAY AND DR. DANIEL WENDLER

Dating on the Spectrum

This workshop will help autistic attendees (especially teens and young adults) gain practical insights into healthy relationship strategies that will equip them to create fulfilling, successful dating relationships, and to help caregivers and professionals assist autistic individuals with the same.



ROBIN RETTIE, M.ED.

When Handwriting Challenges Are Not Defiant Behavior

When handwriting is a non-preferred task, it's usually based on conditions that result in neurological errors, and/or a vision deficit hindering a seamless brain to hand connection needed to coordinate handwriting. Challenges are frustrating; seeing what should be written, but not being able to produce what is seen is defeating, especially when peers do not have the same challenges. In total, the human Sensory Systems, Peripheral and Central Nervous Systems, and the Limbic System can impact handwriting. Participants will engage in hands-on experiences and take away a new and meaningful understanding of handwriting challenges. Specific "How To" address student's needs will benefit parents and educators to finetune writing assignments reducing challenging behaviors from the student.



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WORKSHOPS, CONTINUED



DR. KATHRYN HAUGHNEY AND DR. STEPHANIE DEVINE

IEP Basics: Effective Goal Writing

The purpose of this presentation is to connect the purpose of an effective IEP with data-based decision-making to ease the process of effective goal writing.



DR. KATHRYN HAUGHNEY AND DR. STEPHANIE DEVINE

Preparing for Post-Secondary Success

The purpose of this presentation is to review the needs of transition-age students as they plan for success after high school.



DR. KAYLA RANDALL

Why does this keep happening? An overview of treatment relapse in interventions for severe problem behavior.

The purpose of this presentation is to provide practitioners, clinicians, and caregivers an overview of treatment relapse and the specific types of relapse.



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WORKSHOPS, CONT'D



DR. SHAUNA JOYE

But is it Really Autism?

In this session, we will explore some of the misconceptions about autism and widen the lens through which we understand autism, especially Level 1 autism.



BRITNEE KINARD

Therapy Dogs in the Workplace

This class in Animal-Assisted Therapy from Britnee Kinard, LLC can prepare attendees to leverage this connection in a variety of therapeutic settings. Attendees will explore how animal-supported therapy can amplify traditional applications of physical and emotional therapies.



JOE MARTYNEK

The Power of Planning

This workshop will educate attendees on the importance of practicing productive financial behaviors and the components of a comprehensive financial plan.



ERIN ROMA, MSW AND NICOLE KOPLIK

Best Practices for IEP Success, How to Be Your Child's Best Advocate

This presentation highlights best practices in the process of initiating and monitoring progress of an IEP, and effectively communicating with the IEP team.



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WORKSHOPS, CONT'D



ERIN ROMA, MSW AND NICOLE KOPLIK

A Parent's Guide to the IEP



This presentation will help parents to understand their child's IEP on their terms.

DAY 2

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OPENING PLENARY



BRITNEE KINARD

In 2014, Britnee founded the SD Gunner Fund, a nonprofit organization, with a mission to provide service and therapy dogs to veterans, first responders, and children with disabilities. In 2005 Britnee's husband, Hamilton, was hit by an IED while serving in Iraq and suffered many traumatic injuries including Complete Nerve Damage and Severe Traumatic Brain Injury. The Kinard family knew Hamilton could benefit from a service dog, but the process of receiving one was a grueling and expensive 18-month ordeal. The stress of the experience – coupled with the tremendous benefits Hamilton's service dog, Gunner, provided – drove the Kinards to establish SD Gunner Fund to help other veterans (and later, first responders and children with disabilities). Since its founding, the organization has provided fully-trained service dogs for more than 85 veterans, first responders, and exceptional children.

Britnee also formed Britnee Kinard, LLC where she consults with companies and speaks to organizations nationwide to educate and inspire, showing how critical courage is to living a life of impact and purpose while also raising awareness about the challenges of military caregiving. In addition to speaking engagements, Britnee offers programs to organizations that feature education, training, and resources on service dog laws and regulations.

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KEYNOTE ADDRESS



ADRIAN WOOD

Adrian H. Wood, Ph.D. is a rural Eastern NC mother of four, one with extra special needs. Past preschool teacher, nanny, children's ski instructor, early interventionist, college professor, early childhood researcher, wife, and full-time mama. Her blog, Tales of an Educated Debutante, is followed by over 350,000 people. In it she offers personal glimpses into a life where satire meets truth, faith meets irony, despair meets joy and this educated debutante escapes the laundry and finds true meaning in graceful transparency. To learn more about Adrian, visit talesofaneducateddebutante.com.

Thursday, February 22, 2024

TIME	WORKSHOP
8:00am - 9:00am	Announcements and Opening Plenary by Britnee Kinard of SD Gunner Fund
9:15am - 10:45am	The Role of Play In Development and its Use in Facilitating Emotional Regulation by Matthew Weneta
9:15am - 10:45am	ABA 101: What is it? How does it work? How can ABA help treat symptoms of autism? by Traci Cole
9:15am - 10:45am	Best Practices for IEP Success, How to Be Your Child's Best Advocate by Nicole Koplik and Erin Roma
11:00am - 12:30pm	A Parent's Guide to the IEP by Nicole Koplik and Erin Roma
11:00am - 12:30pm	Therapy Dogs in the Workplace by Britnee Kinard
12:30pm - 1:30pm	Lunch
1:30pm - 2:00pm	Keynote Address by Adrian Wood
2:30pm - 3:45pm	Neurodiversity and the Myth of Normal by Dr. Daniel Wendler and Dr. Kyler Shumway
2:30pm - 3:45pm	When Handwriting Challenges Are Not Defiant Behavior by Robin Rettie

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Friday, February 23, 2024

TIME	WORKSHOP
8:00am - 8:15am	Morning Announcements
8:15am - 9:45am	Dating on the Spectrum by Dr. Kyler Shumway and Dr. Daniel Wendler
8:15am - 9:45am	IEP Basics: Effective Goal Writing by Kathryn Haughney and Stephanie Devine
10:00am - 11:15am	Why does this keep happening? An overview of treatment relapse in interventions for severe problem behavior by Kayla Randall
10:00am - 11:15am	But is it Autism? by Dr. Shauna Joye
11:30am - 12:45pm	Preparing for Post-Secondary Success by Stephanie Devine and Kathryn Haughney
11:30am - 12:45pm	The Power of Planning by Joe Martyhek

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TICKETS



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