



28th ANNUAL

Tools for Success

Family

Conference

March 3, 2023
Schultz Center
Jacksonville, Florida



Tools for Success Family Conference



Schedule of Events

8:00 – 9:00	Registration	Vendor Hall opens at 8:00 a.m. and closes at 1:30 PM School-Based Enterprises open when their students arrive and will end before 2:00 p.m. Stop by between sessions! Sales are cash only.
9:00 – 9:30	Welcome & Employer Awards	
9:30 – 10:15	Keynote Address	“The Lessons I Wish I Knew” presented by Lisa Bachman
10:25-11:10	Session I	Concurrent Sessions
11:20-12:05	Session II	Concurrent Sessions
12:05-12:30	Break	<i>Complimentary Snacks</i> offered
12:30 – 1:15	Session III	Concurrent Sessions
1:25-2:10	Session IV	Concurrent Sessions
2:10	End of Day	28 th Annual Tools for Success Family Conference concludes with the end of Session IV.

Keynote Speaker



Lisa Bachman is an author and a seasoned public speaker, focusing on topics ranging from raising children with differences, suicide prevention, Tourette Syndrome, volunteerism, non-profit organizations, human resources, and marketing. Lisa worked as the Executive Director of Different Like You, a 501c3 non-profit with the mission of empowering people to embrace their differences and live loud. Lisa’s program will share honest reflections, painful learnings, and an eye-opening road map on parenting a child who is different. She will show parents how her family overcame their struggles by sharing practical tools including dealing with healthcare practitioners, friends and family, and unconventional ones like learning to speak with their son in an entirely new way. Lisa will discuss how she and her family stood up for their needs as they came to realize the importance of trusting their hearts.



Tools for Success Family Conference



Shading Indicates Mental Health CEUs available for this session

Location	Session I 10:25-11:10 a.m.	Session II 11:20 a.m.-12:05 p.m.	Session III 12:30-1:15 p.m.	Session IV 1:25-2:10 p.m.
Gentry B	Building Confidence Lisa Bachman	Best Practices in Autism: Early Identification & Treatment Allison Cato	Full STEAM Ahead: Educational Activities for Early learners with Special Needs Brett Walden	Parents Building Social Skills to young adolescents with ASD Brett Walden
Room 158	Building Blocks are for financial planning too Building Assets while maintaining benefits and services Sarah Sullivan	The Questions that keep you up at Night- Answered Sarah Sullivan	Using Acceptance Commitment Therapy (ACT) for Life Mapping Lynn Patti	Yoga & Mindfulness Lynn Patti Elizabeth Overstreet
Room 159 <i>*Facebook Live*</i>	1 in 5 Youth have a mental health disorder, Do you know the signs and symptoms? Jill Hill	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Independent Education Plans (IEP) Jill Hill	*The ABCs of IEPs Terri George*	Transition Basics: Information for Families and Others Who Support Students with Disabilities Leigh Ann Hale
Room 160	Understanding Behavior & De-Escalating Conflict Amy Lane	Nurturing the Home-School Partnership Amy Lane	Tools for success at home and on the job Susan Peters	Beyond the School Years: A program for Continued Growth Melissa Sevestre
Room 162 <i>*Facebook Live*</i>	The 5 "W"'s of Functional Sign Language Norma Galloway Peters	*Community Employment Supports Jim Atkinson *	* Dyslexia and the Science of Reading: Why Structured Literacy is critical. Nancy Barnard *	Related Services: OT/PT/Specially Designed PE- Physical Growth and Your Student Jessica Naughton Melinda Goins Tiffany Holmes
Room 163	Supporting Siblings with ASD, Related Disabilities & Medical Complexities Chanel Baldwin	Navigating transition high school to college Ethel Still-Richardson Kii Cash	Your child has an Intellectual and/or Developmental Disability- Do you know about the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD)?How and When to apply Denise Torres	Early Steps PreK transition Information Melanie Provenza Meike Rice
Room 166 <i>*Facebook Live*</i>	*Special Olympics Florida Jana Arnette Zoe LoSasso *	Home Sweet Home-Taking the Challenge out of Behavior April Almeida Allison Radomski	Parent/School Communication: Tips for Parents and Teachers Megan McMillan Leila Jenkins	*Your Guide to an IEP that works Kathy Powell Sassafrass Moore *

Sessions in rooms marked ***Facebook Live*** will be livestreamed via Facebook and available after the conference.

To watch recorded sessions, go to: facebook.com/popinfi or facebook.com/FamilyNetworkonDisabilities



Tools for Success Family Conference



Session I: 10:25-11:10 a.m.

Shading Indicates Mental Health CEUs available for this session

Room	Session Title	Presenter
Gentry B	Building Confidence This interactive session will take you inside the mind of a child who is different. It will enable you to see the impact distractions have on them and how your responses to their distorted thinking can change the course of your conversations. We will explore how you can bolster their worth, value and self-confidence.	Lisa Bachman
Room 158	Building Blocks are for financial planning too Building Assets while maintaining benefits and services. Planning for the future, or setting funds aside may seem like a luxury, or even a mystery...but assessing your present and planning for your future is possible. Different tools, both for caregivers and self-advocates, can build assets and obtain a great standard of living – while also maintaining social security, Medicaid and community supports.	Sarah Sullivan
Room 159	1 in 5 Youth have a mental health disorder, Do you know the signs and symptoms? This presentation will go over the general information of basic signs and symptoms of Mental Health Issues. What are the protective and Risk factors? We will look at some common Mental Health Disorders. How can you help a youth that is showing signs of a mental health issue?	Jill Hill
Room 160	Understanding Behavior & De-Escalating Conflict Participants will learn how to recognize when children’s behaviors are escalating toward crisis and how to respond in a way that reduces the frequency and severity of behavioral crisis. Participants will become familiar with effective verbal de-escalation strategies and examples of effective consequences for responding to behavior errors.	Amy Lane
Room 162 *Facebook Live*	The 5 “W”s of Functional Sign Language This session is designed for parents, caregivers, and teachers providing support for adults or children with Developmental Disabilities. These individuals may have daily challenges expressing their wants, needs and preferences to others in their environment and need assistance in bridging this communication gap. Functional sign language uses signs in the same way everyday symbols are used. These signs - like words are used to convey a message. What is it? Why is it necessary? Who would benefit? When is it needed? Where is it used?	Norma Galloway Peters
Room 163	Supporting Siblings with ASD, Related Disabilities & Medical Complexities Sibling relationships are a vital part in the stability and preservation of the family unit. This presentation will look into the challenges a child or teen may face while growing up with a sibling who has a disability. The presenter will review topics such as, ways to talk with siblings about applicable family member diagnoses, guiding siblings through the various emotions they may experience, and creating an environment that fosters and supports the needs of the sibling without a disability.	Chanel Baldwin
Room 166 *Facebook Live*	Special Olympics Florida in Duval County Schools and in the Community. DCPS was awarded nationwide initiative for Unified Champion City Schools in Jacksonville and our goal is to create a fun and inclusive atmosphere in the classroom and on the field for our athletes. In addition, will highlight the different sports that we offer in the community for our athletes, partners, and coaches.	Jana Arnette



Tools for Success Family Conference



Session II: 11:20 a.m.-12:05 p.m.

Shading Indicates Mental Health CEUs available for this session

Room	Session Title	Presenter
Gentry B	Best Practices in Autism: Early Identification & Treatment This talk discusses the prevalence of autism and early signs that can be elicited through screenings and observations. The referral process is discussed along with common assessment tools used to diagnose autism. Most common treatment modalities will be covered along with recent advances in autism research. The importance of early identification and treatment will be highlighted in the framework of brain development.	Allison Cato
Room 158	The Questions that keep you up at Night- Answered Planning for the future may keep you up at night, but it doesn't have to. Determine what you need to provide for you or your child with IDD not just for today or tomorrow, but for the future.	Sarah Sullivan
Room 159	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Independent Education Plans (IEP) This presentation will go through the key components of IDEA, the Federal Special Education Law. This law protects youth with disabilities, including mental health, in getting supports to help them progress academically through an IEP.	Jill Hill
Room 160	Nurturing the Home-School Partnership Participants will develop an understanding of the personal contexts everyone carries with them into situations. They will learn the importance of being sensitive listeners and observers in order to avoid non-productive conflicts, respectfully engage in productive discussions, and keep teams focused on the right things that will improve outcomes for students.	Amy Lane
Room 162 *Facebook Live*	Community Employment Supports What are They and How Do I Get Connected In this presentation we will share information on three main topics: How do I access no-cost employment supports? What Supported Employment services are available in my community? What are the distinct types of services available to meet my needs? This session shares information about how to access no-cost Employment Supports available in your community, and how to choose an employment support provider to meet your needs. We focus on how your choice is key and underscore that a person receiving employment support does not need to fit into a system of services; employment services are based on individual preferences and needs. Descriptions of a wide range of programs and services focused on employment for all will be shared, along with how to get connected and advocate for customized services.	Jim Atkinson
Room 163	Navigating transition high school to college The purpose of this presentation is to provide parents and students with helpful strategies to navigate the transition from high school to college. The areas of focus will be: Accommodations; Self-Advocacy comparison from high school to college; and Career Transition (internships, OJT, Work Experience)	Ethel Still-Richardson Kii Cash
Room 166	Home Sweet Home- Taking the Challenge out of Behavior. Daily living skills, flexibility, routines, and play are all important components of a healthy, happy lifestyle. Learn how the environment regularly contributes to this and how we can modify it to change behavior.	April Almeida Allison Radomski



Tools for Success Family Conference



Session III: 12:30 – 1:15 p.m.

Shading Indicates Mental Health CEUs available for this session

Room	Session Title	Presenter
Gentry B	Full Steam Ahead: Educational Activities for Early Learners with Special Needs This workshop will provide parents and other family members with fun and engaging activities to do with their early learner or elementary age child diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder and/or intellectual disability. Activities discussed during this session will have an educational, motor and social skills focus.	Brett Walden
Room 158	Using Acceptance Commitment Therapy (ACT) for Life Mapping Acceptance Commitment Therapy is a psychological tool to help people develop flexibility in their thoughts and actions. Participants will learn the process of Life Mapping. This a visual exercise to sort out what is most important(values)in life and what might get in the way of the ability to live in alignment with values. This can be helpful for parenting or other areas in people's lives.	Lynn Patti
Room 159 <i>*Facebook Live*</i>	The ABSs of IEPs will give an overview of the IEP process and help families to learn ways to work collaboratively with their school team. Special Education Solutions advocate Terri George will provide families with an organizational tool to assist with record keeping the educational information and documentation that students with disabilities often accumulate.	Terri George
Room 160	Tools for success at home and on the job During this workshop participants will learn about building a toolbox for success for at home and preparing for work.	Susan Peters
Room 162	Dyslexia and the Science of Reading: Why Structured Literacy is critical. This workshop will help attendees understand how dyslexia, which affects 20% of the population, impacts learning particularly in the areas of reading, spelling, written expression and comprehension. The workshop will discuss the myths and facts of dyslexia based on its definition as a <i>specific learning disability that is neurobiological in origin</i> . The workshop will address methods for assessment and remediation. Persons who attend this talk will learn about recognizing dyslexia, getting assistance and working with persons who are dyslexic, at home or in school, so that they are empowered to be successful.	Nancy Barnard
Room 163	Your child has an Intellectual and/or Developmental Disability- Do you know about the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD)?How and When to apply Many parents and teachers may hear about APD, but may not fully understand why they need to apply and how to do it correctly. If you live in Florida and have a loved one with an IDD, it is important you apply, and we will tell you why and how. Applying can be done as early as age 3. Children home schooled or in private school often miss this information. We will provide information and clarification on APD and help you with better understanding what APD means for you.	Denise Torres
Room 166 <i>*Facebook Live*</i>	Parent/School Communication: Tips for Parents and Teachers As they advocate for their students, parents, teachers, and other school stakeholders often struggle with communicating effectively (Gerdes et al., 2020). Miscommunication can cause stress and angst among all parties involved but, with support, teachers and caregivers can build relationships that lead to improved outcomes for students (Hirano & Rowe, 2015). In this presentation, participants will learn how to effectively communicate their needs as equal members of the school/caregiver partnership. Actionable tips for parents/caregivers and teachers will be provided to help them share their perspectives and best meet the needs of their students. Participants will be able to takeaway handouts with valuable supports to improve the school/caregiver partnership.	Megan McMillan Leila Jenkins



Tools for Success Family Conference



Session IV: 1:25 – 2:10 p.m.

Shading Indicates Mental Health CEUs available for this session

Room	Session Title	Presenter
Gentry B	Parents Building Social Skills to young adolescents with ASD The session is designed to educate parents/caregivers on social skills strategies to implement with their children between 8 years old and 14 years old. The session will define social skills, the importance of social skills, and take away strategies to implement at home with their child. The session will discuss using their child's interest to build an appropriate skill building plan.	Brett Walden
Room 158	Yoga & Mindfulness The presentation will teach parents and teachers simple strategies to use to help students learn self-regulation strategies. This will be an experiential workshop and participants will be invited to participate in mindfulness activities.	Lynn Patti
Room 159	Transition Basics: Information for Families and Others Who Support Students with Disabilities Reviews research on the importance of family involvement, transition services, individual educational plan (IEP) components, self-advocacy and self-determination, responsibilities of schools, families and students, and resources supporting family involvement in transition planning. The goal of this training is to help families of students with disabilities and others who support students with disabilities understand the secondary transition process and how best to participate in student post-school success.	Leigh Ann Hale
Room 160	Beyond the School Years: A program for Continued Growth More frequently we are noticing that families do not realize or have not been educated on the importance of applying for Medwaiver services prior to their loved one aging out of the school system at 22. Many are also unaware of the programs available to adults with IDD. This presentation will focus on the importance of applying for Medwaiver in a timely manner, as well as the benefits of attending an adult day program for individuals with IDD. Pine Castle's unique Academy model, which includes the Pathway to Life Enrichment and the Pathway to Community Employment will be shared, as well as current outcomes, including participant testimonials.	Melissa Sevestre
Room 162	Related Services: OT/PT/Specially Designed PE- Physical Growth and Your Student Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Specially Designed Physical Education are branches of related services that focus on the physical abilities and growth of students. In this presentation we will discuss what these services are in more depth. We will explain what they look like in the schools and how these services help student achieve physical goals of various levels and skill sets.	Jessica Naughton Melinda Goins Tiffany Holmes
Room 163	Early Steps PreK transition Information This will provide families an overall summary of how transition works with the Early Steps program. This helps provide the steps to transition and answers questions that parents may have.	Melanie Provenza Meike Rice
Room 166 <i>*Facebook Live*</i>	Your Guide to an IEP that works Developing and implementing an IEP (Individual Education Plan) is the equal responsibility of educators, parents, and other members of the IEP team. This workshop explains the IEP process and the importance of parental participation. Learn helpful tips for writing effective IEP goals and strategies.	Kathy Powell Sassafrass Moore

CONFERENCE SPONSORS



Conference Committee

Conference Chair

Rebecca Skinner

Parent and Family Services & Child Find Specialist, FDLRS Crown

Committee Members

Phyllis Barrington

Human Resources Development Specialist, FDLRS Crown

Melissa Call

Human Resources Developmental Specialist, FDLRS Crown

Meredith Fredeking

Director Exceptional Education and Student Services, DCPS

Ellisa Hayes

Transition Specialist, DCPS Exceptional Student Education

Jill Hill

Director of Family Engagement Partnership for Child Health

Carrie Lawson

Child Find Specialist, FDLRS Crown

Megan McMillan

Visiting Assistant Professor and Faculty-in-Residence, University of North Florida

Jason Merkison

Director Exceptional Education and Student Services, DCPS

Karen Mullin

Clinical Office Manager, University of Florida Division of Developmental Pediatrics

Beth Oberlander

Chief Clinical Officer, Child Guidance Center

Jeannie Potthast

Assistant Director, University of Florida Division of Developmental Pediatrics

Melanie Provenza

Family Resource Specialist, Early Steps

Kathy Powell

Program Director, Parents of the Panhandle Information Network (FND POPIN)

Jimmy Smith

Program Coordinator, COJ Disabled Services Division

Henry Schmitges

Supervisor, FDLRS Crown

Matt Take

Technology Specialist, FDLRS Crown

Charlotte Temple

Vice President, The Arc Jacksonville

Denise Torres

Advocacy Specialist, The Arc Jacksonville

Amy Valentine

Executive Director Exceptional Education and Student Services, DCPS

Rebekah Wallis

Supervisor Exceptional Education and Student Services, DCPS