



Agenda

Better Together: Virtual Inclusion Conference

March 25, 2022

8:45am check in

9-9:45 am Keynote #1 Dr Frances Stetson

Top 5 Tips for Parents from Advocate Sylvia Farber

Session I 10:05-10:50am

Inclusion in Preschool- Reg 20 Pricilla Molina

The "Policy Statement on Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Early Childhood Programs," released jointly by the Departments of Education (ED) and Health and Human Services (HHS) on September 14, 2015, states that all young children with disabilities should have access to inclusive high-quality early childhood programs, where they are provided with individualized and appropriate support in meeting high expectations. In this session we will look at what inclusion is and the continuum of services offered in the preschool setting.

Reading Accommodations in Elementary- Judith M

Can students with limited or beginning reading skills be successfully included into general education? The answer is yes. Can such students improve their own skill levels in a classroom with students who have much stronger skills? Again, the answer is yes.

Can this occur without creating a burden on the classroom teacher? Absolutely! Join me and leave with some ideas, tools and strategies.

Session II 10:55-11:40 am

Your Best Defense is a Good Offense: Using Proactive and Positive Behavior Supports for Students with Down Syndrome- Anissa N. Moore, M.Ed., BCBA, LBA

When you have or teach a child with any challenging behavior, it can be more of a challenge to figure out the best ways to diffuse events and hopefully prevent them from happening again. Your best defense is actually a good offense - being prepared in advance to handle triggers such as changes in routine, being told "no", following directions, and leaving desired tasks or activities. Discover how pre-taught supports, visual aids, and positive reinforcement can all enhance your child's prosocial behavior in the home, school, or community. Learn tips and tricks for increasing compliance and decreasing power struggles, which supports stress levels for both students and families/educators.



Accommodations in Middle School – Stacy Houglund

Historically, children with Down Syndrome and other developmental disabilities, have been educated in separate special education classrooms and schools. It was not until parents became more informed about their rights to the least restrictive environment and teachers observed the huge benefits of inclusion for their students, that a change began to take place. Research has shown that children with developmental disabilities benefit academically, socially, and personally by going to school with their typically developing peers. Hands down, inclusive classrooms yield a significantly higher degree of employment success later in life. This training will focus on some of the toughest years in a child’s developmental process – the middle school years. These years may be hard, but that doesn’t mean accommodations and modifications can’t pave the road to a more inclusive and successful adult life. When parents understand their rights and learn which educational placement yields the highest level of growth, lives are changed forever!

Session III 11:45-12:30PM

Increasing Communication with Assistive Technology- Danielle Edwards

Assistive technology and Augmentative Communication Devices (ACC) can increase communicative opportunities in all settings. From picture boards to specialized voice output devices, individuals with Down syndrome benefit from the added visual and auditory feedback AAC provides. In this course, we will discuss the use of assistive technology to increase social communication, speech intelligibility and expressive language skills to facilitate maximum connection with others.

Dismantling the myth of the “gap”- Sara Jo Soldovieri

All too often parents or professionals are told that their student(s) cannot be included in general education classrooms because the “gap” is too wide. But this is not TRUE! In fact, research has shown that ALL students, regardless of current educational level can and should access the general education curriculum IN general education classrooms. This presentation will give parents, professionals, and advocates the tools to dismantle this myth while also giving practical skills as to HOW to make this happen at any and every grade within pre-k-12 school!

12:35-12:40 Slides/video vignette

12:45-1:30 PM Keynote #2 Cheryl Jorgerson

Session IV 1:35-2:20PM

Inclusion in High School – Sara Jo Soldovieri

**DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH TEXAS
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While we have a long way to go in inclusive education at all levels, this presentation will focus on the time which has been seen as the most difficult time to include students in general education classrooms.... high school. This presentation will give participants an understand of WHY inclusion in high school will set up ALL students for their most independent, productive life after school. Participants will leave with practical strategies to include students in high school general education classes (yes even English and Math!) while embedding true 21st Century Life Skills that can be best learned within the general education setting.

IEP in LRE: A Recipe for Student Success - Lisa Rogers

In every general education classroom, there is a diverse group of students with diverse needs. These same general education classrooms may also include students that bring with them an Individual Education Plan or IEP. Every teacher and parent is committed to ensuring that each student receives meaningful and engaging instruction tailored to their strengths, needs and interests. Differentiated instruction that is aligned with grade level instruction provides the foundation for the inclusion of students with IEP goals, a blueprint for student success. This session will guide and support teams of parents, general and special education teachers as they develop meaningful IEP goals. Teachers will ensure that these IEP goals are incorporated throughout lesson plans that are differentiated for diverse learners. This session will also explore instructional resources, visual supports and assistive technology possibilities to ensure the successful inclusion of students with special needs with their neurotypical peers. We truly are better together.

Session V 2:25 PM-3:10 PM

Inclusive Employment- Morgan's Wonderland

Access Program- Palo alto & ELEVAR University of Northern Texas

Closing remarks, survey link will be listed, and link will be provided if they need certificate