

Special Needs Mini-Conference May 5, 2018



Agenda:

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. – Registration (Childcare provided at PIL)

8:45 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. – Breakout sessions

What is Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) for Autism - Room 201 – Join Kristin Blow from Behavior Consultation & Psychological Services and Amy Vestal, PIL Behavior Specialist to



learn more about ABA therapy. They will discuss how ABA techniques can help reduce repetitive and unwanted behaviors, ease your child's frustrations while improving social skills, build patterns of good behavior through positive reinforcement, teach communication skills and multi-step activities, improve your child's academic success, and much more.



Positive Parenting the "Triple P" Way! Become Empowered and Get in the Driver's Seat In Dealing With Your Child's Behavior - Room 205 – Norma

Honeycutt and Cassie Karriker (Triple P Practitioners) invites you to join them and other families like yours to learn how to take control of your family's future through our evidence-based practice. Get the answers you need on how to make the greatest impact on your child's behavior. The Triple P Way empowers parents who want to create a better future for their children. This session will motivate you to get in the driver's seat in dealing with your child's behavior through awareness, understanding, encouragement and expert guidance.

The Community Resilience Model (CMR) Room 213 – Join Carol Cranford as she teaches a set of six wellness skills to help the process of adapting well to trauma or other sources of stress, such as having a child with special needs. It's a biological way to reset the mind, body and spirit. Learning CRM skills helps parents and caregivers understand their nervous system and learn to track sensations connected to their own wellbeing. With practice, the nervous system begins to return to its normal balance. Using the wisdom of our own bodies, parents and caregivers experience rapid relief from symptoms, accompanied by increased sense of control over future wellness.

10:00 a.m. – 11:05 a.m. - Breakout sessions

Simple Signs - **Room 201** – Join Ashlee Hawkins and Skyler Sides as they present the benefits of teaching sign language. Children with special needs can get frustrated when they do not understand verbal directions or have limited or no speech to get their needs met. This frustration can lead to behavior challenges. Gestures and sign language are the bridge that help children comprehend verbal directions and communicate their needs even though they might have limited or no spoken language. Sign language will reinforce speech when it is accompanied by the spoken word it represents. Functional signs will be practiced and handouts of these signs will be provided.



Marriage and a Special Needs Child – **Room 203** – Bryan and Suzanne Lakey are like a lot of families with children who have special needs; they understand the challenges that arise in marriage. According to some research, the divorce rate for couples with special-needs kids hovers around 80 percent. More hopefully, however, other studies indicate that 18 percent of these couples in this situation say their children have brought them closer together. What’s the difference between the couples who rise to the challenge and those who don’t? Here are some tips.



Parent Panel - **Room 213** - Four parents will share their stories of raising a child with special needs. They will talk about their child’s diagnosis, how it affected their family, and how their path led to advocacy. Time will be allowed for you to ask questions.

11:05 – 11:20 – Special Needs Fair/Refreshments

11:20-12:00 – Keynote – **Tom Smith Auditorium** – **My Journey My Passion** - I was that child who was fortunate enough to receive great support and services growing up. However, I have put in the hard work, overcome many obstacles, not to mention having a tenacious attitude, I never gave up. Through these things, I can say it has afforded me the wonderful privilege of following my dreams. The dream of choosing a career that allows me to return that wonderful opportunity I was fortunate enough to have. With the right attitude, anything is possible! My career path has included various positions serving young adults with learning disabilities, mental illness/drug addiction, and other cognitive and developmental disabilities.



Johanna Banks