
Reading Intervention for Children and Adolescents with DS

Christopher Lemons, PhD

Learning to read is an important skill that supports future educational outcomes, employment, and independence. The goal of this session will be to provide a model of literacy for individuals with DS, to summarize recent research that has enhanced our understanding of effective methods to teach reading skills, and to provide strategies for supporting literacy development in children and adolescents with DS. Time will be provided for questions and discussion.

Learning Objectives:

1. Participants will be able to summarize the key components of effective literacy instruction for individuals with DS.
2. Participants will be able to describe key findings from research on enhancing reading outcomes for individuals with DS.
3. Participants will be able to state at least three actionable steps they can take to support the literacy needs of their students or children with DS.

About the Presenter:



Dr. Christopher J. Lemons is an Associate Professor of Special Education at Peabody College of Vanderbilt University and a member of the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center. His research focuses on improving academic outcomes for children and adolescents with intellectual, developmental, and learning disabilities. His recent research has focused on developing and evaluating reading interventions for individuals with Down syndrome. He has published studies in peer-reviewed journals including *Exceptional Children*, *Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities*, *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*, *Journal of Intellectual Disability Research*, and *Remedial and Special Education*. Lemons has secured funding to support his research from the Institute of Education Sciences and the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, both within the U.S. Department of Education. He is an Associate Editor for the *American Journal on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*. He chairs the Executive Committee for the Pacific Coast Research Conference. Lemons is also Co-Director of the National Center for Leadership in Intensive Intervention and a Senior Advisor for the National Center on Intensive Intervention, both funded by the Office of Special Education Programs. He received his doctorate from Peabody College of Vanderbilt University in 2008. Lemons is a recipient of the Pueschel-Tjossem Research Award from the National Down Syndrome Congress. In 2016, Lemons received the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE), the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on science and engineering professionals in the early stages of their independent research careers, from President Obama. Prior to entering academia, Lemons taught in several special education settings including a preschool autism unit, an elementary resource and inclusion program, and a middle school life skills classroom. His areas of expertise include reading interventions for children and adolescents with learning and intellectual disabilities, with a focus on interventions for individuals with Down syndrome; data-based individualization; and intervention-related assessment.