



NATIONAL
DOWN SYNDROME
CONGRESS

2023 Educators

Conference

Friday, July 21 | 7:30 AM – 3:00 PM
JW Marriott Orlando Grande Lakes

\$150 registration includes all materials, breakfast, lunch and certificate for CEU submission.

Practical in nature, this conference will engage participants in identifying and implementing strategies applicable to K-12 classrooms.

Our Educators Conferences offer hands-on, research-based strategies that general education and special education teachers can implement immediately to best support their students with Down syndrome and intellectual disability.

Attendees will leave equipped with ideas, tips, strategies, tools, and solutions that they can implement in the classroom.

- **Addressing BEHAVIOR through effective strategies**
- **Literacy strategies to facilitate READING DEVELOPMENT**
- **Proven practices for INCLUSION**
- **Strategies for ACCESS for all**
- **TRANSITIONING the ages & stages**
- **Planning and designing CURRICULUM**
- **MEDICAL implications for the classroom**

Sponsored by

Down Syndrome
FOUNDATION
OF FLORIDA



The Educators Conference is held in conjunction with the NDSC Convention. Educators Conference attendees receive \$50 off a NDSC General Conference registration. Early rate is \$225, discounted rate is \$175.

Register for the Educators Conference starting March 21, 2023 at www.ndsccenter.org/51st-annual-convention

Educators Conference Schedule



7:30 AM - 8:00 AM REGISTRATION

8:00 AM - 8:15 AM WELCOME

8:15 AM - 9:20 AM LITERACY STRATEGIES TO FACILITATE READING DEVELOPMENT

Presented by Dana Halle, J.D.
Description Coming Soon.

9:20 AM - 9:45 AM MEDICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CLASSROOM

Presented by Dr. Kishore Vellody
Description Coming Soon.

9:45 AM - 10:00 AM BREAK

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR: PREVENT, TREAT, & REPEAT

Presented by Dr. Stacy Taylor, BCBA-D

We want to educate and include, but when problem behaviors get in the way, it can be frustrating for everyone involved. This presentation will discuss ways to set children up for success in the classroom and if problem behaviors occur, ways to prevent and treat these behaviors to get students back to learning. When educators are given the tools they need to support all the learners in their class, the results are more learning, better classroom behavior and a happier classroom family.

11:00 AM - 12:00 AM PLANNING AND DESIGNING FOR INCLUSION

Presented Sean J. Smith, Ph.D.

This interactive session will focus on how we can purposefully plan and design for an inclusive learning environment. Participants will explore ways to incorporate the elements of the Universal Design for Learning Framework in their planning for ALL students, particularly those with disabilities. Tips, tolls, and solutions will be shared to ensure we leave prepared for immediate strategy implementation.

12:00 AM - 12:45 PM LUNCH

12:45 PM - 1:45 PM EFFECTIVE PRACTICES TO PROMOTE INCLUSION

Presented by Alisa Lowrey, Ph.D.

The purpose of this session is to explore four proven practices for inclusive classrooms that can be beneficial to supporting all learners, including those with Down Syndrome and other developmental disabilities. Participants will learn about these four, evidence-based practices, understand their relationship to the UDL framework, discuss examples, and be provided resources that they can use in the classrooms when returning to school for fall.

1:45 PM - 2:00 PM BREAK

2:00 PM - 2:45 PM HOW TO APPLY EFFECTIVE PRACTICES FOR ALL LEARNERS: PERSPECTIVES FROM THE FIELD

Panel to include: Dana Halle, J.D., Dr. Stacy Taylor, BCBA-D, Alisa Lowrey, Ph.D., Jill Reffett, and Sean J. Smith, Ph.D.

This interactive panel will allow participants to ask questions to pressing challenges. Perspectives from a panel of experts will offer strategies, tips, tolls, and solutions to immediately apply to the classroom.

Speakers

Dana Halle, J.D.

Dana is the developer of The Learning Program and LP Online, educational platforms that focus on improving academic outcomes for learners with Down syndrome in the areas of literacy and math. She currently trains and supports hundreds of teachers, parents, and students with Down syndrome across the nation and around the world. Dana also provides weekly direct instruction on literacy and math to students through DSF's Learning Center in Irvine, California. For more information, please visit www.dsfc.org. Dana attended Pomona College, where she earned a B.A. in Public Policy Analysis and Psychology. She also attended the University of California, Hastings School of Law, where she earned her J.D. Dana practiced law as a business litigator for ten years before taking time off to parent her three children, the youngest of whom, Nick, has Down syndrome. Soon after Nick's birth in 1998, Dana began directing her energies towards developing programs to improve education for learners with Down syndrome through direct service to parents, teachers, and students.

Dr. Stacy Taylor, BCBA-D

Stacy received her Doctorate in Special Education at Nova Southeastern University. She is also a doctoral level Board Certified Behavior Analyst. For over 20 years, she has provided services to people with developmental disabilities, learning differences, and behavioral challenges. She has served as director for 3 clinical programs and currently owns and operates an ABA program, Advance Behavior & Learning, and a fully inclusive private school, Advance Learning Academy in Central Florida. Dr. Taylor has worked in a variety of settings including clinics, schools, and homes. In addition to providing 1:1 treatment to children, she also provides training and consultation around the country. She speaks at conferences, presenting information on early intervention, education, and behavioral treatment. Dr. Taylor currently serves on the medical advisory board for the Down Syndrome Association of Central Florida. She has taught many college-level courses to help students learn more about inclusion, learning, child development, and behavior. Her programs function as an internship and practicum site for students just starting in the field. Dr. Taylor is married and has 4 amazing children.

Alisa Lowrey, Ph.D.

Alisa is an internationally known special educator with 30+ years of experience working in inclusive classrooms with individuals with developmental disabilities including intellectual disabilities and autism. A professor at the University of Southern Mississippi, she prepared teachers to work with students in inclusive classrooms. Her research includes (a) teacher education, professional development, and evaluation, (b) inclusive educational practices including the application of Universal Design for Learning, (c) designing quality, individualized curricula at the education and postsecondary education level and (d) transition. She was the lead faculty member at the University of South Carolina in developing the Carolina Life program and has gone on to develop and/or support the development of three other postsecondary programs in the U.S. She is the co-editor of Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities, a journal designed to measure high quality research that has direct impact on the educational experiences of students with developmental disabilities.

Speakers continued

Jill Reffett

Jill works for an assistive technology provider, MapHabit, in the I/DD, ND, Alzheimer's and dementia space, she directs reimbursement, funding, as well as, business development. MapHabit is an assistive technology application that automates visual supports, incorporating the entire circle of support, scheduling and reminders, with ability to include pictures, video and audio on each step of "habit" or skill (essentially, a visual schedule or task analysis). Jill is the wife of Chris, a former SPED director turned principal, and mother of 3, RayLee, Sophie and Mila. RayLee, 14, has a dual diagnosis of Down syndrome and autism, Mila, 12, has Down syndrome, ADHD and RAD (related to first 3 years in a Ukrainian orphanage) RayLee and Mila are both fully included in their Catholic school, St. John's, in Lawrence, KS. RayLee does pre-employment in the community with her Baba one day a week, and adaptive swimming at the public school one afternoon a week.

Sean J. Smith, Ph.D.

Dr. Smith is a Professor of Special Education in the Department of Special Education at the University of Kansas. More importantly, he is the parent of a son with Down syndrome. Sean weaves these two perspectives together in offering practical solutions based on evidence for classroom and home application. His efforts to support the field are reflected in his over 100 peer-reviewed articles, books, and book chapters as well as his numerous regional, national, and international presentations. Leading with technology as an effective tool, Sean has also been fortunate to receive over \$30 million dollars of external funding, in collaboration with others, to facilitate the development and research of tech-based solutions for individuals with disabilities.

Dr. Kishore Vellody

Dr. Kishore Vellody will be speaking on medical implications for the classroom. Dr. Vellody completed his medical degree at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine and his pediatric residency at the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. He is a Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and has been on the faculty since 2005. In March 2009, he became Medical Director of the Down Syndrome Center of Western Pennsylvania. Dr. Vellody also served as President of the National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC) from 2016-2019. Dr. Vellody has spoken at a variety of local, regional, national, and international meetings on the care of children with Down syndrome. Dr. Vellody became a pediatrician in large part because of his relationship with his older brother, Das, who is smart, funny, caring, . . . and also has Down syndrome.

