

# TOOLS FOR THE JOURNEY



Join educators and families at the 2024 Tools for the Journey Conference where attendees will receive education and tools for supporting individuals with Down syndrome and other disabilities following best practice methods for the classroom, community, and beyond. We will host presenters from all over the country and they will share their expertise and innovative, research-based strategies on a variety of topics across all ages and stages.

## Conference dates and times:

**January 26-27, 2024 (Friday & Saturday)  
9:00AM - 4:00PM**

Register  
here:



**This conference is  
VENDORED: #PD2655**

**This conference is open to  
ALL, and is NOT disability  
specific.**

**Location: 393 N. Lake Ave., Pasadena, CA 91101  
(Lake Avenue Congregational Church)**

### **Cost:**

- Member (1 day)= \$300  
Member (2 day)- \$350
- Non-member (1 day)= \$400  
Non-member (2 day)= \$450



***Come enjoy breakfast at 8:30AM in the courtyard before sessions begin.  
Catered by Geschenk Fare (Vegetarian & Gluten Free Option available)***




Keynote  
Speaker

**Jenna Rufo:** Re-Imagining Special Education (9:15-10:15AM) ALL Ages






ALL Ages  
0-3 yrs  
4 - 11 yrs  
13-17 yrs  
18-Adult




10:30AM - 12:00PM

<b>Erik Carter-</b> <i>What Matters Most: Preparing Your Students with Disabilities for Adulthood</i> 					
<b>Kayla Coburn-</b> <i>10 Tips to Start Including Students with Disabilities Anywhere</i> 					
<b>Jillian Baldwin &amp; Hina Mahmood (DSRF)-</b> <i>Collaborating with Educators to Support Skill Development in the Classroom: An SLP/OT Perspective</i> 					






12:45 - 2:15PM

<b>Rachel Webster-</b> <i>Cultivating Self-Determination Competencies from the Early Years</i> 					
<b>Dr. Lewis Jackson-</b> <i>Trends in Research on Inclusion and Outcomes Across the Age Span - What Should We Care About?</i> 					
<b>Nicole Eredics-</b> <i>Supporting Student Success with Curriculum Modifications and Accommodations</i> 					

2:30 - 4:00PM

<b>Caitlin Solone-</b> <i>Building Strength- Based IEPs Using the Common Core Standards</i> 					
<b>Dr. Molly K. Rearick Day-</b> <i>More than "Wants and Needs:" Identifying, Accessing, and Creating Meaningful Adult Supports from a Young Age</i> 					
<b>Stephanie Martinez-</b> <i>Empowering Communication: An AAC Implementation Plan for Seamless Access and Lifelong Support</i> 					

### THEMES:




-  - Foundations: Sessions will offer key information to help establish a vision, priorities and lay groundwork for your journey
-  - Education: Sessions will give you tools to cultivate success in the classroom
-  - Innovation: Sessions will offer a new mindset on unlocking potential
-  - Family: Sessions will offer families/caregivers tools to thrive and persevere through journey now and ahead
-  - Belonging: Sessions will offer valuable insights & strategies for elevating inclusion and belonging in schools, communities, and beyond

Keynote  
Speaker




**Elizabeth Biggs:** Empowering at Every Step: Technology to Improve Communication, Independence & Inclusion  
 (9:15-10:15AM) **ALL Ages**






10:30AM - 12:00PM

	ALL Ages	0-3 yrs	4 - 11 yrs	13-17 yrs	18-Adult
<b>Dr. Jennifer Newton-</b> <i>We All Benefit From Supports: Destigmatizing Supports So All Students Get What They Need To Thrive</i> 					
<b>Jillian Baldwin &amp; Riley Rosebush (DSRF)-</b> <i>Evidence-Based Strategies to Support Early Speech and Language Development</i> 					
<b>Jennifer White-</b> <i>Innovative Person Driven Low/ High Tech Accommodation Tools (to Support Employment)</i> 					

12:45 - 2:15PM

<b>Dr. Lewis Jackson-</b> <i>Developing a Vision for Your Child</i> 					
<b>Julie &amp; Rigo Gaona, facilitated by Sofia Cervantes (SCDD)-</b> <i>Love, Support, and Letting Go</i> 					
<b>Jessica Avila, LICSW-</b> <i>Thriving into You: How to Navigate Your Mental Wellness and Personal Needs as a Caregiver</i> 					

2:30 - 4:00PM

<b>Hina Mahmood-</b> <i>Building Skills Across the Lifespan: How Occupational Therapy can help build Independence in Everyday Life</i> 					
<b>Kristin Enriquez-</b> <i>Overcoming the Most Common Obstacles to Inclusion</i> 					
<b>Self-Portrait Project &amp; Panel</b> 					

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