

# TOOLS FOR THE JOURNEY

**January 24-25, 2025**  
**Friday & Saturday**  
**9:00AM-3:30PM**

**Location:** 539 N. Lake Ave., Pasadena, CA 91101  
(Pasadena Covenant Church)

**Cost:**

- Member (1 day)= \$350  
Member (2 day)- \$400
- Non-member (1 day)= \$450  
Non-member (2 day)= \$500

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

Join educators and families at the 2025 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.

**Register  
here:**



**This conference  
is VENDORED:  
#PD2655**

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



Keynote Speaker














# Tools for the Journey

Friday - January 24, 2025 (9AM-3:30PM)

## Savanna Flakes, EdS: I'm a Possibilitarian! What's Your Superpower? (9:15-10:15AM)











ALL Ages  

10:30 - 11:45AM










	ALL Ages	0-3 yrs	4-11 yrs	13-17 yrs	18-Adult
<b>Diana Pastora Carson, M.Ed.-</b> <i>Going Beyond Awareness in Education</i> 					
<b>Dr. Jen Newton-</b> <i>Inclusion and Belonging: Moving from Where to Why</i>  					
<b>Dr. Sarah Pelangka, BCBA-D-</b> <i>"Maladaptive Behavior" and Disability: Why is it Unethical to Write Behavior Plans to Target Skill Deficits</i>  					

### 11:45AM-12:45PM LUNCH BREAK






12:45 - 2:00PM

<b>Danielle McKinney, M.Ed.-</b> <i>Maximizing Impact: Effective Strategies for Teaching Readers with Down Syndrome</i> 					
<b>Dr. Khalilah Johnson-</b> <i>A Conversation on Disability Justice</i>  					
<b>Pam Tupy, MA-</b> <i>Diving Deeper into UDL: Best Practices for Lesson Design and Instruction</i>  					

2:15 - 3:30PM

<b>Amers Goff, OT, DIR-FCD Certified-</b> <i>DIR and FloorTime Intervention for All Ages</i> 					
<b>Charlotte Gray &amp; Jean Doherty-</b> <i>Down syndrome-Autism 101</i>  					
<b>Pam Tupy, MA-</b> <i>Developing Learner Agency: The Power of Student Motivation and Self-Direction</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

**Dr. Jen Newton:** *Inclusion: How Committed Are We?* (9:15-10:15AM)












ALL Ages   

10:30 - 11:45AM











	ALL Ages	0-3 yrs	4-11 yrs	13-17 yrs	18-Adult
<b>Dr. Blaskowitz-</b> <i>College is an Option! Supporting Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities to Pursue Inclusive College</i>   					
<b>Kelly Rea, AMFT-</b> <i>Caring for the Caregiver</i> 					
<b>Hina Mahmood, M.OT-</b> <i>Common Senses: A Deep Dive into Sensory Processing for Individuals with Down syndrome</i> 					

**11:45AM-12:45PM LUNCH BREAK**






12:45 - 2:00PM

<b>Jennifer White, CEO-</b> <i>Interactive Workshop: Innovative Person Driven Low/High Tech Accommodation Tools</i>  					
<b>Dr. Sarah Pelangka-</b> <i>IEPs and Socialization: Why Writing Goals for the Student with an IEP is Only Half the Battle</i>  					
<b>Dr. Susan Fawcett, PhD, SLP-</b> <i>Mental Health Trends and Mental Wellness Support for Individuals with Down Syndrome</i>  					

2:15 - 3:30PM

<b>Keck Graduate Institute Students &amp; Lucia Serio, LEP-</b> <i>Building a Future of Possibilities From the Start</i>   					
<b>Charlotte Gray &amp; Jean Doherty-</b> <i>Down syndrome-Autism Q&amp;A Forum</i>  					
<b>Diana Pastora Carson, M.Ed.-</b> <i>A Walk with Joaquin: One Family's Journey to Inclusion</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