

Concurrent Workshop Session Descriptions

Beyond PowerPoint: Activities and Icebreakers for Presentations and Group Work – Donna Earle & Stacye Parry

Join us for this fast paced interactive session as we explore how to use games, activities and icebreakers to energize presentations and to teach concepts and evaluate skills in work and group settings. You will hone your facilitation skills as you apply the utilization of these activities to the group development process. Participants will receive a handbook of activities and directions to use in their work and social groups.

Comprehensive Behavioral Services for Military Children: A Pilot Project – Jen Crockett, Ph.D. (Kennedy – Krieger Center)

Geared for EFMP coordinators, School Liaison Officers, SNAP team representatives, CDC coordinators, and Principals, this workshop will detail the work done within the past two years to develop and sustain a pilot program addressing the behavioral health needs of military children at Fort Meade, MD. Discussion will focus on community outreach efforts with the families' health care provider and military agencies. It will address some of the barriers encountered, as well as plans for the future. Participants will leave with a better understanding of childhood behavioral disorder therapies, as well as how to assist families in obtaining such services.

Junior Student 2 Student: A Peer-Based Answer to the Military Child's Transitioning Challenges – Bill Lawson and JS2S Advisors

Following a brief overview of this unique middle school peer-based assistance program, a panel of MCEC trainers and school sponsors will provide samples of practical strategies and activities designed to help military children's school-to-school transitions become more positive and manageable. This is a conversational session with on-the-ground practitioners regarding ways students can provide direct, relevant assistance to incoming and exiting students in a middle school setting.

Making the Connection: Working with Parents of Children with Language-Based Disabilities – Holly Baker Hill, Ed.D. (UTSA) & Cassie Boatwright (LISD)

Making the Connection was designed to increase parent's knowledge regarding the research and educational interventions specific to learning difficulties in reading. The program is part of a research study that examining the effectiveness of interventions with parents of children identified as having a language based disability. Parents that participated in the program at Lackland Elementary on Lackland AFB in San Antonio, Texas learned hands-on strategies to do at home, while deployed or TDY. Research related to the program's parent participation, preliminary outcome findings, and suggestions for duplicating the program will be highlighted.

Parents, Students, and Schools... A Special Education Thinking Partnership – Kathy McKinney & Sharon Neill

Navigating the special education system can be a confusing place for all involved. Parents often look for practical strategies to help with daily home life with their kids. School staffs often look for practical strategies to help with daily school life. How we define and carry out these strategies can at times produce conflict. Learn how to begin shifting your thinking toward the common goal of student success and how various tools such as "think aloud" templates can help create the desired outcome for all involved.

Play – National Exuberance – Kathleen O'Beirne

Far from frivolous or irrational, play builds capacities, skills, and perspectives that are sadly lacking today in America's children and adults. Come learn the value of lifelong play, the characteristics of unadulterated play, and how to enhance its inclusion in our everyday lives. The outcome? People who are more resilient, creative, and capable of complex problem-solving...truly a national resource.

Preparing for Transitions – Ann Turnbull, Ed.D.

Dr. Ann Turnbull has been a professor, teacher, researcher, author and advocate for individuals with disabilities, their families, and service providers for more than 35 years. In addition to her professional credentials, she is the parent of three children, one of whom, Jay, thrived as an adult with multiple disabilities, until his death in 2009. She will focus this session on preparation for transitions as children age and move from program to program and as families move from place to place. As military families think about their next move, the complexities of navigating all of the special education nuances can turn mole hills into mountains. Dr. Turnbull will offer practical advice to make every transition more manageable.

Sharpening Your Tools for Dealing with Difficult Situations – Jan Jordan & Mary Pat McCartney

Shore up your communication techniques! Nail down your skills for problem-solving. Hone your interventions for creating solutions. This session will offer practical experiences through role playing and practice scenarios of relevant, difficult situations that parents, education professionals, or School Liaison Officers might face.

Special Education Basics – Rud Turnbull, LL.M./J.D.

This session focuses on the history and foundations of special education from the requirements of Public Law 94-142 that gave us “least restrictive environment” to the latest version of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Requirements such as identification, individual education plans, discipline, transition services and many more will be discussed. Rud Turnbull has spent the past 30+ years as a distinguished researcher, teacher, consultant and advocate in the field of developmental disabilities. His life work has included direction of the Beach Center at University of Kansas and multiple opportunities to shape legal and policy disability issues.

What Can a Speed Limit Sign, a Parachute and Custer’s Last Stand Teach Us about Effective Leadership? – Paul Callen

This lively workshop gives participants clear insight into the dynamics of the leader- follower relationship. It identifies key leader behaviors and high payoff strategies that produce successful outcomes. Participants are challenged to think about their personal leadership image and behaviors. Stories and activities augment themes and learning points. Participants receive practical tips on the ways leaders can build respect and boost morale. A lesson from history provides an enormous message on the importance of leader behavior when communicating with followers.