



MDSC VIRTUAL EDUCATORS FORUM WEBINAR SERIES FALL 2021

For Supporting Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Webinars for: General and Special Educators Pre-K to 12, Paraprofessionals, Administrators, Related Service Providers and other Education Professionals, and Family Members

At the MDSC, we remain committed to providing timely information and resources for education professionals and parents of school-aged children as they work to ensure that students with Down syndrome and other intellectual or developmental disabilities receive the best education possible in this uncertain and challenging season. We have once again reimagined our Annual Educators Forum and will offer a webinar series throughout the fall with topics related to education during and after the pandemic.

PDP certificates are offered to registrants.

If you register but are unable to join live, you will have access to the recording. \$30 per webinar

If you have any questions, please contact us at education@mdsc.org.

Re-energizing Inclusion During and After the Pandemic: Creating Accessible Instructional Materials for Students with Down Syndrome

Tuesday, September 14, 2021 / 4:00–5:30pm ET

[Register here](#)

When students with Down syndrome are included in general education classrooms, the teaching materials must be made accessible for all students. This workshop will describe many examples of reading, writing, and math materials that support students' full engagement and learning alongside their peers without disabilities. The workshop will focus on students in kindergarten through high school.

Presented by Cheryl M. Jorgensen, Ph.D., Inclusive Education Consultant

Empowering ALL Students With Universal Design for Learning: Engage, Access, and Express in the Classroom During and After the Pandemic

Wednesday, September 22, 2021 / 4:00–5:30pm ET

[Register here](#)

The Universal Design for Learning framework is based on a notion of intentional and systematic process to flexibly design instruction to allow for options, engagement, and access. How can the UDL framework help us design learning experiences that empower students and increase student access to curriculum in the classroom both during and after the pandemic? In this workshop, teachers will gather resources to engage and empower our students with intellectual disabilities, instructional strategies to provide every student access to the curriculum, and the opportunity to align current best practices with Universal Design for Learning.

Presented by Savanna Flakes, International Education Consultant

A Nine-Step Process for Determining Where, When, & How to Address IEP Goals for Learners with Extensive Support Needs

Tuesday, October 26, 2021 / 9:00–11:30am ET

[Register here](#)

Join this interactive workshop to acquire knowledge of a structured and systematic process employed by educators and families who are most successful during and post-pandemic, in meaningfully addressing IEP goals of students, particularly learners with extensive support needs, in home and inclusive school environments; be given access to tools and resources to facilitate their implementation of the nine-step process; and be provided best practice indicators for self-assessing their current level of implementation of this process.

Presented by Dr. Richard A. Villa, President, Bayridge Consortium, Inc.

Teaching Children with Disabilities to Read During a Pandemic: At Home and At School

Tuesday, November 9, 2021 / 9:00–10:30am ET

[Register here](#)

The webinar will present the principles of effective reading instructions for individuals with disabilities, including a summary of relevant research. It will identify the links between language and reading and show how reading activities can improve spoken language for children across a wide spectrum of abilities. It will set out the ways in which parents and educators can and should work together to develop both reading and language during and after a pandemic.

Presented by Professor Sue Buckley OBE, CPsychol AFBPS, Director for Science and Research, Down Syndrome Education International, Emeritus Professor of Developmental Disability, Dept Psychology, University of Portsmouth, UK

Attachment, Separation and Loss During the Pandemic, and Their Complications: Supporting Students with Down Syndrome in the Classroom

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 / 4:00–5:30pm ET

[Register here](#)

Attachment, separation, and loss in students with Down syndrome and other ID/DDs present extraordinary challenges. Indeed, loss of a primary attachment figure can lead to devastating disruption with regression in already gained adaptive skills, social and physical withdrawal, and inability to participate in previously enjoyed activities. Persons with Down syndrome are also exquisitely sensitive to loss of a familiar place, transition between classes, schools, and community programs. Families, teachers, and all caregivers working with students with Down syndrome need to be aware of, anticipate, and attend to such vulnerabilities. Instances of psychosocial regression especially relevant to the pandemic will be highlighted with suggested interventions to alleviate recovery.

Presented by Kerim Munir, MD, MPH DSc, Director of Psychiatry, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), and Leadership Education Program in Neurodevelopmental Disorder (LEND), Boston Children's Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts

