

# Metro Speech Language Network Symposium



**February 5-6, 2021**

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## Conference Schedule

**Friday, February 5, 2021**

**3:00pm – 7:00pm (MST)**

**\*All times are in Mountain Standard Time (MST)**

**3:00pm - 3:30pm (MST) – Check-in**

**3:30pm – 4:00pm (MST) – Housekeeping/Information**

**4:00pm – 7:00pm (MST) – Keynote Presentation:**

**Presented By: Scott Schwartz, PhD, CCC/SLP**

**Autism Spectrum Disorders:**

**From Diagnosis to Practical Strategies for Success**

Back by popular demand, Dr. Schwartz will talk this year about the current definition of autism, insight into the characteristics and behaviors, and practical strategies that work in person and virtually. This will be a dynamic session with strategies and tips to engage students virtually.

Dr. Scott Schwartz is a speech language pathologist with more than 35 years of experience in the field. He currently teaches at the University of Colorado-Boulder and the Boulder Valley School District. Scott began his career in the 1980s working in Rhode Island at a strict behaviorist school for students with autism. He was inspired by that experience to learn more about and from his students with autism, and what works best to help students with autism reach their potential. He went on to work in the Boston Public Schools and then went back to school for a Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Communication Sciences and Disorders. His studies there focused on language, cognition, and pragmatics and enhanced his interest in understanding and learning about autism. Scott moved to Boulder in 1995 and began working for the Boulder Valley Schools where he was a district autism consultant for 4 years focused on teaching others about autism and providing appropriate programming for individual students. He also taught classes on autism at CU-Boulder and has spoken on autism locally and nationally for more than 20 years. Scott has watched the field of autism change and the incidence of autism grow substantially over the years.

# Conference Schedule

Saturday, February 6, 2021

8:00am – 5:30pm (MST)

**\*All time are Mountain Standard Time (MST)**

**7:30am (MST) Check-in/Information**

**8:00am – 11:00am (MST) – Short Course:**

**Presented By: Scott Prath. MA, CCC-SLP**

**Literacy-Based Speech & Language Therapy Activities**

Learn to reduce therapy planning time, improve outcomes, & align therapy to classroom objectives

Effectively use storybooks to 1) reduce therapy planning time, 2) improve outcomes, 3) and align therapy to classroom objectives. While storybooks have been used as part of therapy for many years, research indicates that specific strategies enable us to enhance: sound production, oral language skills, pragmatic skills, vocabulary use (Semantic), and production of complex sentence structures (Syntactic).

Narratives of children from different cultures vary widely. Yet, as educators we rely heavily on narrative abilities when assessing our students' skills. This course also highlights how culture shapes the way children tell stories. By understanding different narrative styles, we can increase language and literacy while taking into consideration cultural and socioeconomic influences.

Expand your ability to implement activities before, during, and after shared reading. You will also receive a refined set of templates to develop your own literacy-based materials with minimal effort to use with your favorite storybooks or curriculum topics.

Participants will be able to:

- Describe the advantages of literacy-based intervention based on current research
- Implement strategies to reduce therapy planning by relying on storybooks, classroom resources, and academic topics
- Identify which storybooks and topics meet multiple academic and communication goals
- Design speech language therapy sessions and materials based on narrative structure

This presentation is ***packed*** with links to resources, video examples of intervention, & demonstrated organizational and scheduling strategies to reduce the time spent on planning.

**11:15am – 2:15pm (MST) – Short Course:**

**Presented By: Nina Reardon-Reeves, MS, CCC-SLP, BCS-FD**

**School Age Stuttering Therapy: Have you met all the strategies?**

Have you ever felt that you don't know all you need to know about the speech handling strategies for working with those who stutter? Join the club! Many SLPs report feeling the same way.

Join us for an overview, demonstration, and role-play opportunities of EBP strategies to make certain you have what it takes to tackle this aspect of the overall framework of stuttering therapy! Resources for further study and support will be provided.

Participants will be able to:

1. Outline 5 areas in the framework of stuttering therapy
2. List at least 3 activities to prepare students for success
3. Outline rationale for all strategies presented
4. Demonstrate at least 5 strategies for helping children who stutter increase the ease of their communication

Nina Reeves, M.S. CCC-SLP, BCS-F is a board-certified specialist in fluency disorders. Presently, she is employed as a staff Fluency Specialist for Frisco ISD in Texas, and Fluency Specialist Consultant for San Diego Unified School District. Nina volunteers her time for organizations devoted to supporting those who stutter. She is a nationally recognized workshop presenter in the area of fluency disorders and is an author who most recently co-authored Early Childhood Stuttering Therapy: A Practical Guide for Stuttering Therapy Resources. Nina is a recipient of numerous awards, including the ASH-F Van Hattum Award for outstanding contributions to public school and the ASHA Award for Outstanding Contributions to School Settings.

**2:30pm – 4:00pm (MST) – Breakout Session:**

**Presented By: Natalie Bowman and Siva priya Santhanam**

**Bilingual Specialization Program for Graduate Students in Speech-Language Pathology: Need and Considerations**

In the United States, only 6.5% of all ASHA-certified speech-language pathologists (SLPs) identify as bilingual service providers (ASHA, 2019). This number does NOT align with the number of bilingual clients we serve in our everyday clinical practice. In this presentation, we discuss the importance of increasing (1) the number of bilingual SLPs in Colorado, (2) appropriate assessment and intervention for culturally and linguistically diverse populations, and (3) cultural competence among SLPs, especially school-based service providers. We describe the current state of graduate-level coursework in these areas, as well as key considerations in developing the bilingual specialization program at Metropolitan State University of Denver as part of our upcoming master's program in Speech-Language Pathology. We conclude the presentation by sharing lessons learned and engaging audience in a brainstorming session on bilingual clinical service delivery.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Discuss current student demographics in Colorado and needs of culturally and linguistically diverse students in assessment and intervention.
2. Identify at least three strategies for increasing cultural competence in speech and language service provision in school-based settings.
3. Describe current graduate-level coursework relating to culturally and linguistically diverse populations and future focus areas for a bilingual specialization program at Metropolitan State University of Denver

**4:15 pm – 5:30pm (MST) – Breakout Session:**

**Presented By: Samantha Strong and Meghan Conover**

**“AAC for Emergent Communicators: Birth to Pre-School”**

What is AAC? Could AAC benefit our youngest children, from birth to pre-school age? If so, when and how do I get started? These questions and more will be discussed in this 75 minute introductory session about AAC and early intervention. Participants will learn about the different types of AAC available, and how those can support language and communication. The class will discuss common myths and parental concerns surrounding AAC in the birth to pre-school population. Strategies and resources are provided to help early childhood interventionists (EI and pre-school) support parents in considering and using AAC options.

Participants will be able to:

- Describe the different types of AAC used in Early Intervention
- Identify three resources to support AAC in Early Intervention

Thank you for attending the 2021 Metro Speech Language  
Symposium!!!

We will see you next year!!!

**SAVE THE DATE: February 4-5, 2022**