Annual Special Needs Mini-Conference
April 1, 2023
" Room at the Table"

Agenda:

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. – Registration, and Continental Breakfast

8:30-9:00- Visit the Cradle to Career Transtion Fair Vendor hosted by Rowan Innovative Approaches.

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. – Breakout sessions

The Parent's Role in Special Education- Room 101 – The ECAC (Exceptional Children Assistance Center) presents an informative presentation that is designed to help parents understand their rights and roles in the IEP process. Participants will learn how to prepare for and participate in meetings, understand and ask questions, and recognize the different parts of parents and school staff.



Coping with Your Place at the Table- Room 102 – Join Elizabeth Webb, a Licensed Counselor as she helps you learn coping mechanisms to deal with the stress that can sometimes come from being around those tables as a parent or a provider.



An Early Educators Role at the Table- Room 103– Join Jamie Guagliano as she facilitates a panel of educators and providers and how they build relationships with families, and how they support families within their programs.

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. - Break- Visit the Cradle to Career Transtion Fair Vendor hosted by Rowan Innovative Approaches.

10:30 – 11:30 – Second Breakout Session



Functional Communication Has Room at the Table - Room 101 – Join Katelyn Jones a Lead Register behavior Technician from Partners in Learning Behavioral Clinic as she explains the function of communication. Functional communication can use ASL, pictures, and devices to help communication. Functional communication training aims to find the function of the behavior, an appropriate replacement behavior that embodies communication and teach and maintain the skills to the clients to decrease their challenging behaviors.



Understanding Sensory Averisons at the Table.– Room 102 – Join Ashley Deaton an Occupational therapist, owner of One Step at a Time Therapy Company and creater of Deaton Therapeutic supplies as she highlights ways to help your child during mealtimes. Mealtimes can be stressful for everyone at the table. You will learn more about what causes sensory aversions, how children with sensory aversions view mealtime differently, and ways to help your child begin to enjoy mealtime.



Parent Panel, and Their Place at the Table - Room 103 - Join a panel of six people who tell you their perspective as a person with special needs or as a parent of a special needs child. Learn what they want you to know about their place at the table.

11:30-12:00 – Keynote –Auditorium – Room At the Table - Join **Theresa Pierce Contributing Author of "*Room at the Table* "**



Theresa Parker Pierce lives in Historic Salisbury, North Carolina, where she enjoys spending time with family and friends. She has 35 years of experience teaching reading and history in private and public schools. A graduate of East Carolina University, Theresa has a Master's degree in education from Catawba College and is National Board-certified. Two-time Rowan Salisbury Teacher of the Year, Theresa enjoys storytelling about her childhood in eastern North Carolina and the history of Rowan County.

Theresa's manuscript, Up Dunn's Mountain, won first place for Young Adult Literature at Blue Ridge Mountain Christian Writers Conference in 2020. Most recently, Theresa contributed three real-life stories in Room at the Table, Encouraging Stories from Special Needs Families, published in the fall of 2022.

Theresa tells her story of what it was like growing up with a brother who had special needs. Join us on April 1st to hear more about her story. In addition, some lucky winners will receive autographed books