



Dana Kalek, Ed.D

Dr. Dana Kalek is the Director of Operations at the Child Development Institute located in Woodland Hills, CA. She received her undergraduate and a graduate degree in Child Development from Cal State University, Northridge, and her Doctorate in Organizational Leadership-Educational Psychology from Pepperdine University. She has been working in the field of early intervention for over 20 years by supporting and influencing those relationships that impact early development in children. She has published several journal articles that focus on the importance of the parent-child relationship as well as presented at various international conferences. She teaches child development as an adjunct professor at Los Angeles Valley College.



Kimberly Fortuna, M.A.

Kimberly Fortuna, M.A. received her Master of Arts in Educational Psychology with an emphasis in Early Childhood Education from California State University, Northridge. She is currently a School Program Supervisor and Training Program Coordinator at Child Development Institute in Reseda, CA where she provides consultation and training to community partners on topics related to early development, trauma, and resilience. Kimberly also has a range of experience in providing direct client services through home-visiting, community based, and classroom settings. She collaborates with caregivers and teachers to develop healthy physical and social environments for all children, with a special passion for supporting children with exceptional needs.

Workshop Objectives

1. Describe the impact of Autism on the social-emotional development of young children.
2. Identify strategies to support parents and caregivers using a family-centered and strengths-based approach.
3. Describe the importance of early intervention for young children with exceptional needs