



Kristine Pilkington, OTR/L

Kristine Pilkington has been an occupational therapist in Santa Barbara, California for over 35 years and has worked with persons of all ages and abilities. She has extensive experience in program development and management and community collaboration as well as direct services through her private practice, the regional center, First 5, school systems, and other programs. Her passion regards home visiting and reaching children in their first years of life, involving parents and families as attuned, active supporters of their children’s development, and providing training and mentorship to others in this area.

Kris’s approaches include coaching and routines-based intervention in natural environments, and she has written and spoken locally, nationally, and internationally on these topics. Kris works with WestEd Center for Prevention and Early Intervention in a variety of activities and was a consultant for the SEEDS Project and Early Head Start. She believes in the mission and vision of IDA and enjoys her activities with the IDA board and participants. Kris is co-founder of a collaborative focusing on sensory and social-emotional development called Parents Learn-Children Grow and has a private OT practice in Santa Barbara working with children birth to age 12 and their families.

Workshop Objectives

1. Look at a neurological and developmental framework for play and early relationships of infants and toddlers with Autism Spectrum Disorder.
2. Explore how a sense of purpose and sense of self emerges through the maturation of play and back-and-forth interactions with key family and caregivers.
3. Consider the importance of how the very young child’s participation as a family and community member grows through engagement in everyday routines and activities.

Share vignettes and stories of engaging with children with ASD and their families in Early Start