



Zhen Chai, Ph.D.

Dr. Chai is an Associate Professor of Early Childhood Special Education in the Department of Special Education at California State University, Northridge (CSUN). Her research focuses on using evidence-based practices to promote learning and development of young children with disabilities, collaboration with families of young children with disabilities, and preparing high-quality early childhood special educators.



Annie R. Cox, M.A., Executive Director CHIME Institute Early Education Programs

Annie Cox is the Executive Director of Early Education Programs for the CHIME Institute. She holds a Masters of Arts in Education: Early Childhood Special Education option and her professional experience in the field of education extends for more than thirty years. She worked as an early intervention specialist and joined the CHIME Institute in 1989 by supporting young children with disabilities in an early general education site. Ms. Cox has contributed significantly to the development of the CHIME Institute mission and philosophy, supported development of new programs including the CHIME Charter Elementary School, and mentored newer members of the staff and leadership team. Ms. Cox has also served as a part-time instructor for the Department of Special Education at CSUN and provides mentoring and supervision for Early Childhood Special Education students. She is a strong advocate for inclusive practices.

Workshop Objectives

1. Participants will identify current status and key features of Early Childhood Inclusion.
2. Participants will identify evidence-based practices that promote positive interactions and support learning of young children with varying abilities.
3. Participants will develop a broader understanding of the planning process for creating intentional learning environments that are inclusive of all children.