

## 10:30 – 11:15AM: THE IMPORTANCE OF COLLABORATING WITH YOUR MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM

For children that receive various therapies, collaboration between the parents and the therapeutic team is paramount. This panel-based discussion focuses on the importance of communication and collaboration between all those providing interventions to your child, as well as the role of parents on the team. The panel will present a general case study and discuss how they would provide services through their individual professional lens and how they could work together as a team.

Each participant will discuss his/her role 1:1 with the child, as well as the role on the therapeutic team and how they support the family and develop the child's treatment plan. Aimed at parents of children ages 0-6 years old. A Q&A session will follow the panel discussion.

### KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Learn the goals of various therapists that work with children with developmental differences.
- Gather information on how these therapists can and do work together as a team.
- How to improve communication between all team members as well as streamline this communication
- Determine the best way for you to be an integral part of your child's therapeutic team.

### ABOUT THE SPEAKERS:

**Michaja Prendergast Johnson** received her master's degree in Occupational Therapy from Western Michigan University. She is driven by a passion for her work with parents and children who are affected by sensory processing challenges. The last eight years she has spent working with kids with developmental differences using a DIR®/Floortime approach. She has been trained in SIPT programming, Vital Links Therapeutic Listening, started Prendergast Pediatrics, and heads up L.E.E.P. Forward's Occupational Therapy Department.

**Abby Foltz Hottle** is a member of the American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA) and Director of Speech and Language Services at L.E.E.P. Forward, Inc. She has dedicated herself towards working with children and their families with developmental differences using a DIR®/Floortime model. She caters each therapy session to the individual child, has participated in various trainings, and collaborates closely with families and a multidisciplinary team.

**Jeannie Gutierrez, Ph.D.** is a licensed clinical psychologist with over thirty years of experience. She is DIR®/Floortime certified and has worked with special needs children and their families for the last 20 years. She also consults with schools and organizations that support children with mental health, regulatory and sensory challenges.

**Lorell Marin** founded L.E.E.P. Forward in 2003. LEEP Forward is pediatric developmental clinic located in the West Loop. Lorell has completed level 3 of DIR™ training and received a certificate in RDI™. She is currently enrolled in a Behavioral Studies/BCBA graduate program. Lorell also holds a Special Education teaching certificate and is a credentialed Developmental Therapist for the state of Illinois and holds a certificate with Profectum.