

THE NEURODIVERSITY CHILDREN'S CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026

An in-person conference with workshops and events created to empower and teach early childhood leaders, professionals, parents, providers, and advocates solutions to support young children with special and neurodiverse needs. [##neurodiversitychildrenconference](#) [#houstonneurodiversitychildrenconference](#) [#AviloPeds](#) [#NDCConference](#) [#ndc2026](#)



EVENT SPEAKERS



MICHELLE ATANU
OTR, MOT



NOËL E. MENSAH-BONSU
MD, FAAP



MELANIE H. JOHNSTON
M.A./SLP/CAS



SAMANTHA KATCHY
M.A., BCBA, LBA



DEANDRAE HINTON
M.ED.



MELODY DIPASCA



DR. AGNES KAUFMAN
DC, BCN



DAWN KUHN
MBA, BCN-T



CARIITA CURRY
ED.D



STEPHANIE BURREL
MA, LPC



"CHANGE FOR CHILDREN BEGINS WITH THOSE WILLING TO LEAD."

Saturday, Feb 28, 2026
Conference 8:15 AM - 4:45 PM
Breakfast and check-in: 7:00am

Reception immediately following

EVENT WORKSHOPS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

NOËL E. MENSAH-BONSU, MD, FAAP

Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrician, Founder of The Developmental Journey

It is an honor to welcome NOËL E. MENSAH-BONSU, MD, FAAP, the visionary founder of The Developmental Journey and Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrician and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine, where she cares for children and families at Texas Children's Hospital's Meyer Center for Developmental Pediatrics and Autism as our distinguished keynote speaker. Prepare to be informed and enlightened by her profound insights and wisdom.

ACC AND ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY IN PROMOTING EARLY CHILDHOOD SPEECH AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT MELANIE H. JOHNSTON, M.A./SLP/CAS

Speech Therapist, Executive Director of BRITE Success, LLC,

From the mind and work of a speech therapist, discover how assistive technology is reshaping the way young children learn to communicate! This session explores innovative tools and evidence-based approaches, interventions and strategies that support speech and language growth in early childhood.

MANAGING EARLY CHILDHOOD MALADAPTIVE BEHAVIORS THROUGH THE EYES, HANDS AND MINDS OF AN ABA THERAPIST

SAMANTHA KATCHY, M.A., BCBA LBA

Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), Co-Founder of Fast Track ABA Center

This session blends neuroscience, behavior principles and proven strategies to help professionals and caregivers understand, prevent, and respond effectively to maladaptive behaviors in children.

PARENTS AS PARTNERS DISCUSSION PANEL (LIVE Q&A)

DEANDRAE HINTON, M.ED., *Author: My Favorite Mistakes: Lessons I've Learned through Accountability, Father, Special Education Teacher, Panelist*

MELODY DIPASCA *Mother and Community Advocate for Children with Neurodiverse Needs, Panelist*

Join us for a powerful discussion that celebrates the heart of parents and caregivers! This engaging panel discussion brings together families and professionals to share real stories, practical insights, and strategies that strengthen collaboration between home, school and the community.

SUPPORTING EXCEPTIONAL THINKERS: UNDERSTANDING BRAIN DIFFERENCES AND SOCIAL EMOTIONAL BARRIERS FOR HIGH IQ CHILDREN

CARITA CURRY, ED.D

Special Education Leader, Founder of One Shot Memorial Organization

High IQ doesn't always mean high emotional regulation! This session lead through the lens of a school educator explores how learning differences impact the social and emotional development of high IQ children who appear to have behavioral challenges. Learn practical strategies to support emotional balance and resilience in these young children with the goal of keeping them in high quality childhood educational programs.

INNOVATIVE AND NON-INVASIVE METHODS FOR ADHD, AUTISM, MENTAL HEALTH AND SENSORY PROCESSING CONCERN IN CHILDREN

DR. AGNES KAUFMAN, DC, BCN *Chiropractor, Clinical Director, Sandstone Center for Neurofeedback*

DAWN KUHN, MBA, BCN-T *Neurofeedback Technician, Clinical Manager Sandstone Center for Neurofeedback*

Explore cutting-edge, non-invasive approaches that are transforming how we support children with ADHD, autism, mental health, and sensory processing needs. This session highlights evidence-based innovations from neurofeedback, and oxygen therapy to red light intervention, lifestyle and environmental strategies, that promote regulation, focus, and emotional well-being without relying solely on traditional interventions. Leave empowered with new tools and insights to help every child reach their potential.

EARLY CHILDHOOD SOLUTIONS FOR TANTRUMS, ELOPEMENT, PICKY EATING, TOILETING AND SLEEP USING A SENSORY INTEGRATION AND PHYSICS APPROACH

MICHELLE ATANU, OTR, MOT

Occupational Therapist, Founder and CEO Avilo Pediatric Solutions & Consulting

This session teaches early childhood developmental skills through a holistic lens. Learn practical, evidence-based solutions rooted in, physics, sensory integration, brain anatomy and human behavior to support children through common challenges like attention, tantrums, picky eating, toileting, and sleep.

EVENT MC- Stephanie Burrel, MA, LPC- Mental Health Therapist, Founder Arabella Counseling

Discover how the power of music performed by this band can bring us all together.

A LIVE MUSICAL PERFORMANCE BY THE BAND: THE HUBCAPS!

*Enjoy a full day of learning with breakfast, lunch, exhibitor engagement, and an evening reception included.
BREAKFAST, LUNCH, VENDORS, RECEPTION*

Conference
Hosted by:



Embassy Suites by Hilton

Houston Energy Corridor
11730 Katy Freeway |
Houston, Texas 77079

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TO REGISTER AND PAY