

12th Annual Autism Conference

January 23rd & 24th 2020 - River Cree Resort

The 2-day conference at River Cree Resort & Casino will showcase a number of guest speakers and experts in the field of autism focusing on:

- **practical classroom based strategies** (Session A)
- **care giving and home based strategies** (Session B)
- **recent research topics and trends** (Session C)

River Cree Resort: Thursday, January 23 rd	
7:30 – 8:30 am	Registration
8:30 - 10:00 am	Keynote Speaker: Dr. Stephen Shore
10:00 - 10:30 am	Morning Break
10:30 - 11:30 am	Dr. Jody Carrington: Building Relationships
11:30 - 1:00 pm	Lunch *Teacher Networking Lunch *Parent Networking Lunch
1:00 - 2:30 pm	Concurrent Sessions: Session A: Dr. Jan Blacher: Student Teacher Relationships in ASD Session B: Dr. Jody Carrington: Compassion Fatigue Session C: Dr. Gordon Ramsay: Speech & Language Development
2:30 - 3:00 pm	Sensory Snack Break
3:00 - 4:30 pm	Concurrent Sessions: Session A: Raelene Finlayson: Meaningful Inclusion Session B: Kelly Marcotte OT: Sleep Challenges in ASD Session C: Research Panel: The Evolution of Treatment Models
7:00 – 8:30 pm	"Autism Goes to College" Documentary Screening with Dr. Jan Blacher

River Cree Resort: Friday, January 24 th	
7:30 - 8:30 am	Registration & VIP Breakfast
8:30 - 9:30 am	Terri Duncan: Seclusion Rooms
9:30 - 10:00 am	Morning Break
10:00 - 12:00 pm	Keynote Speakers: Dr. Amy Laurent & Dr. Jacquelyn Fede Leveling Up! Comprehensive Support for Emotional Regulation
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 - 2:30 pm	Concurrent Sessions: Session A: Dr. Amy Laurent & Dr. Jacquelyn Fede: Strategies to Support Emotional Regulation in the Classroom Session B: Jessica Hamilton RD & Tracey Urquhart OT: Feeding Challenges in ASD Session C: Dr. Carole-Anne Hapchyn: NRF
2:30 - 3:00 pm	Sensory Snack Break
3:00 - 4:30 pm	Concurrent Sessions: Session A <u>continues</u> : Dr. Amy Laurent & Dr. Jacquelyn Fede Session B: Danielle Reed: Getting Connected with What Matters Session C <u>continues</u> : Dr. Carole-Anne Hapchyn: NRF Session D: Laura Gilmour: Cultural Neurodiversity
7:00 pm	<i>All in for Autism</i> Poker Tournament River Cree Casino

Thursday Keynote Speaker: Dr. Stephen Shore



Diagnosed with "Atypical Development and strong autistic tendencies" and "too sick" for outpatient treatment Dr. Shore was recommended for institutionalization. Nonverbal until 4, and with much support from his parents, teachers, wife, and others, Stephen is now a full time professor at Adelphi University and adjunct at NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, focusing on aligning best practice in supporting autistic people to lead fulfilling and productive lives.

In addition to working with children and talking about life on the autism spectrum, Stephen is an internationally renowned educator, consultant and author on lifespan issues pertinent to education, relationships, employment, and self-advocacy. His most recent book *College for Students with Disabilities* combines personal stories and research for promoting success in higher education.

Friday Keynote Speakers: Dr. Amy Laurent & Dr. Jacquelyn Fede

Keynote: Leveling Up! Comprehensive Support for Emotional Regulation

Concurrent Session: Strategies to Support Emotional Regulation in the Classroom



Amy Laurent specializes in the education of autistic individuals. Her work involves creating learning environments designed to facilitate children's active engagement at home, in schools, and throughout their communities. She is a co-author of the SCERTS Model and frequently lectures around the globe. She is passionate about **neurodiversity** and helping others to honor and understand the implications of "different ways of being" in relation to navigating the physical and social world.

Jacquelyn Fede is a super fun, Autistic Self-Advocate, developmental psychologist and program evaluator. Her research interests include immigration policy, autism, and community engagement. She uses her experience to mentor other autistics and to help educate others about autism through lecturing, blogging and consulting on evaluation projects. A full scholarship Division I athlete in college, Dr. Fede continues to meet her sensory needs by seeking extreme physical activity. She also enjoys the use of creativity and art for expression.



Raelene Finlayson – Autism & Meaningful Inclusion

Raelene Finlayson is currently an Early Learning Consultant with Children's Autism Services of Edmonton. Raelene models lifelong learning and believes that children are our best teachers. Raelene has been fortunate to work alongside children, families and educators in positions ranging from educational assistant to school principal. She has her Master's Degree in elementary education with a specialization in early childhood. Raelene has always believed children learn best when surrounded by their peers and community within inclusive settings. She combines her passions of Early Childhood and inclusive education in her day to day interactions with colleagues, community members, and children

Dr. Jan Blacher - Student Teacher Relationships & “Autism Goes to College”



Jan Blacher received her A.B. in Psychology from Brown University and her Ph.D. in Special Education/Developmental Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is currently Distinguished Professor, UC Presidential Chair and current Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Education at the University of California, Riverside. She has a joint appointment as Distinguished Professor in the Department of Psychology at UCLA. Dr. Blacher is known nationally for her research on intellectual and developmental disabilities, and for her expertise in autism and special educational programming.

Her research, which is longitudinal in nature, focuses on the family context of children and adolescents with and without developmental disabilities, including predictors of later psychopathology. She is the Executive Producer of **Autism Goes To College**, a first of its kind film that follows five students on the autism spectrum at college, into classrooms and dorm rooms, as they share their often poignant experiences and candid insights about their dreams, challenges and successes.

Dr. Carole-Anne Hapchyn - Neurorelational Framework (NRF)

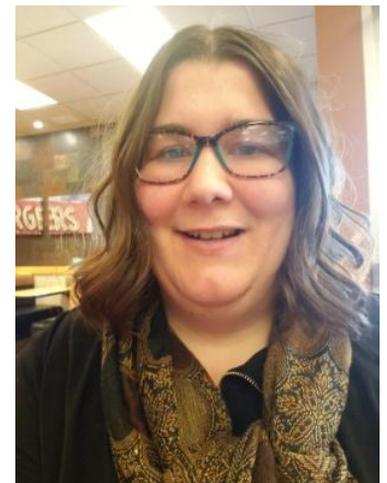


Dr. Hapchyn is an infant psychiatrist who has provided assessment and treatment for infants and young children and their families for 30 years in Edmonton, Alberta. She is Co-Director of the **ElmTree Clinic**, an outpatient mental health clinic for infants, young children and their families. Dr. Hapchyn is also the Medical Lead of the Autism Clinic at the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital (GRH) and provides consultation for infants and preschool children at GRH with complex developmental challenges. She is a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics at the University of Alberta.

Dr. Hapchyn is a Neurorelational Framework Trainer/Mentor. The Neurorelational Framework (NRF) is based on three core concepts of brain development and organizes clinical complexity through three steps which assess and improve: 1) stress and stress recovery in child and parent, 2) levels of engagement in relationships and 3) individual sources of vulnerability (triggers) and resilience (toolkits) in brain networks.

Laura Gilmour – Cultural Neurodiversity

Laura Gilmour is a PhD candidate in educational psychology at the University of Alberta and an autistic self-advocate. Her research has centred around issues surrounding autism across the life span ranging from sexuality, online gaming, employment, and autism culture. She is actively involved in guest lectures in the Edmonton community which share both her personal and research experience.





Dr. Jody Carrington – Autism & Building Relationships

PM session: *Compassion Fatigue*

Dr. Jody Carrington is a Clinical Psychologist who has spent most of her career working with children and families who have experienced trauma. Growing up on a farm in rural Alberta, Canada, and after 13 years of post-secondary education, she took her first job on the Mental Health Inpatient Units of the Alberta Children’s Hospital in Calgary. It was during those 10 years that she learned the most about kids, families, relationships, and the vital importance of connection. Today, she is back living in a rural setting, managing a private practice, raising a family, speaking around the country about relationships, connection and her new book, “**Kids These Days**”.

Jody passionately believes in the power of the relationship with the people we love, lead, and teach. Her favourite thing on the planet to do is to speak with families and educators – they have the power to change the trajectory of a life every single day. It’s time, she believes, that we need to start focusing less on kids these days, and more on those of you who hold them every day. The core of everything she speaks and writes about comes down to this: *we are wired to do hard things*. We can do those hard things so much easier when we remember this: *we are wired for connection*.



Danielle Reed - *Getting Connected with What Matters*

Danielle is an authenticity coach, professional speaker, author and workshop facilitator! Danielle was a teacher and Learning Support Facilitator for 17 years. The most important parts of her teaching career were building relationships and providing everyone around her with optimism and laughter! She took a leave from teaching to complete her Co-Active Life Coaching courses, **The Daring Way™** and Rising Strong™ trainings...and it is there that she discovered her greatest passion! Today, Danielle works with individuals and groups to empower and inspire them to move toward living an authentic, wholehearted life, so that they can give others around them permission to do the same. Danielle is a proud mom to two amazing boys who are her best evidence of the power of knowing your values & living your truth. Her greatest professional achievement was being invited to speak at **Brené Brown's** Courage Camp in 2018.

Dr. Gordon Ramsay - *Social Relationships and Speech & Language Development*



Gordon Ramsay, PhD, completed his doctorate in electronics and electrical engineering at the University of Southampton in England, and received a master’s in speech and language processing from Cambridge University after undergraduate studies in engineering. He was a Marie Curie research fellow at the Institut de la Communication Parlée in Grenoble, France, for two years and also worked at the University of Waterloo, Canada, and the Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium.

Dr. Ramsay’s research focuses on mathematical models of speech production and perception used for speech analysis, synthesis and recognition, which he is applying to developmental profiling of vocal behavior, spoken communication and social interaction in infants at risk for autism. His research helps show how early emerging mechanisms of social engagement are potentially derailed in autism in the first year of life and explains how this impacts the development of speech and language. This will eventually lead to evidence-based technologies for early detection and intervention to address the social communication deficit in autism.