

# ParentChild+

## Equal Possibilities From The Start

### 2020 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE About Our Workshop Presenters

**Jennifer Abaid** is the Director of ParentChild+ at Boys Town South Florida. She has overseen this program, which has undergone four expansions, for the past ten years. She has worked in the fields of Social Services and Early Learning for 20 years, fourteen of which were in management positions. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of Miami with a major in English Literature and minors in Sociology and Women's Studies. Her background includes early childhood experience as an Autism Awareness Advocate, co-owner of a My Gym Children's Fitness franchise, and mother of two children.

**Blanca Cartagena** is the ParentChild+ Site Coordinator at Lake Worth West Resident Planning Group in Lake Worth, Florida. She holds a Master of Science degree in Education and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. Blanca has 15 years of experience coordinating, supervising and implementing programs for at-risk families.

**Shayla Collins** is a born and raised Seattleite, the mother of two boys, and a mindfulness facilitator. She currently leads mindfulness programs for parents through Seattle Children's Hospital Odessa Brown Children's Clinic and programs for early learning specialists through the University of Washington's Center for Child & Family Well-Being. Shayla is a member of the Family Discipline Faculty, University of Washington Leadership and Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) Program and Board Member of the ARC of King County, which advocates for the rights of persons with disabilities. She has been practicing mindfulness for almost four years and is adamant that the techniques she has learned should be shared with the world! And she loves chocolate.

**Laura D'Angelo** - Before becoming a Coordinator for ParentChild+ in Malden, Massachusetts, Laura worked as a Coordinator for a Coordinated Family and Community Engagement program in Massachusetts and has been a certified Early Intervention specialist for over twenty years in this field. Prior, she was a teacher in daycare and preschool. She has a master's degree in child development and early childhood education, focusing on the birth to three years. Laura is a certified educator of infant massage and is certified to teach Rainbow Dance, a program to help address trauma in children.

**Cobi Dunn** is the Lead Director of ParentChild+ through the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County, Florida. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Education and Special Education, with a minor in Fine Art. Her professional background includes more than 25 years of experience developing and administering large-scale programs for at-risk children of all ages. During this time, she has provided many presentations and trainings to Early Care and Education and Home Visiting Professionals on various local, state and national platforms.

**Amanda Escalante** is the Program Director of ParentChild+ provided through The Guatemalan-Maya Center. She specializes in Education and Early Intervention for at-risk infants. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education. Her background includes more than 25 years of

experience as a Pre-k and kindergarten teacher in public and private schools in Latin America and the United States.

**Ivys Fernández-Pastrana** is the Program Manager for the Pediatric Navigation Program at Boston Medical Center where she works along a team of Family Navigators and Community Health Advocates in the Department of Pediatrics addressing social determinants of health and barriers to care. She is an attorney by training. Previously she worked as Family Navigator assisting families whose children were diagnosed with autism. Her background in the fields of special education, autism spectrum disorders and family supports include working with parents and families to help them to navigate and access community resources as well as governmental entitlements and benefits. Currently, Ivys is also the co-investigator and co-founder of the EASE Clinic which focuses in providing support in primary care to families facing challenges to access special education services and provide support to primary care clinicians through consultations and lectures. She also co-authored the Family Preparedness Plan for immigrant families facing detention or deportation due to their immigration status.

**Pritha Gopalan** is the Senior Research & Evaluation Officer at Newark Trust for Education. She is an applied anthropologist with extensive experience in mixed methods research and evaluation in school and community settings. At the Trust, Pritha builds the capacity of on-the-ground initiatives to assess and reflect, as well as refine and build out their work. Pritha has previously worked on diverse policy areas such as K-12 education, urban development, international development, refugee resettlement, and public-private partnerships.

**Joaniko Kohchi (keynote speaker)** is a NYS-AIMH Endorsed Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Mentor with both clinical and training experience spanning several regions of the United States. Ms. Kohchi focuses on children, families, and adults who have survived traumatic events, often leading to out-of-home care and court involvement and is an agency trainer of Child-Parent Psychotherapy. Ms. Kohchi has worked in home- and center-based early care and educational settings, as well as in PK-12 schools for students with typical and atypical development, providing direct service to children and families, consultation to staff, and supervision to interns, externs, fellows, post-docs, and residents. Ms. Kohchi has served as an expert witness in several states and has enjoyed appointments as clinical and research faculty. Ms. Kohchi is Co-President of the New York Zero-to-Three Network and is an original member of the Association of Infant Mental Health in Tennessee and a member of the New York State Association for Infant Mental Health.

**Stacy Kurtz** is the Assistant Director of the Infant Mental Health - Developmental Practice (IMH-DP) Program at Adelphi University. Dr. Kurtz is a licensed clinical psychologist with specialized training in Infant Mental Health. Her expertise includes infant and early childhood mental health, trauma, pregnancy/postpartum concerns, and supervising graduate students.

**Tiffany Lee** leads ParentChild+'s Family Child Care (FCC) Home Visiting Initiative. She works with ParentChild+ sites across the country as well as state, county, and city childcare agencies on the national expansion of the ParentChild+ FCC model to bring quality school readiness supports to providers and parents in under-resourced communities. She has worked for the Department of Defense as a Training and Curriculum Specialist and as the state Director of Quality Improvement and Professional Development for Child Care Aware of Washington.

**Robyn Long** works at the University of Washington's Center for Child & Family Well-Being leading as the Director for Community Partnerships and Training. She leads collaborations with agencies to create mindfulness and compassion-based programs that support the well-being of parents and providers working with children and families. Robyn has been facilitating wellness and mindfulness-based programs, including yoga, since 2009 in a variety of community and clinical settings in the US, Botswana, Canada, India, and the Middle East. She holds a BA and MA in International Development

& Social Change from Clark University and a certificate in Early Childhood Education and Development. Robyn's favorite place to practice mindfulness is in nature with her three-year-old son.

**Gigliana Melzi** is a developmental psychologist and faculty member at NYU. Dr. Melzi's work focuses on the intersection of cultural and linguistic practices and their relation to children's early development and learning. Her work examines the everyday family routines in Spanish-speaking and Spanish-English bilingual homes that support early literacy and math learning.

**Lisette Morales** is the Program Officer for Early Learning at Newark Education Trust. She has experience has been varied and intensive in working with children and families in urban settings. She is dedicated to bettering the lives of children and families by utilizing program resources, educating families, making community connections, and fostering self-advocacy. Lisette leads a team of Early Learning Specialists providing services to families in the East and North wards of Newark.

**Amanda Nagler** is completing her master's degree in Speech Language Pathology after having completed a degree in Infant Mental Health and Developmental Practice from Adelphi University. She conducts research incorporating mental health components and speech and language disorders with several of the faculty at her university.

**Carmen Rosa Noroña (keynote speaker)** is from Ecuador where she trained and practiced as a clinical psychologist. In the United States she obtained master's degrees in social work and in early intervention. For over 25 years, Carmen Rosa has provided clinical services to young children and their families in a variety of settings including early intervention, home-based and outpatient programs. She currently is the Child Trauma Clinical Services and Training Lead at Child Witness to Violence Project and is the Associate Director of the Boston Site Early Trauma Treatment Network at Boston Medical Center. She is a Child-Parent Psychotherapy National Trainer, an expert faculty of the Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health and Developmental Disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood Training (DC: 0-5) and one of the developers of the Harris Professional Development Network Diversity Informed Tenets for Work with Infants Children and Families Initiative and of the Boston Medical Center Family Preparedness Plan. Her practice and research interests are on the impact of trauma on attachment; the intersection of culture, immigration, and trauma; diversity informed reflective supervision and consultation; and on the implementation and sustainability of evidence-based practice in real world settings. She is a former co-chair of the Culture Consortium of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network and has adapted and translated materials for Spanish-speaking families affected by trauma. Carmen Rosa has also contributed to the literature in infant and early childhood mental health, diversity and immigration.

**Nydia Prishker** is an educator and postdoctoral associate at NYU. Dr. Prishker's efforts focus on the quality of and equity in the early care and education of children from diverse backgrounds. Her goal is to create partnerships between educators and parents to share knowledge to enhance the education and well-being of young children.

**Karen Rogel** joined Literacy INC in 2012 and has extensive experience supporting children's literacy development. Karen has trained hundreds of stakeholders and works directly with children and families to bring literacy into the home and community. Karen manages two teams implementing place-based initiatives: East New York and South Jamaica Reads.

**Katie Rubinstein** is an early childhood education professional with over nineteen years of experience in the implementation of continuous quality improvement programs. She entered the field in the wake of welfare reform, working with early learning programs to increase their capacity to serve low income children and to address health and safety issues within their facilities. That program evolved into what is now Keystone STARS and Pennsylvania's quality improvement system. In 2016, she became the Director of Quality Initiatives for the Child Development and Family services component of PHMC,

serving as the lead for multiple projects with a shared vision of improving outcomes for young children.

**Maggie Wayne** is the Quality Improvement Coordinator for Docs for Tots. She holds an MPH from Hofstra University, where she is an adjunct professor. She supports screening initiatives by applying a quality improvement framework to both the health and early education settings, and contributes to program planning, implementation, and evaluation.

**Kalimah Wilson** is the Senior Program Officer for Early Learning at Newark Education Trust. She has experience working with various youth- and family-centered service and nonprofit organizations which has deepened her passion and commitment to providing services to families. Drawn to the vision of the ParentChild+ program, Kalimah leads a team of Early Learning Specialists providing services to families from Newark's Central, South and West wards.