

Speaker: Larry M. Davis, MA, Author, Education Advocate

Speaker Bio:

Larry M. Davis has been an education advocate since 1998, supporting parents in navigating special education, gifted programs, and behavioral challenges. As one of the leading national education advocates, Larry has expertise in autism, ADHD/ADD, specific learning disabilities, and behavioral challenges. His extensive background includes roles as a Special Education Director, Behavior Specialist, Principal, Highly Capable Coordinator, Social Emotional Learning Trainer, and K-8 teacher. He is the author of three books and regularly presents professional development training on autism and advocacy for organizations such as Autism Speaks, Autism Society, the University of Washington, and SENG (Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted). Larry continues to be a valued resource for professionals and families alike.

Session Title: The ABCs of Autism: Anxiety - Behavior - Coping Strategies

Session Description: In this session, Larry Davis will explore the complexities of autism, focusing on three core areas: Anxiety, Behavior, and Coping Strategies (the "ABCs"). Autism is not a disease, but rather a label used to describe a set of diverse behaviors and symptoms. Drawing on over two decades of experience in special education, Larry will introduce participants to a science-based understanding of how individuals on the autism spectrum experience sensory overwhelm, emotional reactions like the "amygdala hijack," and challenges with anxiety and behavior. The session will also provide practical intervention strategies to support individuals in coping with these challenges. This updated version of his popular presentation, originally developed for the University of Washington Alliance of Child Welfare, offers a holistic view that includes the mind, body, and emotional responses.

Learning Objectives:

Participants will:

- Understand core fundamentals of autism as outlined in the DSM-5 and supported by research-based evidence.
- Learn and share additional ideas related to the foundational concepts of Anxiety, Behavior, and Coping Strategies.
- Explore intervention strategies that minimize anxiety and mitigate the amygdala response in individuals with autism.

Website: <https://www.specialeducationadvocacy.org/>