

FLO SPEAKER BIOS

Karen Kaplan

Karen has over thirty years of experience working in the field of Autism Spectrum disorders with children, adults and their families. She has engaged with schools, residential programs and non-profit day programs addressing the challenges of Autism and other similar learning differences. Karen sits on the Marin Autism Collaborative, is a member of the San Francisco/Marin Autism Taskforce and heads the Autism Lecture Series. She is currently the Executive Director of Wings Learning Center.

Dan Leibowitz

Dan Leibowitz, founder of Innovative Learning Services, is a certified teacher with advanced degrees in general and special education. For more than ten years, Dan has worked with students and families as an educational support specialist in private practice and in independent Bay Area schools. Dan is exceptionally skilled at helping individuals of all ages learn to apply digital and visual learning tools so that they can work through challenging academic and organizational tasks. While Dan works with students in elementary school through college, he specializes in working with elementary and middle school students. Many of the "high-tech" tools that Dan stores in his educational toolbox support literacy, note taking, organization, visual learning, productivity and task management. Some of his "low-tech" tools include planners, calendar systems, to-do lists, highlighters, label makers, file systems, and more. Dan's experience has revealed to him that the academic and emotional benefits that accompany the integration of these types of tools into students' lives is enormously satisfying, for students and parents alike.

Andrew Bailey, MFT

Andrew Bailey is an experienced clinician and highly skilled educational consultant who has devoted the past twenty-five years of his life to working with children. Mr. Bailey holds a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology and has been licensed as a Marriage and Family Therapist since 1994. He has assessed and successfully treated hundreds of children with autism spectrum disorders during his career. Several years before the "autism explosion" became a widely accepted phenomenon, Mr. Bailey was designing and implementing innovative educational and behavioral programs for children with autism. Mr. Bailey is one of the founding directors of Anova and is currently the Director of Educational Services and the Principal of the three ACE Schools. Mr. Bailey originally designed the concept of "Intensive Multidisciplinary Treatment of Neurodevelopmental Impairments in a Private Educational Setting" that has been pioneered and implemented at the Anova Center for Education over the past eight years.

Dr. Paula Gardner

Dr. Paula Gardner is a professor of Special Education at California State University, Sacramento, where she teaches in the post-graduate teacher credential training program in Mild, Moderate, and Severe Disabilities. Her areas of interest and expertise include supporting inclusive practices, establishing effective and supportive home-school partnerships, implementing meaningful and measurable IEP goals, developing positive behavioral supports, and differentiating instruction through evidence-based curriculum and intervention strategies. Dr. Gardner frequently consults at the local, state, national, and international level. She has been in the field of special education for more than 30 years and has won several prestigious awards including twice being named Outstanding Teacher (Professor) of the Year by faculty and staff at CSU, Sacramento.

Maeve Burke

Maeve Burke is an educational therapist serving families in Marin County, California. She provides intervention and remediation for primary and middle school students, and consults with families regarding their children's unique learning profile and needs. As a classroom teacher for thirteen years and the parent of a child with learning differences, Maeve also brings a valuable classroom teacher and parent perspective to her practice. Maeve is committed to the responsibility that she has as an educational therapist to nurture each child's individuality, to recognize and appreciate their gifts, to respect their unique learning profiles, and to foster a love of learning and of themselves.

Virginia Bassi, Ph.D.

Dr. Bassi holds a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology and a Masters of Science degree in Clinical Psychopharmacology. She teaches at Argosy University, supervises dissertation students, and is busy with her private practice. Dr. Bassi has developed and continues to direct several day treatment programs, including a summer camp for emotionally and socially disturbed children and adolescents. This includes STARS Camp, a summer program for children with social, emotional, and/or behavioral challenges. Additionally, Dr. Bassi's areas of clinical expertise include clinical assessment and diagnosis, parenting issues, school-based interventions, group therapy, and psychopharmacology. She regularly consults and works with school districts in managing difficult and complex special education cases.

Torri Chappell

Torri believes that everyone can be empowered to recognize and nurture their unique abilities and be engaged in a lifetime of learning. Her work with children and adults over the last three decades has held this belief at its core; and has included being a parent, classroom teacher, reading specialist, GATE teacher, Exploratorium science teacher mentor, private tutor and parent educator. For the past ten years, Torri has been providing hundreds of community volunteers at the Marin County School Volunteers with the knowledge and guidance to support and inspire children with learning difficulties in over 40 schools across the county. Torri and her husband Gary have raised their 17 and 20 year old children in San Anselmo. She enjoys Origami, music, reading, writing, creating new learning games as well as playing the ukulele (her own new learning adventure) in her spare time.