

In Search of Meaning: Autism Spectrum Disorder and Reading Comprehension
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Session Description:

Reading comprehension reflects a social exchange between an author and their reader. This presentation will explore the relationship between specific characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and reading comprehension. The presenter will highlight the important distinction between decoding and comprehension, consider implications for early, spontaneous development of decoding skills, and describe the need to directly address reading comprehension skills in the early school years with ongoing support as reading demands increase in complexity. This session will provide practical strategies to support reading comprehension for learners with ASD.

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify two core challenges in communication for individuals with ASD.
2. Describe two connections between social communication challenges and reading comprehension.
3. Describe two connections between restricted and repetitive behaviors and reading comprehension.
4. State at least two practical ideas for intervention.

Marci Laurel is a Speech-Language Pathologist with the University of New Mexico Center for Development and Disability Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities Program. Marci has practiced in Albuquerque for over 40 years, providing direct service, consultation, training and student supervision in public school, private practice and university settings. She has lectured nationally and internationally on topics related to communication, sensory processing and autism spectrum disorder. Marci is co-author of several related publications, including *Our Hearts' Desire: For Families Navigating the Journey of Sensory Processing Challenges* and *Social Engagement & the Steps to Being Social*.