PRESENTER BIO

Linda Watson, EdD, CCC-SLP, is a professor of speech and hearing sciences at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and brings more than 30 years of clinical and research experience with children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Since 2007, she has been involved in the development and evaluation of an intervention to improve pretend play and social communication skills in preschoolers with ASD, carrying out research on this intervention within public school classrooms across four states. Watson’s keen interest in research that applies to “the real world” also is reflected in other projects, including the development and validation of a parent questionnaire to identify 1-year-olds who are at risk for later diagnoses of ASD and a study in which she and her colleagues used this questionnaire to identify infants at risk for ASD at 12 months of age and then evaluated the effects of providing in-home coaching to their parents on the use of responsive strategies to support their infants’ social communication and sensory-regulatory development. Watson enjoys serving as a research mentor to undergraduate, masters, and doctoral students and teaching Introduction to Research Methods to graduate students in SLP and AuD programs, preparing them to evaluate the applicability of research findings to clinical practice questions.

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- No nonfinancial relationships to the content of this presentation